



Friday 15th January 2021

Term	Start	Half Term	Reopens	Term Ends
Spring 2021		Fri 12 th Feb	Mon 22 nd Feb	Thurs 1 st April – 2pm
Summer 2021	Mon 19 th April Training day – School Closed. School opens Tues 20 th April	Fri 28 th May Training Day School Closed	Mon 7 th June	Wed 21 st July – 2pm

New School Term

As I write this first letter of the spring term, it is not in circumstances that we had planned for. This last couple of weeks have been an incredible stressful and difficult time for everyone and I wanted to say thank you all for your patience, understanding and unwavering support for our school.

We continue to find ourselves on this journey and are continually having to adapt to new circumstances and new challenges. Our remote home learning offer continues to evolve and everyone at school and home has been putting 100% effort into facilitating and utilising this, to ensure that the highest possible standard of education for our children is maintained.

We have endured so much over the last year and I am still amazed at the positivity and resilience shown by our school community; children, parents, staff each day. As Head Teacher of SS John and Monica School, I am incredibly proud of everything we have achieved this year and know we will continue to support each other and get through any future challenges that we are faced with.

Covid-19 Update

Positive Cases

We are still responsible for returning daily figures to the Department for Education. This includes, the following information for children who are both in school and learning from home:

- Number of pupils who are suspected as having Covid-19
- Confirmed cases of Covid-19
- Request to remain at home due to coming in contact with a positive case outside the classroom

We would be grateful if you could send information regarding the above, if it affects your child.

Website

All letters and information regarding Covid-updates and Home Learning are saved onto our website. Please note, going forward any letters and information specific to Online learning will be saved in the 'Remote Digital Home Learning' Section on the front page.

Remote Learning

Our remote learning offer is continually developing. Bear with us, as there are technical hitches at times, as we explore new software. In addition, the technician service which we use has been inundated with requests since school have had to move to remote digital learning. We thank you for your patience.

Amazon has teamed up with education bodies to launch Maths4All, an online storefront providing free, curriculum-linked primary maths resources. Go to for more information:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/b?ie=UTF8&node=17637547031>

'At SS John and Monica's, we learn through the example of Jesus to love, respect, understand and value each other'

Catholic Life

Month of January

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, which is celebrated on January 3. The first ten days of January fall during the liturgical season known as Christmas which is represented by the liturgical colour white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence). The remaining days of January are the beginning of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the colour of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven.

Wednesday Word

Please see the link for this week's *Wednesday Word* below: <https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/change?pid=MTA101634&v=4.4>

Mass

Whilst communal worship in Church has been allowed to continue, in consultation with the Archdiocese of Birmingham, it has been agreed that Mass must not be celebrated in school buildings at this time. Fortunately, you can still access Mass through visiting SS John and Martin parish at <http://www.ssjohnandmartin.org.uk/newsletter.htm> and livestream. Please find attached a list of parishes who are offering regular weekly Masses specifically aimed at children at home. This schedule starts from next week.

Reading

You will have received some information regarding two new online reading platforms that we have purchased. These are Accelerated Reader and Oxford Owl. These, along with Reading Eggs/Express provide a wealth of ebooks for children to read. I cannot empathise enough the importance of children reading every day. If there is no time for anything else, the children must still keep up with their reading. We are very concerned that children will easily fall behind, if they do not, particularly our younger children who are learning to read.

Birmingham Library Service also offers free eBooks, audiobooks, eComics and eMagazines. Go to the following for more information: <https://birmingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>

eBooks



Applications for Reception Places September 2021

Applications need to be completed online by 15th Jan 2021 at the following:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1786/apply_for_reception_primary_school/4



Rewards

Reading Eggs

Well done to Aisha Reception and Hessa Year 5 for regularly accessing Reading Eggs/Express and working hard through the programme!

Mathletics

Well done to Kushagra Year 1 and Alayna Year 3 for regularly accessing Mathletics and working hard through the programme!

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Staff Area

As a distraction from current news, we thought it would be a good idea to feature 'a getting to know our staff section' within our newsletters. For the coming weeks, staff and governors will be writing a piece about themselves, so that our whole school community gets to know each other better.

Mrs Santra - Local Authority Governor and Parent

Name: Surupa Santra

Training/college/university background: I studied law at the University of Liverpool.

My favourite subject and why: My favourite subject at school was always history and I love taking the girls to National Trust houses/gardens to learn about how things were in the past.

What I do now: I am a mum of two. One of my girls Serena age 8 is in Year 3 at SS John and Monica and my other little girl Sonia will be joining the school next year. I work at the Care Quality Commission as an inspector for general practices.

What I like to do in my spare time: Spending time with my family and friends. I love to bake and regularly attend bake club with different themed events. I enjoy going to watch live music, particularly Michael Buble ☺.



My favourite book of all time and why: My favourite book is The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri. I love this book for so many reasons but mainly because it teaches me so much about Kolkata, India where my parents grew up. At the moment I am enjoying reading the Harry Potter books with my girls and seeing the magic through their eyes.

Mr Ullah – Deputy Head Teacher

Name: Mr Ullah

University/Training background: I was born in Birmingham not too far from school at a hospital in Moseley and grew up mostly just down the road in Hall Green. After leaving school, before going to university, I spent time working at residential activity centres both in the UK and the US. In doing this, I taught children of all different ages Fencing, Caving, Archery, Climbing and all kinds of outdoor activities. I even spent one summer running a 'Wizard School' in Staffordshire (not Hogwarts unfortunately). After this, I started my teacher training in Manchester, completing a 4 Year BA (Hons) degree in Primary Education. Once I finished my degree, I moved back to Birmingham to begin my teaching career.

Why I wanted to become a teacher: Looking back, I think that I always wanted to become a teacher. From a young age, I realised that I would need to spend most of my day at work, so it was important to do something that I would enjoy. After spending time working with children as a young adult, I knew that teaching was definitely for me. Every day is different and I spend most of the day smiling and laughing with the children in my class.

My favourite subject and why: My favourite subject is reading. I just love a good book. We share so many excellent books and stories here at school and there is nothing better than reading with a group of children. Especially, when you know there is a twist or something exciting coming up. Their reaction is just priceless.

What I like to do in my spare time: I have two children at home. My son is 8 and my daughter is 6, so I like nothing more than spending time with them as a family. Other than that, I absolutely love to read. My favourite genre is fantasy and sci-fi. I couldn't tell you my favourite book because I have so many favourite books it's too hard to choose.

My favourite book of all time and why: If I had to recommend a book for everyone to read it would be The Hobbit. I spent a lot of time playing and exploring Moseley Bog as a child. This partly inspired Tolkien, the author, to create Middle Earth. I would say to pick this up when you're in Year 6.

Online Safety

We are aware that with the recent school closures children may be spending more time online. To support your child's safety online we have looked at a number of web links that may help in the forthcoming weeks. We have divided the information into common problems and provided resources that can help keep parents informed. The categories include:

- Keeping up to date with the latest apps
- Applying parental controls to digital devices, gaming consoles and social media
- Reporting issues to social media sites
- Gaming – what parents need to know

Keeping up to date with the latest apps.

If you're concerned about keeping up to date with the latest apps your child has been using, NSPCC's Net Aware provides simple guides for parents to the most popular social networks, apps and games. Simply type in the app you wish to review in the search bar and the website will provide you with useful information to help parents make an informed decision.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Parental Controls

Internet Matters.org have produced excellent resources on setting up parental controls in a step by step format. Simply click on the links below to explore ways in which parents can set up parental controls on digital devices and popular social media apps. Each circular icon that is loaded represents a guide and can be accessed by simply clicking on the icon.

Parental controls on: **Smartphones and other devices**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/>

Parental controls on: **Entertainment and search engines**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/>

Parental controls on: **Broadband and mobile networks**

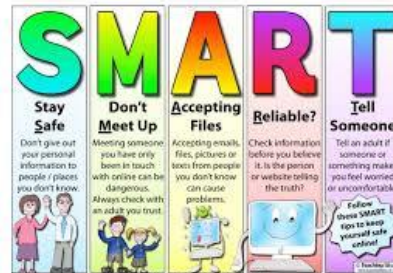
<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>

Parental controls on: **Social media**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/parental-controls/social-media/>

Parental controls on: **Gaming console**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>



Reporting to social media sites

At times, pupils may post information they regret. The easiest way to deal with this is for them to delete it from their account immediately. If another user has posted about your child which causes concern or upset, websites and social media sites offer users a way of reporting. If you click on the following link you will be presented with a comprehensive list of guidance and ways of reporting to sites. It is important to remember that making a report does not always mean the content will be removed. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Reporting-to-social-media-sites/>

We hope that these resources will help you to monitor your child's online activities and keep them safe in a digitally changing world.

The following children have been chosen for exceptional work and behaviour. Well done to everyone!

Reception: Mrs Sparrow & Mrs Hodges	Eli & Eden
Year 1: Miss Millar & Mrs Reed	Isabella & Jonah
Year 2: Miss Geoghegan & Miss McKeown	Zachary & Emilia
Year 3: Miss Treacy & Mrs Ali	Alayna & Klareece
Year 4: Mrs Litchfield, Mrs Catling & Mrs Ali	Tiago & Jacob
Year 5: Miss McEvoy & Miss Hill	Johanna & Vlada
Year 6: Mrs Gray & Miss Hill	Gabriel & Eve
Mr Ullah: Deputy Head Teacher	Raff, Jack & Ben – Year 6
Mrs Elliott: Head Teacher	Raffaele – Rec & Hessa – Year 5

Student Social Workers in School (SSWIS)

As well as training future teachers through our universities programme, this year we are supporting Birmingham University with their trainee Social Worker programme. Our Trainee Social Worker will be working with us to give our children additional pastoral support. Any one-to-one work will require parental consent, which will be sent out accordingly. She will also support our school in the area of Trauma Informed Attachment Awareness, which is a project the school is currently working to develop.



Community Corner

Birmingham Children's Partnership

Please see the attached information from Birmingham Children's Partnership with regards to Emergency Food Assistance, Mental Health Support, Financial Help, Domestic Abuse and Bereavement Support.

Birmingham Settlement

Please see attached flyer with regards to free financial advice.

Hall Green Families

Please see attached flyer from Hall Green Family Support Group

Birmingham Education Partnership

Please see attached information on supporting student mental health.



*"What do you want to be
when you grow up?"*

Mrs M. Elliott - Head Teacher



"Kind" said the boy

Mission Statement



**At SS John & Monica's, we learn through the example of
Respect, Understand and Value each other**