



ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hello!

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we come to the end of our Autumn Term and nearly the end of 2023!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and dedication to St Philip's over this year.

Catholic school pupil profile

During this half term we will be focusing on as a school on how to be **Compassionate and Loving** to be compassionate and loving to their peers.

Catholic Social Teaching

For **Spring 1** we will be discussing these teachings with the children **Dignity of the Human Person** so that everyone is treated equally as a child of God.



Advent

We are in our journey of Advent and in the Catholic Church we spend the first weeks of Advent preparing not for Christmas - but preparing our lives for the time that Christ comes to the world again.

In school, we have been focusing with the children to make promises based on being more like Jesus and involving them in charitable activities.

The last weeks of Advent focus on celebrating the first Christmas - and in the children's RE work, collective worship and Catholic life the story of the Gospel will be taught in detail to all of the children during Advent.

During this time with our families, please remember to pray together as a family and use the prayer bag from your child's class if you are lucky enough to have it come home with you over the Christmas break. You could use the Pope's prayer intentions to help you pray as a family.

St Philip's
Catholic Primary School
Messenger Road,
Smethwick, B66 3DU

Tel: 0121 558 1643
www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk
Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton

Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

Private Limited Company of Charitable Status within the Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered in England and Wales Company No 09174154





ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Pope's December prayer intention: 'For people with disabilities'

Pope Francis releases his prayer intention for the month of December 2023, and invites us to join with the Holy Father in praying for 'People with disabilities'.

We pray that people with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions offer inclusion programs that enhance their active participation.

Pope's Prayer Intentions for January 2024

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Live Simply Challenge

Send an 'e Christmas card' or use recycled material Christmas cards for sustainability.

Goodbye and farewell

We say goodbye to Miss Shaw who leaves at the end of this week. Miss Shaw is going onto adventures new and we wish her the very best of luck and thank you for serving the community of St Philip's for 10 years and has worked across the school in many classes with our lovely children.

In January, Miss Kay will be working in Reception class alongside Mrs Hill .

Sacraments



First Holy Communion - June 2024

On Sunday 12th November the children in year 3 and 4 whose parents have completed the commitment letters to make the sacrament of first holy communion next year will be invited to make a commitment at the Enrolment Mass where parents and children will promise to support the spiritual journey of your child. Mass is at 9:30 am at St Philip Neri Church. Please join us.

If you have any further questions, please come forward and speak to myself or Mrs Anslow at school or you can contact Father Gerald Bonaventure at the Presbytery on **0121 558 1067**.

St Philip's
Catholic Primary School
Messenger Road,
Smethwick, B66 3DU

Tel: 0121 558 1643
www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk
Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton





Curriculum News

What's been going on in school recently?

In addition to all the fantastic learning in our classrooms, we have also been learning outside the classroom; here are a few of the highlights from the last few weeks.

Into-Film trips

All children across school have had the opportunity to visit the cinema to watch movies that are related to their class curriculum. The children had a wonderful experience and enjoyed this focus very much.

Mission team and Mini-Vinnies

The mini-Vinnie's have been raising money to go to worthwhile charities. The children have been instrumental in raising money for CAFOD and Mini-Vinnies have been raising Christmas gifts of pre-loved toys with you to forward onto charities. THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to parents for your support, dedication and commitment in helping the children raise funds to make a difference.

Afterschool clubs

Children who have participated in afterschool clubs have enjoyed been part of the clubs taking part in dancing, reading, circus skills, games and sports clubs. Well done children!

Off-site Visits

Children have participated in extra-curricular sporting activities and have participated in a number of tournaments. Well done Children! We are very proud of you all.

Safeguarding

We are dedicated to safeguarding 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 a safeguarding concern, then I am the Designated Safeguarding leader (DSL) in school. Deputy



Designated Safeguarding Officer is **Mrs Anslow** and Safeguarding Officers are **Mrs Hill, 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.

Uniform, PE Kits and Healthy lifestyles.

Thank you parents for supporting our uniform policy and sending your child/ren into school so smart. Please can I share that 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. Thank you so much for your support and understanding.

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. When we come back on Monday 8th January 2024 please note the timetable below for PE Days and Year 4 swimming.

Year group	Day of the week	Activity
Reception -	Wednesday afternoon	Teacher leading
Year 1 -	Monday morning	Sports coach
Year 2 -	Monday afternoon	Sports coach
Year 3 -	Monday morning	Sports coach
Year 4 -	Monday morning	Swimming
Year 5 -	Monday afternoon	Sports coach
Year 6 -	Monday afternoon	Sports coach

A reminder that for the duration of the Spring 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.



ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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.** Please choose the children's snacks with a careful thought. We are seeing a rise in unhealthy snacks across school. 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.

AIP Catering

Free School Meals and KS1 Universal Free School Meals children - If your child is a Free School Meal child or is in EYFS 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 (please remember no nuts (including Nutella), tomatoes or oranges 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. 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. Please remember if you pay for school meals to please clear your balance on a daily basis. Any problems come and see the School Office.

Reminder - On Friday 22nd December 2023 it is the Christmas Box Lunch where **all** children will receive a Christmas Lunch Box free of charge.



Afterschool Clubs

Afterschool choices will be shared with you at the start of the new term in January 2024 . We endeavour to support all families with offering the afterschool club chosen for your child. However, we cannot always guarantee this be the case as clubs are very popular and oversubscribed. We hope that all children are granted one club of their choice that they can participate in and all children are able to engage in. We do ask that if your child has been granted a club, they must **ATTEND ALL SESSIONS**. If they do not attend 2 consecutive sessions their place will be allocated to another child, and we will notify you, if this is the case.

St Philip's
Catholic Primary School
Messenger Road,
Smethwick, B66 3DU

Tel: 0121 558 1643
www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk
Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton

Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

Private Limited Company of Charitable Status within the Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered in England and Wales Company No 09174154





ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sports Update

Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby:

A huge well done to the Tag Rugby Team that represented St Philip's at the Tag Rugby Tournament. Winning 4 out of 5 games and narrowly missing out on the semi-finals. This was the first time some of the pupils attended this event and was great to see brilliant teamwork and support by all participants.

Years 3 & 4 Dodgeball:

Our Year 3 & 4 pupils represented St Philip's Catholic primary School at their first Dodgeball Tournament. This was the first time we entered the Dodgeball Tournament and performed amazing winning 3 games and losing 1 in the League Round. This was a fantastic experience for all the children who enjoyed the occasion but will use it to build on to make more progress next Year.

Football Update:

Year 1 & 2 Football:

We could not attend this tournament although we had prepared for the event. Our Year 1 & 2 team will look forward to the Goals Football Tournament that will be taking place later in the Year.

Year 3 & 4 Mixed Football Cup:

Year 3 & 4 boys and girls were amazing at the West Bromwich Dome representing at the mixed football event. The team made it all the way to the semifinals. They were very disappointed to exit at this stage but will again build on their experience.

Our Girls have not played any League matches but will be representing St Philip's at the Years 5 & 6 Girls Football Tournament in January 2024.

The Girls will also be participating in the League when it restarts in February after the winter break.

Our Boys Year 5 & 6 boys have entered the EFL Cup 2023-2024.

The boys team made it all the way to the Quarter Finals and were eliminated at this stage. We are very proud of their achievements. The boys will also start their League campaign after the winter break.

St Philip's
Catholic Primary School
Messenger Road,
Smethwick, B66 3DU

Tel: 0121 558 1643
www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk
Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton

Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

Private Limited Company of Charitable Status within the Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered in England and Wales Company No 09174154





ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Choir Visit to Portway House Residential Home:

Our school Choir will be spreading joy and love at the Portway Residential Home. Children will also be sharing some time with the residents and handing out handmade cards done at our Breakfast Club to all residents at the home. We would like to acknowledge Major Coaches for sponsoring the coach to transport our staff and children to and from the venue. It is so wonderful for the owner Suki Bahir to support our community and charitable events. Thank you for your kind and charitable support.

Contact Details



It is very important that school has the most up to date contact details of your telephone numbers. **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.

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 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 80% 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.

St Philip's
Catholic Primary School
Messenger Road,
Smethwick, B66 3DU

Tel: 0121 558 1643
www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk
Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton

Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

Private Limited Company of Charitable Status within the Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered in England and Wales Company No 09174154





**ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Any further meetings with regards to attendance concerns below 80% 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**.

Arrangements for dropping and collecting your child.

Thank you Parents for your support and co-operation with the new arrangements for dropping and collecting your child in Year 1 and 2. I hope that this new arrangement is working for you as it is for us . We want to ensure that there is a smooth system in place as safety comes first for parents/carers and our children.

Reading at home

Reading is a very important tool and life skill. We would like to share how important it is to read with your child at home. I know and understand that home life can be very busy, but we do encourage daily reading with your child to help improve their confidence with fluency and comprehension. In the new year we will be sending some top tips to support you and your family with reading at home. For further information , please look at our school website with some tips.

Nursery places — Please see the information below!

We have nursery places available for January 2024. If you have child has turned 3 years old or will be within the term, please get in contact and we will be happy to support with completing the application forms and supporting you.

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 banner includes the school logo and three circular images showing the nursery environment.

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

St Philip's
Catholic Primary School
Messenger Road,
Smethwick, B66 3DU

Tel: 0121 558 1643
www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk
Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton



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 - funding 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/

Dates for your diary

School will be closing for the Christmas break on Friday 22nd December @ 3pm . The new term will start and children are to return to school on Monday 8th January 2024.

Term Dates	Activity
Monday 8 th January 2024	School opens to children. Children return to school
Thursday 8 th February 2024	Children break up for half term.
Friday 9 th February 2024	Training Day
Monday 19 th February 2024	School opens to children. Children return to school.
Friday 22 nd March 2024	Children break up for Easter Break
Monday 8 th April 2024	School opens to children. Children return to school.
Monday 6 th May 2024	May Day Bank Holiday

St Philip's
Catholic Primary School
Messenger Road,
Smethwick, B66 3DU

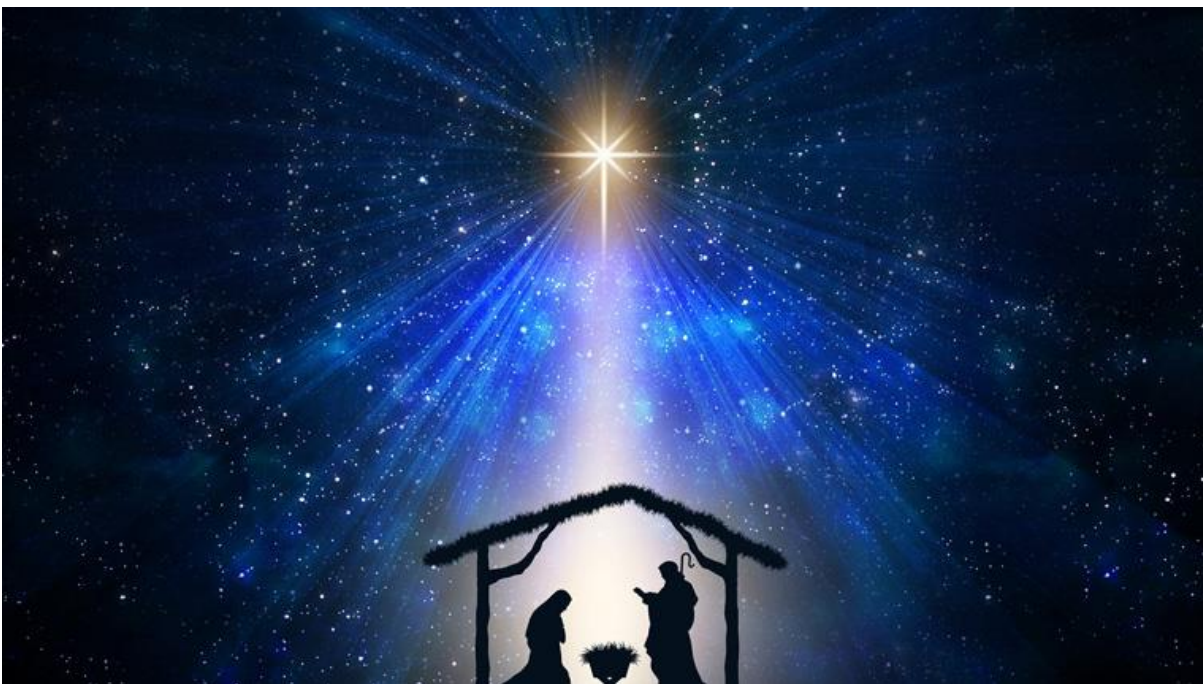
Tel: 0121 558 1643
www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk
Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton



ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 24 th May 2024	Children break up for half term.
Monday 3 rd June 2024	School opens to Children. Children return to school.
Friday 19 th July 2024	Children break up for Summer
Monday 22 nd July 2024	Training Day

And finally



MAY THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS FILL YOUR HEARTS AND HOME WITH PEACE, LOVE
AND JOY.
WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR 2024.

Mrs C Hinton
Principal

St Philip's
Catholic Primary School
Messenger Road,
Smethwick, B66 3DU

Tel: 0121 558 1643
www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk
Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton

Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

Private Limited Company of Charitable Status within the Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered in England and Wales Company No 09174154

