



We are coming to the end of a very busy term, with lots of events and achievements for the children to celebrate and be very of. Well done children! I would like to thank you parents, for your continuing support this year and your contributions to charities we have supported and the mufti days we have held over the year with your support. Your support and contributions are very valued and appreciated.



Our values this half term are **faith filled and hopeful**. All of us can be **faith filled** and this value is relevant to people of all faiths and denominations. The **hope** of the Church lies in Jesus and our belief that his example will help the world to be a safer, fairer and more peaceful place for all people. Again people of all faiths share this **hope** for a better world. The values of **faith filled and hopeful** link totally to the season of **Advent** and all it brings to us.

### **Free School Meals / Pupil Premium - you can easily help the school get more funding to spend on the children**

If you receive certain benefits you could help the school to obtain precious extra funding called 'Pupil Premium.' As you know, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free school meal every day - **however, if you receive benefits it's still important to apply for free school meals - even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 - that is the only way the school will receive pupil premium funding. It's the same case if your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 and they prefer to bring their own lunch - if you apply for free school meals you need never actually take a free meal - we will still receive pupil premium funding for up to 6 years.** This funding is **very precious** to us and is spent 100% on the children - helping them.

### **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. The playground opens at **8:40am** and the school day starts at **8:50am**. If your child arrives to school after the registers close they will receive a late mark. 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, if you are planning on travelling in term time please complete a leave of absence form that can be obtained from the school office. If your child is ill you must supply medical evidence (appointment card/ prescriptions/ medication).

**Christmas Productions** Well done to EYFS children and KS1 children for their lovely Christmas plays. The children did so well and made everyone proud. Well done children. Thank you also for your support with your children's costumes.

**The School Choir** A huge well done to the school choir who were involved in visiting Holmpark home for the elderly. The children sang beautiful carols and were complimented by so many people for their lovely singing. Well done children.

**Shoe Box Appeal** Thank you so much for your contributions to our Advent appeal, your generosity was very much appreciated.

### **Sacraments**

If you want your child to make the sacrament of the Eucharist and or Confirmation in 2019 and they are baptised Catholics then please look out for a letter coming home next half term for a date for a parents meeting. Or you can speak to myself or Miss Anslow.

### Dates for your Diary

**Tuesday 18th December**—KS2 Carol concert in the hall at 2:15pm

**Wednesday 19th December**— Whole school mass in the school hall at 9:15 am  
please join us . Assembly at 2:00pm.

**Wednesday 19th December**—Children break up for Christmas holiday at  
3:00pm.

**Monday 7th January 2019** - :SCHOOL REOPENS TO CHILDREN AT 8:50AM. Breakfast club is  
available from 7:50 am



#### Term dates 2019

#### Spring Term 2019

#### Summer Term 2019

#### **CHRISTMAS REFLECTION**

Christmas is the time we think of the birth of baby Jesus born in a manger, with Mary and Joseph beside him. The first witnesses of Christ's birth were the shepherds who were considered poor and lowly but were chosen. The angels announced in glory the birth of the savior for the first time to the shepherds. God chose the shepherds and not the kings and powerful or rich people.

Christmas is not just a day to remember and commemorate, it is not just a season to celebrate....

Christmas is love. It is the time when the love of God is revealed to us and received by all people of goodwill, not only to the shepherds and the "magi" to whom the Lord has chosen to reveal, but also to us today.

Celebrating Christmas is celebrating God's love for us all. Christmas is the highlight of a joyful and hopeful time of waiting for the savior to come.

O God,  
bless our family this Christmastime  
bind us together by your love.  
Give us kindness and patience  
to support each other;  
and wisdom in all we do.  
Let the gift of your peace  
come into our hearts  
and remain with us.  
Amen.



#### **School Governor Vacancy**

We have a vacancy for being a member of our governing body . If you would like to find out more about this commitment , please come and speak to myself or Mrs Holwell at the school office.

On behalf of all the staff and governors of St Philip's Catholic Primary School, I wish you a very happy Christmas and new year.

