



ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hello!

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well as we are well into our autumn term of the new school year. Please find the newsletter with information we wish to share with you.

Catholic School pupil profile

Every term we focus on key values and virtues to our pupils to learn, grow and link them to our actions and lives.

This half term we are focussing on ;

Compassionate and **Loving** Pupils are growing to be compassionate towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and loving by their just actions and forgiving words.

Catholic Schools help their pupils grow by being compassionate and loving in the way they are treated especially when a pupil is in trouble; and by opening their eyes to those who suffer poverty, injustice or violence.

Pope's Prayer Intentions

October: For mental health ministry Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

Welcome!

I would like to warmly welcome all our new parents/families and pupils to our school. Please let us know if you need support. We are here to help!

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.

Communications

To communicate and share key information with you, we use ARBOR, DOJOS & email/X and our school website [St Philip's Catholic Primary School - Home](http://www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk). Please ensure that you have signed up and are receiving the most up to date information about school and your children. If you are concerned you are not receiving any information, please call our school office - 0121 558 1643

Please note ! We ask that you DO NOT contact staff members on the dojo platform to ask questions or share other communications. We would prefer that you contact the school office by phone or person and make an appointment to speak the correct member of staff to support you. Thank you so much.

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

School Uniform

Thank you Parents for your support with our school uniform policy at St Philip's Catholic Primary School. Our children look very smart indeed !

A gentle reminder! please **WRITE YOUR CHILD'S NAME** on their items of clothing e.g. coats, jumpers or cardigans.

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.

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.

Medical Needs

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



Nut Allergies

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.

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**. 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.



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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 **8:45 am**. The playground opens at **8:35am** and the official start to the school day is **8:45am**.

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/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 from the LOCAL AUTHORITY.



Birthdays

Through our Catholic Social Teaching we reflect on the unique human person, one way we would like to celebrate every child is to invite them to come into school in their own clothes. Your child is welcome to have the company of our 'birthday bear' for the day & can come and visit me for birthday gift.



Healthy Playtime Snacks and healthy lunchboxes

We ask you to only send healthy snacks for playtimes and lunchtimes. For playtime a piece of fruit is ideal and school provides this! A biscuit, very small chocolate bar or small bag of low fat content crisps is also acceptable. in moderation' and encourage them to make healthy choices wherever possible, enjoying treats in moderation. Thank you for supporting us. **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

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/pop.** 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 in 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.

School places

We have places in our current Reception & Year 1 classes. Please come and talk to us if you want to find out more and visit our lovely school.

Wraparound

Please see below details of our Wraparound before and after school. 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.

How to Enrol? 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>

WHY CHOOSE OUR WRAPAROUND CARE?

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

EMMAUS CATHOLIC MAG

SCAN ME TO BOOK

Nursery places — Please see the information below!

We have nursery places available for this term! If you have a child that 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

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.



ST PHILIP'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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 or Mr Padaton. We are here to help.

OTHER NEWS

1. Boys and Girls - Sandwell Football Association

An amazing start to the league for the season for both our boys and girls football teams. A big thank you for attending and supporting our teams

We are delighted to share

Boys football results

3 games - 3 wins. Congratulations!!

Girls Football results

2 games 1 win, 1 draw. Congratulations!!



2. A big thank you Parents for your support with our fundraising events this half term. Your support and donations have been greatly appreciated where funds have gone to McMillian & our Harvest donations to Brushstrokes charity.

3. From this week & after half term we will be selling poppies, pens, pencils, snap bands and other items from The Royal British Legion. We are asking for a donation to support the British Legion to buy a poppy and £1:00 to buy something from the resource box of a snap band. Thank you so much for your support.



Join the PTA - Help Shape Our School Community

Please see the message from our wonderful Parent Teacher Association!

Following the success of the Winter Fete, we're looking for more parents to join our PTA and help us keep the momentum going. Being part of the PTA means coming along to meetings, helping to raise vital funds, and having a real voice in making positive changes for our children's school.

We're keen to welcome parents from across the year groups so that every class across the school is represented.

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If you'd like to get involved or simply find out more, please speak to Verlaina on the playground or email vharvey1@emmausmac.com

2026 - 2027 Term Dates

Autumn Term

Tuesday 1st September 2026	Training Day / Inset Day
Wednesday 2nd September 2026	Training Day / Inset Day
Thursday 3rd September 2026	Pupils Return
Friday 2nd October 2026	Inset Day - Schools closed to pupils
Friday 23rd October 2026	End of Term
Monday 26th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026	October Half Term
Monday 2nd November 2026	Pupils Return
Friday 18th December 2026	End of Term

Spring Term

Monday 4th January 2027	Inset Day - Schools closed to pupils
Tuesday 5th January 2027	Pupils Return (Term Starts)
Friday 12th February 2027	Inset Day Closed to Pupils - End of Term
Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February	February Half Term
Monday 22nd February 2027	Pupils Return
Thursday 25th March 2027	End of Term
Friday 26th March 2027	Good Friday - Schools closed to pupils

Summer Term

Monday 12th April 2027	Pupils Return (Term Starts)
Monday 3rd May 2027	Bank Holiday
Friday 28th May 2027	End of Term
Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027	May Half Term



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Monday 7th June 2027

Pupils Return

Monday 28th June 2027

Inset Day - Schools closed to pupils

Wednesday 21st July 2027

End of Term

Dates for your Diary Please note! dates may be added and amended.

Dates	Activity
W/C 20th October	• Bikability Year 3 & 4 • Brazilian drum showcase day whole school • Black History Month showcase
W/C 2nd November	• Tuesday 3rd November Parents evening – You can book on ARBOR. Please see School Office if you are struggling to book on.
W/C 16th November	• Anti-Bullying Week
29th November	• First Sunday of Advent
W/C 1st December	All Saints – feast day All Souls • 4th December -KS1 Christmas Production
W/C 7th December	• POWER UP for all classes – children wear PE kits • 10th December – Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day • 11th December – EYFS Christmas production – pm
W/C 15th December	• 16th December – KS2 Carol Concert – afternoon • 17th December – End of term whole school mass • 18th December – Break up for Christmas Break

With every good wish,

Mrs C Hinton
Principal

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