

# St Philip's Catholic Primary School



October 2020

Dear parent and carers,

I hope you and your families are keeping well and safe and we enter into the second national lockdown. I would like to continue to thank you for your co-operation in helping us continue to keep each other safe and follow protocols in place. I hope that you have all had a lovely half term break and we are all happy to see you back at school and how sensible and responsible the children have been with the ever changing changes to the structure of the school day and life with Covid -19.

## Arrangements in school for the start and end of school day

Please take into consideration the following points;

- Please continue to follow the one way system on the playgrounds and parents of children in other classes use the designated entrances and exits to the school site.
- Please ensure that when come to collect your child/children that you **observe social distance** with other families and staff.
- When you enter the playgrounds of the school we ask for your patience and support as it can take time in dismissing your children safely.
- Please remember to follow the signage and direction given by staff to collect your child safety and when waiting for your child, please **observe social distancing**.
- Reception, year 1 and year 2 finish the school day at 2:45pm, earlier than the rest of KS2 children. *Out of courtesy to avoid you waiting and to reduce congestion on the playground, we release your children from other year groups at the same time. I do ask for your patience with dismissing the children as we want to ensure the children are safely released to you.*
- Please **DO NOT** arrive too early to pick your child/ren we want to avoid unnecessary congestion on the playgrounds to ensure all our safety.
- **Only one adult from the same household to drop off and pick up please** this keeps numbers on and around the playground to a minimum.
- As much as we love to have a chat, it is important to remember DO NOT stop to talk to other parents at **the school gate or near potential congested areas** as this can cause concern with high volume of people in one area and cause delays of leaving the school gates. The exit is very narrow and it is important to avoid any unnecessary delay for parents leaving.

I appreciate this may add a few minutes to your drop off and collection routine but is essential to maintain a safe drop off and collection routine for all of our children.

Please adhere to the staggered times that the children start their school day and end. This routine has put in place to ensure that you and all of our children keep safe.



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## Our half termly values

Our Catholic School's Pupil Profile Values this half term are ***Intentional and Prophetic***. Together with all of the schools in the Archdiocese, we are focusing on the values of being Intentional and Prophetic this half term and how we can show the values within the life of our school and reflecting on the values shared regularly in class.

## Class masses

### Intentional

**Pupils are becoming Intentional in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; Catholic Schools help their pupils grow by being a school community which is intentional in its way of proceeding to build-up quality of life**

### Prophetic

**Pupils are becoming prophetic by identifying in their lives the way we see the Gospel message rooted in our lives, everything we do at school, home and our community.**

On Thursday mornings the classes within their bubbles are timetabled for class masses in the hall in a large space. Sadly, visitors will not be invited into school, this includes parents.

During the celebration of Mass social distancing is maintained throughout and amendments have been put in place to ensure social distancing is adhered too at all times.

## Sacraments

We will keep you informed about the arrangements of the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2021.

Father Damian is awaiting an agreed date from the Bishop about the date for Confirmation next year. We will further confirm First Holy Communion dates also for Year 3 and Year 4 who will be preparing for their sacraments of First Holy communion and we will keep you informed of any dates, information straight away.

Over the coming weeks we will be sending you some information to be returned to school about your commitment for your children making the sacraments next year.

## Drop off and Collection arrangements

- Only **one** parent to accompany children onto school site
- Staggered **drop off** times for all children detailed below:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Year Groups</u>	<u>Playground/Entrance start of the school day</u>
8:50 am	Year 5 and 6	Large Playground at the back of school.
8.50 am	Year 3 and 4	Large Playground at the back of school.
8.40 am	Year 1 & Year 2	Large Playground at the back of school.
8.50 am	Reception	Messenger Road entrance N/R gate
8.45 am	Nursery	Messenger Road entrance N/R gate

**Staggered collection times for all children detailed below: PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIMINGS.**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Year Groups</u>	<u>Playground/Entrance start of the school day</u>
3:00pm	Year 5 and 6	Large Playground at the back of school.
3:00pm	Year 3 and 4	Large Playground at the back of school.
2:45pm	Year 1 & Year 2	Large Playground at the back of school.
2:45 pm	Reception	Messenger Road entrance N/R gate
3:15pm	Nursery	Messenger Road entrance N/R gate

### P.E Days and P.E Kit

Last week we said goodbye to Coach Kieran who was our teacher for PE across the whole of the school on a Monday and Friday. From this week **PE lessons for classes may have changed**, so please check below when your child's PE day is.

<u>Year group</u>	<u>Day of the week</u>
Nursery	Tuesday afternoon
Reception	Tuesday afternoon
Year 1	Monday afternoon
Year 2	Friday afternoon
Year 3	Monday afternoon
Year 4	Friday afternoon
Year 5	Friday afternoon
Year 6	Friday afternoon

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). This removes the need for PE kits to be stored in school and also gives the children more time to spend being active during their PE lessons instead of losing time getting changed before and after lessons.

### Hygiene procedures in school.

As a general reminder on how we keep each other safe, during the day as part of the children's routine, there is regular hand hygiene routines throughout the day. Sanitizer is in all classrooms and is used throughout the day and regular handwashing is integrated throughout the day also. Please note: **If your child has any allergy to alcohol based sanitizer please let us know.**

### Please familiarize yourselves with the information below to ensure that we support our school community.

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.

### Symptomatic Children, Parents or Staff

**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**

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

### **If there is a suspected or confirmed case of Coronavirus in your child's group**

If a child displays or complains of symptoms they will be safely isolated from the group with a designated adult to look after them. The staff member with your child will wear PPE and maintain a 2m distance wherever possible. The child will be well looked after, cared for and reassured at all times, while we contact you immediately. If the child needs the toilet they'll be able to use a separate toilet that will be sanitized afterwards. The child's parents/carers will be called and asked to take the child home and follow government guidance on isolation and testing as follows:

- Contact **119** for immediate advice.
- Book a test. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit.
- Provide details of anyone the child has been in close contact with if they do test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace.
- Self-isolate themselves and their child as they have been in close contact with someone (their child) who has developed coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS website NHS.UK or by calling NHS **119**.
- School will follow the Sandwell standard operating procedure and we will notify the school nurses and Public Health England of the suspected case.

School will ask parents to inform us immediately of the results of a test:

- If the child tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating. Once they feel well they can return to school.
- If your child tests positive, you should follow **the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'** available online and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

**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.**

## **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 very 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, nail varnish, jewellery of any kind (including earrings) and hairstyles must be smart with long hair tied back for safety. We do not allow any hair engravings or extreme shavings and children's hair must not be dyed or highlighted. 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 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 would like more information please call the school office and they will be happy to help.**

## **Afterschool clubs**

We will be in contact soon with when and how afterschool clubs will be running.

## **Dolce lunches**

Please continue to book your child's lunch via Schoolgrid. We are continuing to offer a cold grab bag at this time and will be in contact soon to look to offering a hot option for lunch. We will endeavour to keep you updated with changes in the menu.

## **Contact Details**

We sent home new contact detail forms for you to complete, if you have any outstanding forms not completed, please return them to the school office as soon as possible.

**If your contact details have changed** since the new half 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.

## **Global reading challenge**

We have re-launched our fantastic global reading challenge with all the classes. This is a fantastic project to encourage and excite the children to have a love for reading. Hopefully you would have received a letter sent home or emailed to you explaining more about this wonderful project and tips for reading.

## **Black History Month**

During October we celebrated **Black History Month** through a range of activities and class projects. Each class explored key figures in history and in modern day and performed a class assembly, this would have been videoed and placed onto the website. We will let you know more details of when the assemblies will be popped onto the website. The children really enjoyed learning about key figures in history and in modern day life and I am very proud of the children with their achievements during this project.

## **Alternative ways to celebrate**

I am so very sad that as a school we cannot come together to celebrate the amazing projects and achievements that the children have been part of in class or around school. Within your children's class bubbles merit achievements such as the kindness award, house point winners, attendance, collective worship and personal achievements are recognised. Please log onto our website and have a look at some of the ways we are celebrating school life. During this month we will be celebrating anti-bullying week,

British values themed week, Eco team will lead on a green theme and Remembrance day. Through prayer and collective worship during November we will learning about saints and remembering.

### **Change of circumstances**

During these very difficult times your circumstances may have changed and you may be entitled to Pupil Premium, Free school meals, support for families experiencing hardship. If this is the case, please come forward to school and let us know and we will endeavour to help and support if we can.

### **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](mailto:office@st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk) and we will endeavour to help and support you.

Thank you for your continuing support during this difficult tim , take care and God bless.

Yours Sincerely.

*Mrs Hinton*

**Mrs Hinton**  
**Headteacher**

# **Learning and Working together through Christ**