



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 decade and a busy term at St Philip's, where we look forward to lots of exciting things happening in school. Please keep looking at our school website and blog <https://www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk/blog/> for weekly updates on the activities that the children have taken part in.

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.

New topics and projects

All of the children will begin new topics in history, geography, art, DT etc as well as home projects to complete. Keep your eyes peeled for information regarding this as well as when your child's class parent workshop will be this term.

Swimming – Year 3 and 4

All of year 4 and 10 of year 3 children (parents will have received a letter about this) will go swimming on Wednesday mornings starting on Wednesday 15th January. This is an important life skill for all children. Please ensure that the children have their swimming kits 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, has had an accident or is late being picked up from school. **Also, 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 start on Monday 13th January 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.



School lunches Parents, a polite reminder to ask you to ensure that you **pre-book** your child's lunch choice before the new day/week starts with your child/ren and talk to them about what they will be having for lunch. The children are enjoying the new system, menu and food choices on offer at lunchtimes, but if the children don't know what they are eating for lunch they get upset because they don't want the choice that has been chosen for them and want another choice seen. It is important to remember that the food is prepared on our school site based on the orders that we receive from school grid. **You can also add onto this system an update on your child's allergies or dietary requirements which help us immensely with knowing your child's allergies and needs for lunchtime, this is very important.**

Shanaze Reade—Walking and Cycling Ambassador for the West Midlands visit

As part of our participation in the WOW (Walk Once a Week) challenge, on Friday we were visited by a representative from Living Streets, who are pioneering the initiative and Shanaze Reade, (world champion BMX rider and Walking and Cycling Ambassador for the West Midlands), to celebrate our achievement of encouraging more people to be active and walk to school at least once per week. This has been an extremely successful initiative in school and the children who have walked at least once per week are very proud to show off their badges. Well done children! The children were inspired by Shanaze's story and also particularly enjoyed meeting Strider the mascot!

Please see our school blog on the website for further information.

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 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.

Spring Term 2020

Mon 6 January	Start of Term - School opens
Wed 15 January	Years 3 and 4 swimming commences
Sunday 26th January	School/Parish Mass in Church
Fri 14 February	Break up for Half Term
17 to 21 February	Half Term
Mon 24 February	School Re-opens
Fri 3 April	End of Term - School closes for Easter

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 Miss Slater will be able to give you further information.

Summer Term 2020

Mon 20 April	Start of Term - School opens
Fri 8 May	VE Day Anniversary Bank Holiday
25 to 29 May	Half Term
Sun 14 June	First Holy Communion, 9.30am
Tue 7 July	Confirmation, 7.00pm
Fri 17 July	End of Term - School closes for Summer
Mon 20 July	(Teacher Day - School closed to pupils)

St Philip's Catholic Primary School
Learning and working together through Christ

Nursery Places Available
FREE 30 HOURS
FOR WORKING PARENTS

Ring us now on 0121 558 1643 to find out more

Messenger Road, Smethwick, B66 3DU

The advertisement features the school's crest (a shield with a cross and the letters 'SP') and several circular inset photos showing children in a nursery setting.

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

Mrs Hinton