



School Newsletter

No: 2
September 2019

Dear Parents, We are nearly half way through the Autumn term and is in full swing. This newsletter gives you some important information with dates for the term ahead of us.

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. We are happy to help and will try to resolve any problems you may have. You can see myself Mrs Hinton Headteacher or Mr Wilkes our Deputy Head teacher. Otherwise, you can make an appointment to see your child's teacher after school. Please be assured that we will endeavour to help resolve any problems or concerns out for you.

Our Values for this half term

Our values this half term are **Generous and Grateful** towards others in all that we do—pupils are growing to be grateful for their own gifts, for the gift of other people and for the blessings of each day: and be generous with their gifts, becoming stronger children.

These values are set by the Archdiocese and all Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese focus on the same set of values, which are changed each half term. The values are drawn from the Catholic Schools Pupil Profile, which is on display throughout the school and in the main lobby area by the offices.

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 10 days before the date of absence. If your child is ill you must supply medical evidence (appointment card/ prescriptions/ medication). If your child is absent due to illness a visit from the Education Welfare Officer may be arranged. Our Attendance Policy can be obtained for reference on our schools website.

School Gateway and new apps

We have just implemented a new payment app for all payments that need to be made such as dinner money, breakfast club, afterschool club etc. Letters have been sent home explaining how to download the app to your smart phone. Please provide the school with an e-mail address and up to date contact number if you have not already done so.

This app will also replace the text messaging service in school. It is very important the we have the relevant information as we may have to send important messages to you.

End of the school day

Please be reminded, the gates on the playgrounds will be closed at 3:10 pm **PROMPT** and the children will be brought up to the school office. If someone else is collecting your child/ children from school, please remember to phone the office to let us know and you it is important to let the person know who is collecting your child the password.

If your child is late being picked up, you will be telephoned to come and collect your child. We ask you to sign the late register. If your child is picked up late regularly then you will be asked to join us for a meeting with myself and Sally Beasley the Attendance Officer to discuss late collection. If you are struggling and are looking for afterschool collection services, then please visit the school office who can give you all the details for

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Funding – Please help us to access precious government funding



Are you entitled?

For every child that is eligible for free school meals – we receive very valuable funding from the government called 'Pupil Premium Funding.' This funding is very precious and valuable and is always spent on improving the provision in school for the children.

If you successfully apply for free school meals you not only have the option to choose free school lunches for your child but you also bring in very precious funding for the school for the next 6 years.

Who should apply? Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6!

We only get pupil premium funding if you **apply for free school meals**. Even though all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive free school meals – you still need to **make an application** in order for us to access **pupil premium funding**. If you are eligible – whether your child is in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 or Year 6 – it's really important that you **apply for free school meals**.

Am I eligible for free school meals?

If you receive the following benefits you can apply for free school meals:

- Universal Credit (provided monthly net earned income of less than £616.66, after tax and not including any benefits)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit Run-On – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Healthy Snacks Only – no high sugar, high calorie or high fat snacks at break or lunch

Please make sure that any food your child brings to school is of a healthy nature. We encourage fruit for playtime snacks. We only allow small packets of crisps or snacks (approx. 20g) and we ask you to choose low fat options. Similarly a small biscuit or biscuit bar is acceptable. We do not allow chocolate bars, sweets or large bags of crisps. All drinks must be still and sugar free. At lunchtimes please ensure you don't send any high fat or high sugar foods. If your child brings unhealthy food to school we will contact you and ask you to supply an alternative, whilst asking your child to put the unhealthy food back in their bag. Thanks for your support – it's our duty to promote healthy eating at school.



Homework

Your child will be sent home with regular homework during the week (the school policy for homework will be on the school website very soon for you to view) but in addition to this it is very important that you read with your child for around 10 minutes per day and please sign in your child's reading diary. Reading is an important skill for all children and we want to promote and develop their love of reading through a number of exciting initiatives in school—remember to ask your child about the activities that they took part in on National Poetry Day and the launch of our school reading challenge!

This is a promotional flyer for St Philip's Catholic Primary School. It features the school's logo (a shield with 'SP' and a cross) in the top right corner. The text reads: 'St Philip's Catholic Primary School', 'Learning and working together through Christ', 'Nursery Places Available', 'FREE 30 HOURS FOR WORKING PARENTS', and 'Ring us now on 0121 558 1643 to find out more'. At the bottom, it provides the address 'Messenger Road, Smethwick, B66 3DU'. There are three small circular images showing children in a classroom setting.

School Mass

Every Thursday we celebrate mass, the children lead with the readings and hymns. Mass is at 9:15 am in either church or school. Please join us, it would be lovely to see you.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you so much for your overwhelming support for our Macmillan coffee morning. Your contributions of cakes was very kind, we have raised an impressive £236.17. Thank you

Safety with Mobile Phones I have been made aware of concerns from children and staff about messages been sent on mobile phones that has been upsetting for our children. PLEASE ensure that you check your children's phones and ensure that they are safe whilst using their phones. If you have noticed any concerns, please remind your children about keeping safe online and on our school website there is information about reporting inappropriate information, or come and speak to us here at school.

Date	Event
Autumn 2019	
Wednesday 23rd October	Pupils break up for Half Term
Thursday 24th October	Teacher Training Day
Friday 25th October	Teacher Training Day
Monday 4th November	Pupils return to school
Wednesday 18th December	Pupils break up for Christmas
Thursday 20 December	Teacher Training Day
Friday 21 December	Teacher Training Day
Spring Term 2020	
Monday 6th January	Pupils return to school
Friday 14th February	Break up for Half Term
Monday 24th February	Pupils return to school
Thursday 3rd April	Break up for Easter
Summer Term 2020	
Monday 20th April	Pupils return to school
Monday 4th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 22nd May	Break up for Half Term
Monday 1st June	Pupils return to school
Friday 17th July	Pupils break up for Summer
Monday 20th July	Teacher Training Day

Dates for the Diary

Cafod Harvest fast day—4th October
National Poetry day in school.-
3rd October.
Reception class—RML Parent workshop ,
Tuesday 22nd October 9:15am
Black History Month in school during
October
Mufti day for Harvest— Friday 11th October .
Bring in a item of food into school to support
Brushstrokes Charity.
Harvest Mass— Sunday 13th October in church @
9:30 am
Parents Evening— Tuesday 14th
October
Into Film Festival Month -.W/B 4th
November
Individual and Family photographs in school—
Tuesday 12th November
**Enrolment Mass for Children committing to the
sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation**
—Sunday 24th November
Year 3 Assembly—Friday 11th October
Year 4 Assembly—Friday 4th October
Year 5 Assembly— Friday 15th November
Year 2 Assembly—Friday 22nd November

Year 7 Applications

**Closing date for Year 7 applications is
the 31st October. If you have not
applied for your child's Y7 place and
you require help, please contact the
school office to arrange an**

Sacraments

If you want your child to make the Sacrament of the Eucharist and Confirmation in 2020 and they are baptised Catholics then please look out for a letter coming home before half term. Within this letter it will ask you to make a commitment to enrol your child for the sacraments and then this will follow on to a parent meeting and enrolment mass within the parish on Sunday 24h November 2019

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

Mrs Hinton