



**ST PHILIP'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

27<sup>th</sup> February 2024

*Hello!*

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we start a new half term. Please read and refer to for key dates and information over the spring term.

### **Catholic school pupil profile**

This half term we will be focussing on **Faith-filled & Hopeful**.

Pupils in a Catholic school are growing to be **faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future. What does this mean? Catholic schools help their pupils grow by passing on the living and faith-filled tradition of Jesus Christ; by having persevering faith in the pupils, and by encouraging them in turn, to have faith and hope in others.

### **Season of Lent**

During the season of Lent we are asked to focus on Fasting , Prayer and Almsgiving. During this time, we will be focusing on supporting the charities of CAFOD and The Good Shepherd. The children will be getting involved in a variety of activities to gain further understanding of how to be involved in prayer and almsgiving.



### **Pope Francis monthly message for February - We pray for the terminally ill**

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

### **EARLY HELP OFFICER**

In January we invited all parents to a launch meeting to introduce you to PC Asma Begum. PC Asma will be working with St Philip's supporting families and children with topics of bullying, online safety issues, parent conflicts or community matters,

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Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton

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safeguarding and concerns with parents, if you want to contact her and discuss any matters that you are concerned with her details are:

**PC Asma Begum**

Early Help Police Constable  
West Bromwich & Smethwick  
Sandwell Partnerships  
West Midlands Police

**M:** 07391019162 **T:** 101 811 3045

**W:** [west-midlands.police.uk](http://west-midlands.police.uk)

**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.

Could I please request that if your child has an injury that has happened at home or outside of school could you please be so kind to let us know. Telling us would avoid myself from contacting you unnecessarily. If you do have a concern or would like to talk to someone in confidence about a safeguarding concern, then I am the Designated Safeguarding leader (DSL) in school. Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer is **Mrs Anslow** and Safeguarding Officers are **Mrs Hill, Mrs Davidson- Pope and Mr Padaton**. Our safeguarding policy is available on our website to help and support you with how safeguarding works in our local authority of Sandwell and the Multi academy Company of the Emmaus MAC.

**Uniform, PE Kits and Healthy lifestyles.**

Thank you Parents for supporting our uniform policy and sending your child/ren into school so smart. Please can I share, there should be no hair sculptures or tram lines, shaving, highlights or hair colouring of any description. Extreme hairstyles should only be considered at the beginning of the summer holiday. Thank you so much for your support and understanding.

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Physical Education is an important part of our school curriculum. Please ensure that your child has their PE kits in school ready to take part in PE lessons.

Year group	Day of the week	Activity
Reception -	Wednesday afternoon	Teacher leading
Year 1 -	Monday morning	Sports coach
Year 2 -	Monday afternoon	Sports coach
Year 3 -	Monday morning	Sports coach
Year 4 -	Monday morning	Sports coach
Year 5 -	Monday morning	Swimming
Year 6 -	Monday afternoon	Sports coach

A reminder that for the duration of the 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 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.

### **Jewellery**

Please take care not to send your children into school with looped earrings, necklaces or expensive pieces of jewellery. It is important to note that jewellery can be broken or lost in school and not suitable for play or PE activities.

### **Healthy Choices**

We continue to be proud of our Platinum Healthy School Award. **Please support your children to make healthy choices for break times and at lunchtimes in their lunch boxes.** Please choose the children's snacks with a careful thought. We are seeing a rise in unhealthy snacks across school. Please check your child's lunchboxes as this will give you an indication of how much your child has eaten. Please note that school provides a piece of fruit at breaktime for your child. Thank you for your support.



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### AIP Catering

Free School Meals and KS1 Universal Free School Meals children - If your child is a Free School

Meal child or is in EYFS or KS1 they are entitled to a free school lunch which would be a hot

meal from the school canteen. If you would rather send your child in with their own packed lunch

you are welcome to do so (please remember **no nuts (including Nutella), tomatoes or oranges** as we have children with severe allergies in school). Please book lunches online on SCHOOL FOOD UNITED TO BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PREFERRED LUNCH OPTION.

If you are having trouble logging in or creating your School Food United account, please come and see Mrs Slater in the School Office.

Please remember if you pay for school meals to please clear your balance on a daily basis. Any

problems come and see the School Office.

All children should still bring their own filled water bottle into school each day which needs to be taken home at the end of the day and washed and brought back the following day.



### Contact Details

It is very important that school has the most up to date contact details of your telephone numbers. **If you have changed your contact details**, please pop into the office and let the school know. We want to ensure that we can contact you directly in the case of an emergency or if your child falls ill or has an injury at school during the school day.

### Attendance

Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning. Please ensure that you endeavour to get your child to school and in on time for **8:50 am**. The playground opens at **8:40am** and **the official start to the school day is 8:50 am**. If your child arrives to school after the registers close, they

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will receive a late mark that is recorded on your child's attendance record. If your child is ill and is unable to come to school, please contact the **school office on 0121 558 1643** and leave a message or speak to Mrs Slater. **Please remember that taking holidays in term time will affect your child's schooling and we ask for your co-operation to not take your child away in school time as this will be UNAUTHORISED .**

### **Reading at home**

Reading is a very important tool and life skill. We would like to share how important it is to read with your child at home. I know and understand that home life can be very busy, but we do encourage daily reading with your child to help improve their confidence with fluency and comprehension.

### **Nursery places – Please see the information below!**

We have nursery places available for April and September 2024. If you have a child who 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. Our next intake will be April 2024.



### **Keep in touch**

We are here to serve you and it is our pleasure to help. Your child's safety, happiness and academic progress are the reason why every single member of staff is here. If you are concerned about any aspect of school life - no matter how small - it's really important to let us know. The sooner we know about things the sooner we can do our best to sort things out. The teachers and teaching assistants can take quick messages on the door before and after school - if you need a longer, private conversation please call the school and the member of staff that you need to speak with will be in contact with you.



**Change of circumstances**

It's important for us to know that if your personal circumstance have changed you may be entitled to Free School meals. You can help the school to access precious funding for years to come (called Pupil Premium) by registering for free school meals. Please apply for free school meals if you are on a low income and/or receive benefits. As well as receiving a free school meal every day (if you choose to take it) you will generate significant funding for our school for many years to come - funding that is all spent on better provision for the children. If you think that you may qualify, please pop into school and speak to Mrs Slater.

**Our School Website**

Please remember to visit our school website which is full of useful and up to date information. Please log on and have a look. You can post a message on the guest book page to let us know your thoughts and take a look at our X page and blog.

The address is : [www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk/](http://www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk/)

**Dates for your diary**

Term Dates	Activity
W/B 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Tolerance week, looking at Racism and discrimination.
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	To celebrate our wonderful school, we are inviting children to wear their own clothes and cultural clothes to schools to celebrate tolerance. Donation of 50p to our CAFOD charity .
w/b 4 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science week - a separate flyer will be circulated to parents.
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	World book day - we invite the children to come as their favourite character from their favourite book. or come in own clothes carrying their own favourite book.
w/b 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Cake sale - please see a separate letter for information and final dates.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	BTAILS theatre company in school for whole school on Easter.
W/B Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Holy Week assemblies - parents invited . Please see text message shared week before for your child's class .

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Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	KS2 reconciliation service in the church - parents welcome!
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Whole school mass in the church at 9:15am Parents welcome!
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024	Children break up for Easter Break
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Parents evening for classes years 1-6
w/b 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Parent consultation for Nursery, please see a separate letter for information and final dates.
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	School opens to children. Children return to school.
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Children break up for half term.
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	School opens to Children. Children return to school.
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Children break up for Summer
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024	Training Day

Mrs C Hinton  
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