



ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

September 2025

Hello!

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well as we are well underway in the new school year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support at St Philip's Catholic Primary School. A big thank you to parents for your kindness and heartfelt thanks for your best wishes, cards and tokens of appreciation to the staff at St Philip's. Your kindness is very much appreciated. Please read this newsletter with key dates and information to share for this term.



Welcome to St Philip's!

A big welcome to our new children, parents & families who have joined our school this year. Welcome!

We are here to help you - The learning, safety and happiness of your child/ren are our top priority - that is why we are all here. We try our best to be the most effective school we can be, but it is inevitable that things will go wrong from time to time.

The important thing is that you know we will always try our best to sort out any problems or difficulties as quickly as possible. Everyone is on hand to help you. You can see your child's teacher after school and you can always leave a message for them as well. It is very important if you have any worries or niggles - please let us know.

Catholic School Pupil Profile

This half term we focus on the virtues of **Eloquent** and **Truthful**.

Pupils are growing to be **eloquent** and **truthful** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.

What does this mean for our children?

In our Catholic school we help our pupils grow by developing an eloquent language which we can use to understand and articulate our emotions, beliefs, and questions, encouraged by the example of our teachers to be truthful in the way we represent themselves and speak about the world.

Pope's Prayer Intentions for September:

For our relationship with all of creation Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we may experience our interdependence with all creatures, which are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Pope's Prayer intentions for October: For collaboration between different religious traditions Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions may work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity.

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 **Mr Padaton & Miss Reaney**.

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.



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.

Medical Needs

Please let us know if your child's medical needs have changed since July. It is very important that you contact school and let us know or pop in so we can support your child's medical need.

We would like to remind all families that our school is a **nut-free environment**. This means that **no nuts or nut products** should be brought into school in any form, including in packed lunches, snacks, or baked goods, for example- **Nut spreads** - peanut butter, almond butter, cashew butter, Nutella or **Cereal bars** - many contain nuts or are processed in facilities with nuts.

Please note! that in our school we have staff and children who have nut allergies or other allergies that can be a threat to life. Please support us with keeping our school environment safe. Thank you.

School Uniform

Thank you parents for your support with our school uniform policy at St Philip's Catholic Primary School. The children have come back to school, very smart indeed. A gentle reminder! please **WRITE YOUR CHILD'S NAME** on their items of clothing e.g, coats, jumpers or cardigans.

We have accumulated a large number of cardigans/jumpers that have been mislaid around school. *We want to help you find your child's items of clothing by sharing that there will be lost property box located in the reception area in the school office on a **Tuesday and Thursday afternoon** for you to pop in and check the boxes for your child's missing clothing.*



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Polite reminder — Hairstyles

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. Please continue to support us this term. Thank you.

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.

PE kits

For the autumn term we continue to ask our children to come into school wearing their PE kit.

We ask our children to wear black/blue joggers, a white T-shirt and their school jumper/hoodie

Classes	PE days
Reception	Monday and Tuesdays
Year 1	Thursday and Fridays
Year 2	Monday and Wednesdays
Year 3	Monday and Tuesdays
Year 4	Monday and Thursdays
Year 5	Monday and Fridays
Year 6	Monday - Swimming and Wednesdays - PE



Healthy Playtime Snacks and healthy lunchboxes

Please can we ask you to only send healthy snacks for playtimes and lunchtimes. For playtime a piece of fruit is ideal, though a biscuit, very small chocolate bar or small bag of low fat content crisps is also acceptable. Big bags of crisps, high sugar snacks or big chocolate bars are not healthy snacks and are not suitable for playtimes. We don't want to 'ban' any foods in moderation but we do need to ask you to keep a close eye on playtime snacks and help us to make sure all snacks are as healthy as possible.

Similarly at lunchtimes, please can we ask you to ensure lunchboxes don't contain big bags of crisps, big chocolate bars or any other high fat or high sugar products. A small bag of lower fat crisps, a biscuit or a very small chocolate are acceptable - but please try to keep high fat or high sugar foods to healthy levels.

We want the children to be able to enjoy a balanced diet and we feel that 'banning' any foods is at odds with making healthy choices. We would much rather help the children understand how to enjoy 'everything in moderation' and encourage them to make healthy choices wherever possible, enjoying treats in moderation. Thank you for supporting us.

Water bottles

We would request that your child brings a filled water bottle into school daily. We want to ensure that your child is hydrated in school throughout the day. However, we do ask and request that children choose water instead of cordial. We also request that children do not wonder around school drinking their water bottles and would wish for the water bottles to be stored in their class box.

Please be assured that your child has access to a drink at any point of the day on their request. But, to avoid accidents, unnecessary spillages, or damaged/ lost water bottles, we are reminding our children to place their water bottles to the allocated area for their class. Thank you for your support with this matter.

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.

PLEASE NOTE ! THAT IF YOUR CHILD IS YEAR 3 NOW and YOU ARE NOT able to access Free School Meals, then let us know because this could mean that you need to pay for your child's lunches. we are here to help, so please let us know.

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



Reading at home

Reading is a key life skill and through our Read Write Inc reading scheme we support children with 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. Your child is given a discussion book, or reading book with a reading diary that goes home daily. We really would like to encourage parents to comment in the reading diary when your child is heard read at home.

Please look out for top tips for parents of ways to support your child create a love for reading!



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School homework projects

A huge thank you parents and children for all your hard work and creativity completing the class home projects. It has been a pleasure to see the wonderful projects the children have completed at home. At the end of each half term your child is sent home over the school break to get involved with class projects for e.g making a Tudor house , Egyptian artifact, create a painting etc. we would really like as many parents/families to get involved in the projects as they are displayed in school and classes for children to see. It would be wonderful with your contributions to making learning become real and alive at home. Thank you!

Homework

Just a gentle reminder that homework is set and located on Purple Mash, times tables Rockstars or other weekly activities that are set. 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**. Please comment in your child's reading record to let us know how well your child is doing in reading.

Please also let us know if you cannot access the homework for your child.

Wraparound offer

PLEASE SEE BELOW OUR WRAPAROUND OFFER FOR BREAKFAST CLUB AND AFTERSCHOOL. Please contact the school office for more details.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW VIBRANT WRAPAROUND CARE PROGRAMME AT ST PHILIP'S SCHOOL!

Are you looking for a fun, safe, and supportive environment for your child before and after school?

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our Wraparound Care programme! Designed to provide children with a creative, active, and caring atmosphere outside regular school hours. Our programme is all about flexibility and fun, making sure every child has a great time while offering peace of mind to busy parents.

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity! Spaces are limited, and we want to ensure that all families have access to high-quality Wraparound Care. Book early!

REGISTER TODAY & SECURE YOUR SPOT!

WRAPAROUND CARE PROGRAMME AT ST. PHILIPS

Programme Highlights:

- Flexible Hours to Suit Your Needs!**
 - Before School Care: 7:30 am to 8:40 am
 - After School Care: 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
 - Need extra time? We've got you covered with extended care options!
- Engaging and Fun Activities!**
 - Arts & Crafts, Sports, Reading, Homework Help - there's something for every child!
- Affordable Pricing:**
 - We want our Wraparound Care to be affordable and accessible to all.
 - Check out our competitive rates:

Breakfast Club:

- 7:30 am - 8:40 am: £5.00
- 8:00 am - 8:40 am: £3.00

After School Care:

- 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm: £6.00
- 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm: £9.00
- 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm: £10.00
- After Activity Club (4:15 pm - 6:00 pm): £5.00

Late Pickup Fee: £1 per minute after 6:00 pm!

Tax-Free Childcare & Other Financial Support

You may be able to save money on Wraparound Care through Tax-Free Childcare!

Here's how it works:

- Tax-free Childcare can help pay for before and after-school care if:
 - You are eligible for Tax-Free Childcare
 - The childcare provider accepts Tax-Free Childcare payments

How to Check Eligibility?

- Visit the Childcare Choices website to see if you qualify
- Use the government's childcare calculator for more details

How Does Tax-Free Childcare Work?

- You can open an account at any time of the year
- Deposit money whenever needed and use it for childcare
- Withdraw any unused funds at any time

Additionally, you can also use Universal Credit Childcare to help pay for Wraparound Care.

Why Choose Our Wraparound Care?

- CONVENIENCE:** Designed to meet the needs of busy families.
- FUN:** We keep kids engaged and entertained with exciting activities.
- QUALITY CARE:** Our team is fully trained and dedicated to your child's safety and well-being.

How to Enroll? It's Easy!

1. Complete the Registration Form (Available on our website or school office)
2. Book your sessions using the Arbor App
3. Make Payments via Arbor for your convenience

For more details visit <https://www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk/Page/Detail/wraparound-care>

EMMAUS CATHOLIC MAC

SCAN ME TO BOOK

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**.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. On the third consecutive day of any absence, school will carry out a welfare check via telephone or a home visit.
4. If your child's attendance drops and is concerning 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.

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 can result in a fine.

Nursery places — Please see the information below!

We have nursery places available for to start now and in JANUARY 2026.. 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.



Reception places

We have places in the current Reception Class. Please come and talk to us if you want to find out more.

YEAR 7 APPLICATIONS

Applying online for your secondary place for September 2026

Please log onto the Sandwell council website and click to the page for [Applying for secondary school | Sandwell Council](https://www.sandwell.gov/school-admissions/applying-secondary-school) website address – <https://www.sandwell.gov/school-admissions/applying-secondary-school>

The deadline is 31ST October 2025

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



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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/.

School Term Dates

Term dates for 2025 /2026

Autumn term 2025

- Friday, 3rd October 2025 – Training Day (School closed to pupils)
- Half-term holiday: Monday 28 October 2024 to Friday 1 November 2024
- Term ends: Friday 20 December 2024
- Christmas Holiday: Monday 23 December 2024 to Friday 3 January 2025

Spring term 2026

- Term starts: Monday 6 January 2025
- Half-term holiday: Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025
- Term ends: Friday 11 April 2025
- Easter Holiday: Monday 14 April 2025 to Friday 25 April 2025

Summer term 2026

- Term starts: Monday 28 April 2025 (Bank Holiday Monday 5 May)
- Half-term holiday: Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025
- Term ends: Monday 21 July 2025 - INSET DAY

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

Autumn term dates for your diary

Date	Event
w/b 29 th September	Walk to school week – let us know if your child has walked to school this week !
Month of October	Black History Month
Wednesday 8 th October	Individual photographs
Friday 10 th October	Flu vaccinations -Reception class – year 6
Friday 10 th October	Science day - more details will follow
Friday 10 th October	Wear yellow to support- Mental Health day
Friday 17 th October	Harvest celebration – PLEASE DONATE tins of food if you can
w/b 20 th October	Cake sales for charity
Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October – School closed for Half Term	
Monday 3 rd November	Year 5 start swimming
Monday 10 th November	IntoFaith week Anti-Bullying week
w/b 10 th November	intoFilm starts – classes will share with you information about your child's trip date and arrangements
Tuesday 11 th November	Remembrance Sunday reflection
Thursday 13 th November	Kindness day – sharing acts of kindness
Friday 21 st November	Mufti-day - CAFOD charity and <i>Jubilee of Hope celebration</i>
Sunday 1 st December	Holy season of Advent REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR STARTS for Father Hudson's
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas Jumper day Christmas lunch
Friday 12 th December	EYFS PRODUCTION @ 2:15pm
Tuesday 16 th December	KS1 PRODUCTION @ 2:15pm
Wednesday 17 th December	KS2 PRODUCTION @ 2:15pm
Thursday 18 th December	Whole School Mass 10:00 am in church. Please join us!
Friday 19 th December	Whole school assembly @ 9:15am
Friday 19th December	School breaks up for Christmas break @ 3:00pm

Please note that dates may be added and amended.

With every good wish,

Mrs Hinton