



Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to you all and I hope you had a lovely Christmas break. Thank you so much for your kind wishes and cards and gifts. The staff are very appreciative of your kindness towards us here at St Philip's. Thank you. We enter into a new busy term at St Philip's, where we look forward to lots of exciting things happening in school.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Mr Wilkes on the birth of his daughter and to Mr Geary on the birth of his son.



### Uniform and PE Kits

Thank you for your continued support with our school uniform. Teachers have noticed that there are still children who don't have their **PE kits** in school. PE is an important area of the curriculum for the children to be involved in. Please check that your child has a white t-shirt and blue shorts and pumps for PE. If you have concerns you wish to talk about, please come and see a member of staff.

### Jewellery

Please remember that only small stud earrings are allowed in school and **no other** jewellery, nail varnish or make-up is permitted. Earrings should not be worn on PE days. New piercings should only be done at the beginning of the summer holiday so that they are healed sufficiently to be able to be taken out for PE days.

### Footwear

Can I remind parents and children that trainers and inappropriate footwear are not part of our uniform and we ask that children wear black sensible footwear. Thank you

### Swimming — Year 3 and 4

All of year 4 and 10 of year 3 children will go swimming on Wednesday mornings. This is an important life skill for all children. Please ensure that the children have their swimming costumes and towels for swimming as children have been forgetting them, if your child does not bring the items that they need they will miss the lesson. All children are to participate in this wonderful activity! Please come and speak with your child's teacher, Mr Padotan or myself if your child is unable to participate in swimming for a specific medical reason.

### Contact Details

**If your contact details have changed** since the new term started and are different to the details on the pink forms, please ensure that you let the school office know of any new numbers and other information for us to contact you directly. It is **very important** that we can contact you if your child is ill, had an accident or is late being picked up from school. **Lots of important messages are sent to you by the text message service.** Please let the school know your details if they have changed.



### Parking/dropping off your child at school

Please take care as you approach the school in cars and by foot whilst you accompany your children into the playgrounds/building, the car park area at the back of the school is very busy in the morning and at home time. Please **DO NOT** leave younger children at the top of the road to walk into the school unaccompanied. We would like the children to get into school safely. Please be mindful when parking as local residents also use this parking area.

### After school clubs

The Spring afterschool clubs will start next week with lots of exciting activities. Some clubs have had a small paying fee attached to them. If your child has signed up to clubs it is important that they are committed to the activity weekly. Please ensure that you pick up your child after the club is finished from the school office. If you are delayed, please make alternative arrangements to pick your child up and inform the school. If your child is collected late more than once, then his/her place will be allocated to children on the waiting list. Dance club will not take place until the 23rd January 2019 and SATs boosters will start on 21st January 2019. Thank you.

### Healthy Lifestyles

As part of our focus on keeping healthy, our school is involved in lots of activities within the week to help to achieve a healthy lifestyle. This term, the children are involved in swimming, Gym, and Competitive sports. Please ensure that playtime snacks and lunch boxes have healthy choices for children to enjoy.



### St Philip's Safeguarding Champions

Children from KS2 have been trained as Safeguarding Champions. This term the children will be going out on duty to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children.

### Swimming Gala

Congratulations to all the children who took part in the swimming gala. We are pleased to say that both the girls and boys team achieved 3rd place, this means that they have qualified for the black country games that will be taking place soon. Thank you to all the parents/carers that have supported the children. Well done!

## 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 come and see us and we will work hard to sort them out for you. Please be assured that we will endeavour to help sort any concern /worry you may have and come to a resolution together.



## Safeguarding our Children

At St Philip's School we have a responsibility to ensure all children's safety with cyber, social, mobile phones and internet usage. Please ensure that, if your child has a mobile phone or access to the internet, as parents, you are able to monitor your child's usage. During this term there will be a focus on the safety of online and cyber usage at home as school is increasingly having to deal with home usage and comments that cause upset to other children.

## Unforeseen School Closure

In the event of the school being closed due to unforeseen circumstances such as heavy snowfall you will receive a **text** as soon as a decision has been made to confirm that the school is closed. If no text is sent to you then the school is **OPEN AS USUAL**. Please rely on the text service we provide for you and **DO NOT** telephone the school to check if it is open. Excess telephone calls on these mornings stop other calls coming through from external agencies etc. Please also keep your contact numbers up-to-date to ensure we are able to make you aware of any important information. Thank you

## Medical Evidence

We are aware children can be ill at times, especially this time of year. If your child is away from school due to illness please contact the school office and leave a message on the answering machine stating your child's name, class and reason for absence, where possible please supply medical evidence to support the illness. This medical evidence could be proof of the prescription medicine, a doctors appointment card, medical appointment letters etc that states the date of the appointment or administration of medicines. Where medical evidence is not supplied this could result in an unauthorised mark. Information can be found on the school website.

Date	Event
<b>Autumn Term 2019</b>	
Monday 2nd September	Children return to school
Wednesday 23rd October	Children break up for half term
Thursday 24th October	Teacher Training Day
Friday 25th October	Teacher Training Day
Monday 4th November	Children return to school
Wednesday 18th December	Children break up for Christmas
Thursday 19th December	Teacher Training Day
Friday 20th December	Teacher Training Day
<b>Spring Term 2020</b>	
Monday 6th January	Children return to school
Friday 14th February	Children Break up for half term
Monday 24th February	Children return to school
Friday 3rd April	Children break up for Easter
<b>Summer Term 2020</b>	
Monday 20th April	Children return to school
Monday 4th May	School closed for May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 22nd May	Children break up for half term
Monday 1st June	Children return to school
Friday 17th July	Children break up for Summer Holidays
Monday 20th July	Teacher training day

## Leave of Absence

Due to the changes in the Education Regulations 2013 for absence, you must complete a new leave of absence form for, any absence from school for holidays or exceptional circumstances, at least **10 weeks before** the leave is due. Please **do not** book any travel arrangements until the response to your request. **No holiday request will be authorised as this is not an exceptional circumstance.** You are able to obtain forms from the office and Mrs Hitch will be able to give you further information.

## Reception Applications

**Closing date for Reception applications is the 15th January. If you have not applied for your child's reception place and you require help, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment with Mr Padotan who will be able to help with this.**

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Please keep it in a safe place for future reference.

*Mrs Hinton*