



ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear parents/carers

Hello!

I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well and had a lovely summer break.

Welcome back

I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome all our children and families back to school and our new Nursery and Reception children and families who have joined St Philip's Catholic Primary School this year. It has been a pleasure meeting the children in class and seeing how they are all enjoying school.

I write with some updated information about the return to school and the procedures that we will be putting in place as we move into Step 4 of the Government's response.

Whilst many of the previous measures that we put in place are no longer statutory, we will be maintaining many of our control measures in an attempt to minimise disruption and keep the spread of potential Covid-19 cases to a minimum.

These safety measures include:



- Ensuring good hygiene for everyone
 1. **Hand hygiene** – We will continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
 2. **Respiratory hygiene** - The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.
 3. **Maintaining enhanced cleaning regimes** - regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.
 4. **Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated** - Opening external windows to improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors to assist with creating airflow. We will of course balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature for the children to learn in.

St Philip's
Catholic Primary School
Messenger Road,
Smethwick, B66 3DU

Tel: 0121 558 1643
www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk
Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton

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5. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 -

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test they should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do.

They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19

IF YOU, YOUR CHILD/REN OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS SYMPTOMS YOU MUST NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.
SYMPTOMATIC STAFF MUST NOT COME TO SCHOOL

I cannot stress enough how important to CONTACT SCHOOL when your child is ill, or displaying symptoms of CORONAVIRUS. Once you have contacted school we can support you through this time and offer help in the right direction.

Any member of the community with symptoms of the virus **must not come to school** under any circumstances. If you are even remotely concerned that you or your child has symptoms – **you must not come to the school** and you must follow the government advice on self-isolation and testing. The same applies for staff and children where a member of the household is symptomatic. You can arrange a test QUICKLY at NHS.UK or by calling **NHS 119** if you don't have internet access. **Only come back to school after the advised period of isolation or a test confirming negative e.g. that you or your child don't have the virus.** Even with a negative test you may still be asked to continue to self-isolate depending on the circumstances, if a family member has ongoing symptoms. **I cannot stress enough that it is so important for you to keep in contact with school for us support you and provide your family with home learning.**

Coronavirus COVID-19 Symptoms

- High temperature
- New, continuous cough
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- **Please ensure you continue to communicate with school to keep us informed of any illnesses, worries or concerns and that we are here to help. Please contact the school office for help and support.**



Bubble Closures – Under the current guidance, we will no longer be required to send home a whole class of children to isolate if one individual in the class tests positive. Instead, that individual would be asked to isolate at home. Any close contacts of that individual will then be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would strongly encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

School Day Timings

We will be reverting back to our original school day timings – the school gates on the back playground for years 1-6 will be opened at 8:40 am -8:55 am and will open at the end of the school day from 2:50 -3:10 pm . Please remember NO children will be coming out of school early and the classes will be dismissed at 3:00pm

Masks on the school grounds/ Social distancing

The wearing of masks on the school grounds in outdoor areas will no longer be mandatory but please continue to wear one if you would feel more comfortable doing so.

We would also ask that wherever possible, you continue **to practise social distancing** on the school grounds and leave the school site swiftly after dropping off or collecting your children.

It is important to remember that this virus has not disappeared completely and in continuing to make small adjustments to our normal routines we can attempt to minimise disruption during the upcoming year.

Whole School Assemblies/ Collective worship

Whilst the updated DfE guidance does allow for whole school assemblies and increased mixing at break and lunch times, we will be keeping some of our safety measures in place during the autumn term.

Assemblies and prayer services will be limited to Key Stage groups (Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) and some staggering of break times and lunch will still take place.

School uniform, jewellery, nail varnish and hair styles





All of the children are looking so smart in their school uniforms and we really thank you for all of the effort you have made to buy their school uniform at a time when shopping is still difficult. Please ensure your child's belongings all have their names on all items and if your child has gone home with clothing that DOES NOT belong to them, PLEASE return the item to school.

Please remember that we don't allow trainers – only black shoes. Nail varnish, jewellery of any kind (including earrings) and hairstyles must be smart with long hair tied back for safety. We don't allow any hair engravings or extreme shavings and children's hair must not be dyed or highlighted.

On PE days children can wear their PE kit to school – this should consist of a plain white T-shirt and blue shorts (weather permitting or black/ blue joggers) school jumper or cardigan pumps or sensible trainers. I would like to remind you that this is the only agreed PE kit in school. We ask you clearly label your children's clothing. The school is renowned for its high standard of uniform and we really appreciate the support you give us to uphold this. Thank you for all the efforts you continue to make – we appreciate it!

Children's Belongings

We ask that during the autumn term children only bring the following items to school:

- One School Bag containing:
 - Lunch Box (if not having a school lunch)
 - Filled water bottle (to be taken home at the end of each day)
 - Reading book and reading diary – kept in school bag

Please also ensure that water bottles, lunch boxes and all items of clothing, in particular jumpers, cardigans and coats, are clearly marked with your child's name.

P.E Days and P.E Kits

Year group	Day of the week
Reception –	Wednesday afternoon
Year 1 –	Tuesday afternoon
Year 2 –	Monday afternoon
Year 3 -	Monday afternoon
Year 4 –	Thursday afternoon
Year 5 –	Monday - Swimming



Year 6 –	Friday afternoon
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A reminder that for the duration of the autumn term, children should come to school wearing their PE kit (tracksuit) on their designated PE day listed above. PE kit to school – this should consist of a plain white T-shirt and blue shorts (weather permitting or black/ blue joggers) school jumper or cardigan pumps or sensible trainers. I would like to remind you that this is the only agreed PE kit in school.

Breakfast Club

If you would like to send your child to breakfast club, please book a place on the SCHOOLCOMMS system the day before by 3:00pm. The cost is £1:50 per session and the club starts from 7:30am – 8:40 am. If you like more information please call the school office and they will be happy to help.

Afterschool clubs

There will be a flyer coming home next week and afterschool clubs will start the week beginning 20th September. Currently we are asking our children through a school pupil survey about their views on afterschool clubs. You will be able to book via SCHOOLCOMMS for you and your child to book places, more details will be shared soon.

Dolce lunches

Please continue to book your child's lunch via SCHOOL GRID from home to ensure that your child has selected the menu of their choice. We also ask you at home to upload your child's allergies, if they have any onto SCHOOLGRID **This is very important that we know this information** .There is a new menu for this term, please log on and view. Please also remember that when your child moves into year 3 and you are not entitled to FREE SCHOOL MEALS , then you can pay for a hot meal £2:30 or provide a packed lunch.

Free School Meals

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals for your child, then contact the school office and we will be happy to help. You can get a form and leaflet about free school meals from the office that will support with your entitlement.



Contact Details

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If your contact details have changed since the new term started and are different to the details we have had on record, please ensure that you let us know of any new numbers and other information for us to contact you directly. During this time, our communication with you is limited by email or text. Please contact us using the office email address and we will update your information.

Nursery places – Please see the information below!

We have nursery places available for September 2021. If you have child has turned 3 years old or will be within the term, please get in contact and we will be happy to support with completing the application forms and supporting you. Or if you wish to find out about 15 hours provision please contact us.

St Philip's Catholic
Primary School
Learning and working together through Christ

Nursery Places Available
FREE 30 HOURS
FOR WORKING PARENTS

Ring us now on 0121 558 1643 to find out more

Messenger Road, Smethwick, B66 3DU

WOW (walk once a week) Project

The **WOW** project will be starting and the children have been very proud to tell us about their walking to school achievements. The project encourages as much of us to walk to week or park your car at a distance from school and '**park and stride to school**'. In this **exciting project** competition we are working with the MAC schools and other schools in Sandwell and we wish to finish as high up in the table carts as we can. It will be a wonderful achievement for our children. So keep up great work of choosing to walk to school or Park and stride to school.

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Safeguarding

We are dedicated to safeguarding our young people at St Philip's Catholic Primary School. If you have any concerns with safeguarding, then please speak with a member of staff or myself and we will endeavour to help and support. The **Designated Safeguarding leader in school is Mrs Hinton, deputy designated Safeguarding officer is Mr Wilkes** and safeguarding officers are Mrs Evans, Mrs Hill and Mr Padaton. Please come forward to talk to us if you are concerned or worried. Our safeguarding policy is available on our website to help and support you with how safeguarding works in our MAC and the local authority of Sandwell.

Here to help

Nothing is more important than to ensure the happiness, well-being and academic progress of all children in our school. If you have a concern or worry, then please DO NOT let them build up. Please contact us by telephone and we will work hard to sort them out for you. You can call the school on **0121 558 1643** or email office@st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk and we will endeavour to help and support you. Please also view the website to view other important information.

Yours Sincerely.

Mrs C Hinton

Mrs C Hinton
Headteacher

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