



**ST PHILIP'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Hello!*

June 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we are well into the Summer term.

Please take some time to read the school newsletter with key information and dates.

### **Catholic school pupil profile**

This half term we will be focusing on as a school on how to be **Faith-filled and Hopeful** towards others.

### **What does this mean?**

Catholic schools help their pupils grow by passing on the living and faith-filled tradition of Jesus Christ; by having persevering faith in the pupils, and by encouraging them in turn, to have faith and hope in others.

This links in with our Catholic Social Teaching focus of Dignity of the human person. We are focusing on how we can help our neighbours near and far to ensure that all are treated equally.

### **What does this mean?**

Catholic schools help their pupils grow by being a school community which is in its way of being compassionate and loving in the way pupils are treated, especially when a pupil is in trouble; and by opening pupils' eyes to those who suffer poverty, injustice or violence.

### **Pope Francis**

We had witnessed the sad news that Pope Francis passed away on Easter Monday during our time off school.

*"We remember Pope Francis's wonderful work and many ecumenical and inter-religious initiatives as he prayed and worked for the unity of the Church and of mankind and for the respect due to God's creation. May he rest in peace."*

We remember Pope Francis as he continues to share his intentions for June and July.

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**Prayer Intentions for June:**

That the world might grow in compassion Let us pray that each one of us may find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus and, from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.

**Prayer intentions for July:** For formation in discernment Let us pray that we may again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.



**Pope Leo XIV**

The conclave in the Vatican elected a new successor, Pope Leo XIV on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. " The Pope is the spiritual leader of 1.4 billion Catholics, and an important player on the global stage. He is one of the few people who can bridge political divides and bring world leaders together for the common good. please keep him in your prayers."

**Jubilee year of Hope** During our Jubilee Year of Hope, Pope Francis invited us to renew our hope and let us journey together in hope. Throughout the year, children in school will be exploring how the gift of HOPE is used in our lives throughout our actions. **Sacraments of Eucharist - First Holy Communion and Confirmation**

**First Holy Communion - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025** Thank you so much parents for attending the parents meeting last half term. I do hope that Mrs Anslow and Fr Gerald shared with you all the information needed in readiness for your child to receive the sacrament of the Eucharist.

**Confirmation** The confirmed date for Confirmation will be on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 6:30pm** in St Philip Neri Church. Please note further information will be shared at the parents meeting.

**Allergies**

Please remember that **WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL** when you are choosing a snack or lunchbox items, **PLEASE ENSURE** that there are **NO NUT FOOD PRODUCTS IN SCHOOL** **this** includes **NUTELLA**. Please check food items that contain nuts are NOT sent into school and



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toiletry items that contain nuts / oils from nuts.

In our school, we have pupils and staff members that have allergies and intolerance to foods. Thank you so very much for your ongoing support.

### **School Uniform / Hairstyles**

Thank you, parents, for your support with our school uniform policy at St Philip's Catholic Primary School. However, please note the gentle reminder that you support our policy on appropriate hairstyles for school. During term time there should be no hair sculptures or tram lines, shaving, highlights or hair colouring of any description. Extreme hairstyles should only be considered at the beginning of the summer holiday. Please ensure that choices of footwear are **NOT COLOURED TRAINERS**, but black shoes or trainers. Please continue to support us this term. Thank you.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION !**

**Free School Meals** - Pupils in current Year 2 Pupils in our current year 2 class will not receive Universal Infant Free School Meals once they move up into Year 3 this September. However, you may qualify for free school meals, and if you do it's really important to apply in advance.



*See below for details of how to apply and the eligibility criteria.*

### **Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Funding -**

Please help us to access precious government funding-

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.

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**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 or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed 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

**How do I apply?**

Online: Using a PC, tablet or phone

***If you need any help or support with the above, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help you.***



**AIP Catering**

Free School Meals and KS1 Universal Free School Meals children – If your child is a Free School Meal child or is in Reception or KS1 they are entitled to a free school lunch which would be a hot meal from the school canteen.

**If you would rather send your child in with their own packed lunch you are welcome to do so BUT... (please remember no nuts (including Nutella), tomatoes, oranges or coconut as we have children with severe allergies in school).**

Please book online on SCHOOL FOOD UNITED TO BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PREFERRED LUNCH OPTION. If you are having trouble logging in or creating your School Food United account, please come and see Mrs Slater in the School Office.

If your child is in KS2 classes and are not Free School Meals/Pupil Premium then ALL MEALS NEED TO BE PAID FOR at a cost of £2.40 per day.



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**Please remember if you pay for school meals to please clear your balance on a daily balance. Any problems come and see the School Office.**

All children should still bring their own filled water bottle each day which needs to be taken home at the end of each day and washed and brought back the following day.

### **Healthy Choices**

We continue to be proud of our Platinum Healthy School Award. **Please support your children to make healthy choices for break times and at lunchtimes in their lunch boxes.** There is an increase in unhealthy choices seen in lunch boxes and at break time.

Children are bringing in sweets, large bags of crisps and high calorie drinks and snacks. **Please choose your child's snacks with a careful thought.** We continue to support that you please check your child's lunchboxes and this will give you an indication of how much your child has eaten. Please note that school provides a piece of fruit at breaktime for your child. Thank you for your support.

### **Wrap around Care**

We are delighted to share with you that we are offering wraparound before and afterschool 5 days a week. Please look on our school website or contact us to find out more about our wraparound care. We offer wraparound each day from 7:30-8:40 am and 3:00- 6:00pm.



### **Contact Details**

**IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO CONTACT US TO LET US KNOW** -If you have changed your contact details, please pop into the office and let the school know. We want to ensure that we can contact you directly in the case of an emergency or if your child falls ill or has an injury at school during the school day. **WE NEED TO CONTACT YOU IMMEDIATELY**. Thank you so much for your support.

### **Arbor**

A huge thank you to all the parents who have downloaded the APP and logged in and are using the APP. We would like to share THAT ALL COMMUNICATION WILL NOW BE THROUGH ARBOR. It is very important that you download ARBOR and use this APP. All communications are shared with all parents through this app and important information too. If you haven't already downloaded the app. Download it now!

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### Attendance

**There has been new guidance on school attendance that has been launched at the start of our academic school year.**

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 for **8:50 am**. The playground opens at **8:40am and the official start to the school day is 8:50 am**. If your child arrives to school after the registers close, they will receive a late mark that is recorded on your child's attendance record. **If your child is ill and is unable to come to school, you must call school on the first day of their absence (and any further days) to inform the school office of the reason for the absence. Any medical appointments that are unavoidably in school hours must show proof of appointment to the school office. The school office number is 0121 558 1643.**

On the third consecutive day of any absence, school will carry out a welfare check via telephone or a home visit.

If your child's attendance drops below 90% then you will be invited to a meeting with school staff such as the Learning Mentor, Attendance Officer or Vice Principal to offer support with improving your child's attendance.

Any further meetings with regards to attendance concerns below **85%** will be escalated to the Principal.

**Please also 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 as this will be UNAUTHORISED and you could be at risk of a fine from the Local Authority of Sandwell.**



### Safeguarding

We are dedicated to safeguarding all our young people at St Philip's Catholic Primary School. If you have any concerns with safeguarding, then please speak with a member of staff or myself and we will endeavour to help and support.

Could I please request that if your child has an injury that has happened at home or outside of school could you please be so kind to let us know. Telling us would avoid myself from contacting you unnecessarily. If you do have a concern or would like to talk to someone in confidence about

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a safeguarding concern, then I am the Designated Safeguarding leader (DSL) in school. Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer is **Mrs Anslow** and Safeguarding Officers are **Miss Reaney, Mrs Davidson and Mr Padaton**. Our safeguarding policy is available on our website to help and support you with how safeguarding works in our local authority of Sandwell and the Multi academy Company of the Emmaus MAC.

### **Nursery places — Please see the information below!**

We have nursery places available now! We can offer a nursery place to your child when YOUR CHILD TURNS 3 YEARS OLD or will be within the current term and for September 2025, please get in contact and we will be happy to support with completing the application forms and supporting you and your child.



### **Important !**

If you have applied for a Reception place at our school to start Reception in September 2025 and you **HAVE NOT GOT A PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD**, please pop into the school and **LET US KNOW**. We can help support you.



### **Curriculum information**

### **Reading at home**

We continue to advocate that reading is a key life skill and through our Read Write Inc reading and phonics scheme we support children to develop skills that support children to read with confidence, enjoyment and have a love for reading.

We really want to share with you how important it is to read with your child at home. Please take time with your child/ren to support children to read as shared in the 10 top tips for parents.

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- Encourage your child to read.
- Read aloud regularly.
- Encourage reading choice.
- Read together.
- Create a comfortable environment.
- Make use of your local library.
- Talk about books.
- Bring reading to life.

### **Book share**

Our book share has been very successful this year! thank you parents and children for participating. We invite you and encourage parents to pop into our school reception with your child and choose a book to read at home and then return it to school and choose another one. Please help yourselves to a wide range of lovely books available.

### **Homework**

Just a gentle reminder that homework is set and located on Purple Mash weekly, or paper copies are shared with your child. Please ensure that you check DO-JOS to help you track you child's journey and achievements. With Purple Mash, your child has been given a log in with a username and password. If you are having problems or do not have log in, please let us know, so that we can help. As part of weekly homework, it is very **IMPORTANT THAT CHILDREN ARE HEARD TO READ AND CHILDREN ARE READING AT HOME.**

### **PE Lessons**

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.

Year group	Day of the week	Activity
<b>Reception -</b>	<b>Monday afternoon</b> <b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Sports coach</b> <b>Teacher leading</b>
<b>Year 1 -</b>	<b>Monday morning</b> <b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Sports coach</b> <b>Teacher leading</b>
<b>Year 2 -</b>	<b>Monday afternoon</b> <b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Sports coach</b> <b>Teacher leading</b>





<b>Year 3 -</b>	<b>Monday morning</b> <b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Sports coach</b> <b>Teacher leading</b>
<b>Year 4 -</b>	<b>Monday morning</b> <b>Thursday</b>	<b>Sports Coach</b> <b>Teacher leading</b>
<b>Year 5 -</b>	<b>Monday morning</b> <b>Friday</b>	<b>Sports coach</b> <b>teacher leading</b>
<b>Year 6 -</b>	<b>Monday Morning</b> <b>Thursday</b>	<b>Swimming</b> <b>Teacher leading</b>

A reminder that for the Summer Term, children should come to school **wearing their PE kit (tracksuit)** on their designated PE day listed above. PE kit to school - this should consist of a **plain white T-shirt and black/ blue joggers, school jumper or cardigan pumps or sensible trainers**. I would like to remind you that this is the only agreed PE kit in school.

### **Jewellery**

Please take care not to send your children into school with looped earrings, necklaces or expensive pieces of jewellery. It is important to note that jewellery can be broken or lost in school and not suitable for play or PE activities.



### **Keep in touch**

We are here to serve you and it is our pleasure to help. Your child's safety, happiness and academic progress are the reason why every single member of staff is here. If you are concerned about any aspect of school life - no matter how small - it's really important to let us know. The sooner we know about things the sooner we can do our best to sort things out. The teachers and teaching assistants can take quick messages on the door before and after school - if you need a longer, private conversation please call the school and the member of staff that you need to speak with will be in contact with you.

### **Change of circumstances**

**It's important for us to know that if your personal circumstance have changed** you may be entitled to Free School meals. You can help the school to access precious funding for years to come (called Pupil Premium) by registering for free school meals Please apply for free school meals if you are on a low income and / or receive benefits. As well as receiving a free school



meal very day (if you choose to take it) you will generate significant funding for our school for many years to come – finding that is all spent on better provision for the children. If you think that you may qualify, please pop into school and speak to Mrs Slater.

### **Our School Website**

Please remember to visit our school website which 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 and take a look at our Twitter page and blog.

The address is : [www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk/](http://www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk/)

### **Dates for your diary**

Term Dates	Activity
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Children return to school
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 6 swimming
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception class parents' Phonic workshop
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Our school nurses in school Year 2 hygiene talk. Healthy Eating Talk years 3&4.
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Puberty Talk for year 5. Emotional Health for Year 6.
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Fundraising activities led by year 6
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	First Confession for First Holy Communion
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Fist Holy Communion @ 9:30 am at St Philip Neri church
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	EYFS SPORTS DAY AM KS1 SPORTS DAY PM
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 SPORTS DAY YEAR 3&4 AM KS2 SPORTS DAY YEAR 5 &6 PM

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Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 MAC sports day @ Hagley High School
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Assembly am
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Confessions for Confirmation children @1:15pm in St Philip Neri Church
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Attendance Assembly
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Confirmation @ 6:30pm am at St Philip Neri church
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers Mass @ 9:15am in St Philip Neri church
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Graduation - 9:15 am in the School Hall.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Pupils break up for the summer break @ 3:00pm

Please note that class trips will take place in the summer term and details will be shared with you from the Class Teacher via dojos.

#### Term dates for 2025-2026

	Starts	Half term	Ends
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Mon 1st September 2025 <i>NOTE ! Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September – training days .</i>	Mon 27th Oct 2025 to Fri 31st Oct 2025	Fri 19th December 2025
<b>Spring Term</b>	Mon 5th January 2026	Mon 16th Feb 2026 to Fri 20th Feb 2026	Fri 27th March 2026

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<b>Summer Term</b>	Mon 13th April 2026	Mon 25th May 2026 to 29th May 2026	Mon 20th July 2026
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Wishing you every good wish & God Bless

Mrs C Hinton  
Principal

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