



Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term.

I would like to share with you that I have returned to school following an illness during the Christmas break. A big thank you for your kind words and prayers at this time. Thank you.

We were delighted to welcome everyone back to school at the start of this term. This is always a very special half term at St Philip's as we journey through the holy season of Lent towards Easter.

Covid-19/ Coronavirus update

The Department for Education continues to regularly update school on the UK Government's response to Covid-19 (Coronavirus). Last week the government launched the Coronavirus action plan which sets out what has been done so far, and what it plans to do next, depending on the course the current outbreak takes. The action plan can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>. In school, we have given the children advice about how to stop Coronavirus spreading by encouraging the regular washing of hands with soap and water at key times during the day and explaining to the children that if they need to cough or sneeze they should catch it with a tissue, put the tissue in the bin and then kill the germs by washing hands thoroughly. We will continue to update parents during the course that the virus takes based on the advice that we receive from the UK Government and Department for Education.

Travelling abroad or back

In light of the Coronavirus, if you have recently travelled to or from a country abroad and you have health concerns please call NHS 111 and inform the school office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Our Values for this new half term: Faith-Filled and Hopeful

Faith-Filled - Being full of faith in God and sharing that faith with others through the way we treat each other, speak to each other and think about one another.

Wise - Having hope in God, that he knows what is best for us and having hope in one another to follow the teachings of Christ.

The children will be learning about how to use the values of Faith-Filled and Hopeful 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 - 2020

Lent began on 26th February 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. Our Mini Vinnies will share more details during this term.

Opportunities to Pray more during Lent

There will be additional assemblies during Lent. This gives the whole community even more opportunities to pray together and helps the children learn about Holy Week and the Easter story in detail.

Safety at dropping off and collection times at school

We cannot stress enough how important it is for you to drop your child to school at the school gates, especially as the roads around school can be very busy and congested with traffic at the start and the end of the day. To avoid any potential accidents or health and safety concerns, it is your responsibility to ensure that your child has arrived safely in school.

World Book Day

We celebrated world book day last week with the children and staff really getting into the spirit of dressing up as an interesting word from a book. 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. Please also help your child to complete our Global Reading Challenge in school!

Year 5—Motown Magic

Wow - What a night! Our Year 5 children were truly outstanding as they performed at the Birmingham Town Hall on Thursday 13th February in front of around a 1,000 people as part of the Hagley Pyramid - Motown Magic concert. It was an incredible evening and our children sang so well to make us so very proud of them. Thank you to all of the parents and staff who also came to support our wonderful children.

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.

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.

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

Spring Term 2020

Thurs 12th March	Whole school retreat day with One Life Music
Sun 15th March	School Parish Mass in Church 9:30am
Fri 20th March	Reception class assembly 2:25pm
Fri 27th March	Year 2 class assembly
Mon 30th March	Beginning of our Holy Week assemblies
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
Mon 11th May	Beginning of KS2 SATs week
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



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

