

Hello!

29th June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Please find information about school for the next few weeks that takes up to the end of term.

This term the children are focussing to grow with the values of; Intentional and Prophetic.

Intentional in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.

What does this mean?

Catholic schools help their pupils grow by being a school community which is intentional in its way of proceeding to build-up quality of life; and which is prophetic in the way it offers an alternative vision of education and the human person rooted in the gospel.



First Holy Communion

On Sunday 11th June children from year 3 and 4 made the sacrament of the Eucharist at St Philip Neri Church. Mass was celebrated by Fr Damian and the children participated in the holy Mass by reading, offertory, and bidding prayers. The children were wonderful, focussed and very happy and reverent during the Mass and when receiving their First Holy Communion. A huge thank you to parents for your support and dedication in helping your children grow in their faith by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist. We are very proud of all the children who looked wonderful!!



Sacrament of Confirmation

On Thursday 13th July 2023 at 7:00pm at St Philip Neri Catholic Church the children in Year 5 and 6 will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are very honoured to welcome the Archbishop of Birmingham his Grace, Bernard Longley to celebrate the mass for our school community and to confirm our children at St Philip's. His Grace will visit the confirmation children in school during the afternoon on Thursday 13th July and will speak with children about their faith journey and the Sacrament they will be receiving.

Please note! There is a parent meeting on Tuesday 4th July at 3:10pm in the school hall for parents and children who will be receiving their Sacrament.



Father Damain's 25th Silver Anniversary

On **Saturday 1st July** Father Damian will be celebrating a special Anniversary Mass to celebrate **25 years** of his Priestly Ordination. Father Damian has warmly invited all parents and children to join him for his special Anniversary Mass at **12:00pm** at the Church followed by a celebration afterwards at the CAP centre on Windmill Lane. It will be lovely to see families join Father Damian for his Anniversary Mass and join in the celebrations afterwards.



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 call or 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 during the school 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.** Please choose the children's snacks with a careful thought and think about these choices for child as we come into the new term in September. 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. Thank you for your support.

Lunchtime choices

Please be reminded that if your child has a hot meal in school you can pre book your child/ren's daily lunches at home on the AIP app.

Please remind your child and chat with them that **ONCE THEY HAVE MADE THEIR LUNCH CHOICE THEY CANNOT CHANGE THEIR MINDS.** Please understand that once the choices have been made in the morning or at home it is very difficult for your child to be able to change their choice at the counter due to the limited extra food to choose from.

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 every 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.

Free School Meals

Pupils currently in Year 2 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 is 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.

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.

Children who are persistently late - please read this message carefully.

Any one of us can be late on odd occasions and this is perfectly understandable and acceptable. However, we have a small number of children who are regularly - persistently - late and we have a legal duty as a school to tackle this.

We must remind you that it is a parent's legal duty to make sure their child attends school each day and arrives on time. We have the authority to 'unauthorise' lateness, meaning that each lateness will count as an absence.

If your child builds up 10 sessions of unauthorised absence we can refer the matter to the Local Authority who can issue a penalty fine. If your child has excessive unauthorised absence we are allowed in law to take them off the school register and you would need to find them a place in a different school.

We need to bring persistent lateness to your attention and make you aware of the possible consequences. School opens at 8.40am and the doors are closed at 9am. If your child arrives after 9am they are marked as late and we may invoke the procedures above to tackle persistent lateness

Children arriving unaccompanied to school

It has come to our attention that some children are either walking to school on their own, or being dropped off and left at school prior to 8.40am or for breakfast club before 7:30am. We must remind parents that staff are not on duty until 7:30 am for breakfast club or 8.40am and cannot take responsibility for children who arrive before this time.

We believe that some of the children, after being dropped off at school, are walking to the shop or out of the school grounds to meet their friends etc. Please can we ask parents to remind children to stay on the school grounds if they arrive early. Thank you



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. The Designated Safeguarding leader in school is Mrs Hinton, deputy designated Safeguarding officer is Mrs Anslow and safeguarding officers are Mrs Hill, Mrs Davidson and Mr Padaton. Please come forward to talk to us if you are concerned or worried. Our safeguarding policy is available on our website to help and support you with how safeguarding works in our MAC and the local authority of Sandwell.



Polite reminder — Hairstyles and Jewellery

Thank you for continuing to support our policy on appropriate hairstyles for school. Just a reminder that 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 to ensure they grow out before the return to school in September. Please also remember that stud earrings are only acceptable to wear at school. Please do not send your child into school with hooped or dangly earrings or necklaces/bracelets

Uniform and PE Kits

Thank you parents for supporting our uniform policy and sending your child/ren into school looking so smart.

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.

For the Summer term, children should come to school wearing their PE kit (tracksuit) on their designated PE day. PE kit – 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.

Nursery places — Please see the information below!

We have nursery places available for September 2023. 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. Or if you wish to find out about 15 hours provision please contact us.

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 features the school's logo (a shield with a cross and 'SP') and three circular inset images showing a classroom, a play area with toys, and a child playing with a ball.

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.

School trips

I wanted to share with you that due to the costs of coaches, availability at locations and taking into account the cost of living crisis it has been extremely difficult to ensure school trips take place this summer term for all classes. We have explored lots of options to ensure the cost of trips are affordable for parents, but this sadly has not been the case. The costs have been through the roof with coaches, entrance into locations and from that we are very sorry that some school trips will not be able to go ahead this term. However, we are planning theme days and external visitors to enrich the curriculum and for children's enjoyment. Planning for the new school year we will be looking at trips within the autumn term for our children.

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. Also on the website, please see a list of end of year activities.

The address is : www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk/.

Important dates	
Saturday 1 st July	Father Damian's 25 th Silver anniversary mass @12:00
Tuesday 4 th July	Parent's meeting for year 5 and 6 for children making their Confirmation @ 3:10pm in the school hall.
Wednesday 5 th July	New Reception class parents meeting
Monday 10 th July	EYFS and YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 SPORTS DAY.
Monday 10 th July	YEAR 3 AND 4 school trip
Wednesday 12 th July	Confirmation children in year 5/6 reconciliation service in church @ 1:10pm Parents welcome!
Thursday 13 th July	Confirmation for YEAR 5 AND 6 children at 7:00pm
Friday 14 th July	End of year reports to go home
	Year 6 class graduation and end of year performance
Monday 17 th July	KS2 SPORTS DAY
Wednesday 19 th July	Meet their new teacher day Children break up for the summer.
Thursday 20 th July	Going forth mass for confirmation children / leavers mass
Thursday 20 th July	Confirmation children celebration afternoon
Monday 24 th July	Year 6 Graduation Goodbye to year 6
Tuesday 25 th July	Children break up for the summer
Monday 4 th September	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 5 th September	Teacher Training Day
Wednesday 6 th September	Children return to school for a new academic year