



18TH March 202

Dear Parents/Carers

Hello!

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we fly through this spring term. Please find below important information and dates to be aware of.

Please continue to take into consideration that COVID is still with us and families are still being affected, please continue to familiarise yourself with the information below:

With the on-going changes to the government guidance, we continue to learn how to live with COVID 19. As we continue to hope that things will start to look more like normal for school life, this comes with caution and we will continue to keep the safety measures in place below:

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.
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 and has a positive Lateral Flow Test result. Please ensure you CONTACT



ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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.

Thank you!

I would like to thank you for your support with raising money for our chosen charity **CAFOD** during our season of LENT.

During LENT we are asked to FAST, PRAY and give ALMSGIVING to people in need in our world.

Pupil's voice is very important to the life of the school and the suggestions of the children have been amazing!

One suggestion has been to raise money for CAFOD by the children wearing clothes that represented their country and culture during our WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE WEEK, where the children explored tolerance and diversity.

The children arrived at school looking wonderful and it makes me very proud to be part of an amazing community with so many cultures and backgrounds that celebrate the community of our school.



School uniform, jewellery, nail varnish and hairstyles

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 during these difficult times. 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.**

We thank you for following our school policy on uniform and we would like to remind you that:

- we ask children to wear only black shoes, no trainers.
- Nail varnish, jewellery of any kind (including earrings) and hairstyles must be smart with long hair tied back for safety.

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

Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

Private Limited Company of Charitable Status within the Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered in England and Wales Company No 09174154





- **We don't allow any hair engravings or extreme shavings and children's hair must not be dyed or highlighted. *Sadly, there has been an increase in hair designs. Please keep special hair designs for the holidays.***
- 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!

Breakfast Club

If you would like your child to attend 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 would like more information, please call the school office and they will be happy to help.

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 your home and family circumstances have changed and 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 to apply for free school meals for your child/ren. You can get a form and leaflet about free school meals from the office that will support with your entitlement.

P.E Days and P.E Kits

Physical development continues the same after half term. Please see the table below for your child's year group and note the changes in yellow.

A reminder that for the duration of this spring 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.

Year group	Day of the week
Reception –	Tuesday morning
Year 1 –	Tuesday morning
Year 2 –	Friday afternoon
Year 3 -	Tuesday afternoon
Year 4 –	SWIMMING - MONDAY MORNING
Year 5 –	Tuesday afternoon
Year 6 –	Tuesday afternoon

Whole School Assemblies/Collective worship

We hope that after half term that we will be able gather together with more classes when assembly and collective worship is timetabled. We will keep you updated when we will be able to invite you into school.

Children’s Belongings

After half term this spring term, please provide:

- 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.

Contact Details

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 2022/2023. If you have a child who has turned 3 years old or will be within the term, please get in contact and we



ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Attendance and Punctuality / Notifying absence:

In line with policy guidelines and to ensure our attendance improves and lateness is reduced. The policy is in line with Education Welfare Guidance – nobody likes to think that their child is missing school or is frequently late but occasionally this can build up without parents being fully aware.

Our policy is designed to alert you to any potential problems:

- If your child's attendance drops below 90%, I will contact you in writing to let you know and offer my support to help improve their attendance.
- I will not be able to authorise holidays for anyone whose attendance is at 90% or below.
- If your child's attendance drops to 80% or below, I will contact you again to let you know I am unable to authorise any other absence.
- The exception to this is absence where medical proof is provided.
- Frequent unauthorised absences will trigger an automatic visit from the Education Welfare Officer.
- Children who are regularly late may be given a mark that indicates they are in school but that the lateness is unauthorised absence from lesson time.

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

Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

Private Limited Company of Charitable Status within the Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered in England and Wales Company No 09174154





ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Frequent unauthorised absence will trigger a visit from the education welfare officer. For these reasons, if you are having difficulties with attendance or timekeeping, it is essential you make contact with the school to discuss the matter.

If your child is going to be away from school, please let us know by phone or in person. For safety reasons we cannot accept messages passed on by other parents. Please call us on 0121 558 1643 before 9.15am. If we do not hear from you, the office will need to call you to make sure your child is safe.

Please understand that we have a **duty** to improve attendance and punctuality and to ensure everyone is safe.

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.

To further ensure our children are safe we would like to remind you to be patient and supportive at the end of the school day when we release your children. Teachers will always make eye contact and wave to parents individually before releasing a child. If you wish to speak to a teacher, please be patient and wait until your child's teacher has released all children from the class. Alternatively, you can come to the school office and make an appointment. We are sorry to say that speaking with you one to one may not always be possible or appropriate and making an appointment would be more beneficial. Thank you for your continued support.

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

Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

Private Limited Company of Charitable Status within the Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered in England and Wales Company No 09174154





Spring Term 2022	
Friday 8th April	Pupils Break up for Easter
Summer Term 2022	
Monday 25th April	Pupils return to school
Monday 2nd May	May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 26th May	Pupils break up for half term
Friday 27th May	Training Day—School closed to pupils
Monday 6th June	Pupils return to school
Friday 24th June	Training Day—School closed to pupils
Friday 22nd July	Pupils break up for summer

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.

Please find the rest of the term dates below and we will share further dates with you in the coming weeks.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs C Hinton

Mrs C Hinton
Principal