



Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term!

We hope you have had a very nice half term week together and we are delighted to welcome everyone back to school. This is always a very special half term at St Philip's as we journey through the holy season of Lent towards Easter.

Our Values for this new half term: Learned and Wise

Learned - finding God in all things and finding out more and more about God's love for all humankind.

Wise - in the ways we use our learning about God and from God in order to help others by being kind, charitable, forgiving and loving.

The children will be learning about how to use the values of Learned and Wise in their everyday lives through their work and collective worship. The children will be rewarded and recognised by the Mission team and teachers for using the special values in their lives.

The holy season of Lent - 2019

Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday. The season takes us all the way to the great celebration of Easter. During this special season we are asked to pray, fast and give alms.

There are many additional opportunities for the children to pray, fast and give alms at school during Lent. Lent is a special season and there are many special activities in school from the beginning of Lent right through to the Easter holiday.

Supporting charities through Lent

During the season of Lent we are asked to think about almsgiving and during this time we will be supporting the charities of CAFOD and the Good Shepard Appeal. We will share more details during our themed days coming up this term.

World Book Day

We celebrated world book day this week with the children and staff really getting into the spirit of dressing up as their favourite characters. The children enjoyed a variety of activities to share the love of books and reading. Please continue to encourage your children to read a wide variety of books and help encourage and develop their love of reading and books. Each child would have received a voucher for a free World Book Day book that can be used in local bookshops.

Our School Website

Our school website 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.

The address is : www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk/.

After School Clubs

We offer a variety of after school clubs over the year and the clubs are very popular. Please ensure that if your child has signed up for a club that they attend the sessions. I understand that circumstances change and if this is the case, could you let the school office know that you do not want the club place, then another child could be allocated a place. Thank you.

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 you need to talk to the school office and complete a leave of absence form that can be obtained from the school office at least 10 days before you are planning on leaving. No leave of absence will be authorised by the school. If your child is ill you will be asked to supply medical evidence (appointment card/ prescriptions/ medication). Our Attendance Policy can be obtained for reference on our schools web site.

Uniform PE Kits and Healthy lifestyles.

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. Also, as part of our healthy lifestyle agenda, we ask that the children choose a healthy choice for playtimes and lunchboxes. Please support your children to choose healthy options and not sugary foods.

Polite reminders!

Could you please ensure that your child is not wearing dangly earrings or jewellery to school. This could be potentially dangerous if your child is involved in an accident at school. Could you also please ensure that children **don't have hairstyles that include patterns and lines**, as our home/school agreement states. Thank you for your continuing support.

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. You can talk to myself, or Mr Wilkes our Deputy Headteacher. If you are unable to talk to us then you can talk with Mrs Hill, Mrs Evans or Mr Padotan. Otherwise you can see your child's teacher after school. Please be assured that we will endeavour to help sort any problems or concerns out for you.

Safeguarding and Parking

Please ensure that you drop your child off at the school gates and not at the top of the road or from the car that is not correctly parked safely. If you have a concern about your child, please come and see us. We want to support you to ensure that our children are happy and safe in school. Thank you.

Dates for your diary

- **Parent's Evening** -Monday 11th March in your child's classroom.
- **Year 1 Phonic Workshop for parents**- Tuesday, 12th March at 2.30pm in the school hall.
- **School Parish Mass**—Sunday 24th March 9:30 am in the church.
- **Whole school Lenten Retreat day with One Life**—Tuesday, 26th March
- **Wear Green day**—Monday 18th March, to celebrate St Patrick's day.
- **Year 3 and 5 classes visiting St Chad's Cathedral**—Friday 29th March
- **Week beginning 8th April**—Holy week assemblies. (A flyer will be sent out for times and dates. Please join us)
- **Btails Theatre group in school**—Monday 8th April
- **Tuesday 9th April**—School penitential service for confessions. KS2 classes 1:30pm in the Church. You are most welcome to join us .
- **Monday 29th April**—Children return to school for new term
- **Tuesday 30th April**- School group Photographs.
- **Monday 6th March** - May Bank Holiday
- **Monday 13th May** — YEAR 6 SATS WEEK.
- **Friday 24th May**—School breaks up for Whitsun break.

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

Mrs Hinton