



Friday 17th December 2021

Term	Start	Half Term	Reopens	Term Ends
Autumn Term 2021				Fri 17 th Dec 2.00pm
Spring Term 2022	Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Mon 21 st Feb	Mon 28 th Feb	Fri 8 th Apr 2.00pm
Summer Term 2022	(Mon 25 th April Training Day School Closed.) School re-opens Tues 26 th April	Mon 30 th May	Mon 6 th June	Thurs 21 st July 2.00pm

COVID Update

Updated Government Guidelines

On Wednesday 8th December, the Prime Minister announced the implementation of [Plan B of the COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan](#), to reduce pressure on the NHS. Plan B sets out a number of additional measures across society to control transmission of COVID-19.

As a result of the above and government guidelines to schools, the following has been actioned:

- The use of CO2 monitors in all classrooms and round the school
- Enhanced cleaning schedule
- Regular use of hand sanitiser
- Re-introduction of masks for staff in communal areas
- Masks to be worn by visitors at all times in school



School attendance remains mandatory.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19

From Tuesday 14th December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 was being introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.

If pupils test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive. For primary aged children [LFD test kits are available through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online). Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines they are a close contact of a positive case.

Free School Meal Vouchers

We are pleased to be able to confirm the council has secured provision of supermarket vouchers for children eligible for free school meals over the Christmas holiday, using funding Birmingham has recently been allocated through the government's Household Support Fund.

Sodexo is being used again as the provider and will be distributing vouchers to schools. For Reception to Year 14 each voucher code is worth **£30**. Please check emails (including junk) for emails related to this.

Christmas Holiday Programme Activity Code

We are pleased to inform you that the Christmas Holiday Activities Programmes codes for children eligible for free school meals will be also be distributed. Families can visit www.bringitonbrum.co.uk to book their children's free places so they can take part in a local club and enjoy the mix of fun action-packed days and tasty food provided through the programme.

Christmas Lunch

A big 'Thank you' to Mrs Wallace, our school catering manager and her team, for preparing a wonderful Christmas lunch last Thursday!

A reminder that we still have a few places available for our Breakfast Club. If you wish to know more about this, contact the school office.

The picture shows the wonderful Christmas activities the children have completed in Breakfast Club, to decorate our school kitchen hatch. Well done Breakfast Club children!



Catholic Life

Class Mass

The next **Class Mass is Thurs 13th Jan – Year 5 (Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord), Thurs 20th Jan Year 4 (2nd Sunday in Ordinary time)**. Please contact the school office, if you would like to book a place. (a limit of 10 spaces).

Diocesan Vision on Advent: The Liturgy & Worship Group, which is one of the Diocesan Vision Groups has produced a video on the season of Advent which you might like to witness:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/blog/diocesan-vision-the-season-of-advent>

Advent Preparation

A special recognition goes to the following children who have worked hard this Advent putting others before themselves. They will be presented with a special Advent certificate in our end of term celebratory assembly tomorrow.



Rec - Rafe & Sonia, Y1 - Rumaisa & Paul M, Y2 - Jonah & Aria,
Y3 – Ava & Callum , Y4 - Jeremie & Rabia, Y5 - Hibba & Pavandeep,
Y6 - Yusuf & Jeremiah.

Wednesday Word

Please find the link for this week's *Wednesday Word* which shares Sunday's Gospel with parents and families.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/change?pid=MTA101634&v=4.4>

Ten Ten Parent Newsletter

The following link takes you to the Parents newsletter for December.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

Parish of SS John and Martin

Please click on the following to access Mass times and the current SS John and Martin parish newsletter.

<http://www.ssjohnandmartin.org.uk/newsletter.htm>

Christmas Mass Times 2021 – All Masses take place at SS John and Martin's Church Balsall Heath

Wednesday 22nd 11.am	Advent Penitential Service
Friday 24th 7pm	First Mass of Christmas
Saturday 25th 9.30am	Christmas Day Holy Mass
Sunday 26th 9.30am	Holy Family
Sunday 26th 11am	Holy Family

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

Christmas Events Reception/KS1 Nativity

Well done to our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children who put on a fabulous performance of “The Nativity”. It was wonderful that we could invite one adult per child to witness this beautiful performance. Thank you to all the Rec and KS1 Staff for preparing the children so well!

KS2 Christmas Montages

We hope you all enjoyed our KS2 Christmas Montages, which were uploaded by staff onto the school Seesaw platform. It was wonderful to witness a range of Christmas activities across the key stage, including singing, dancing and Christmas crafts. Well done to the staff for compiling the Montages and the children for rising to the challenge!



Fundraising Committee Christmas Events

Christmas Raffle

Thank you to everyone who supported our school Christmas raffle. Special thanks to Mr and Mrs Santra (parents of Sonia and Serena for organising this successful event). A grand total of £1783.00 was raised.

The following children sold the most raffle tickets and will receive a special prize in recognition for this:

Eliza Y5, Serena Y4 and Sonia Rec, Maurice Y4 and Maxwell Y2, Vincent Y4, Aleksander Y5 and Emilia Y3

Bingo

Thank you to Ivo’s dad for organising another successful online Christmas Bingo event. A total of £87.10 was raised. The following children were winners and each received a chocolate gift.

Y2 - Bobby & Maxwell

Y3 - Poppy

Y4 - Serena



Playground Santa Hunt

The children had a wonderful time hunting for Santa! A total of £211.20 was raised.

Christmas Jumper Day

We all had fun dressing up in our Christmas Jumpers! A total of £98.10 was raised.

A grand total of £ 2179.40 was, therefore, raised through our Christmas Fundraising events. All monies will go to purchase school resources.

Thank you to our whole school community for supporting our school Christmas fundraising events.

Advent Fundraising Total

Thank you to all parents/carers for supporting the children with their annual Advent charity fundraising efforts. The children had great fun taking part in the following fundraising activities. The total amount raised was £223.10

This money will go towards CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) <https://cafod.org.uk/About-us/What-we-do> and St Mary’s Trust <https://www.stmarystrust.org/about-us/>

YEAR GROUP	EVENT	YEAR GROUP	EVENT
REC	Christmas Colouring Competition	Y4	Guess the number of Sweets in the Jar
Y1	Christmas Card Competition	Y5	Dance Off
Y2	Guess ‘The Little Angel’	Y6	Christmas Fair
Y3	Christmas Decoration Competition		

Attendance for Week 29th Nov to 3rd Dec – Well done to Year 3 - 98%

Week 6th Dec to 10th Dec – Well done to Year 6 - 95.8%

Week 13th Dec to 17th Dec – Well done to Year 6 - 96.4 %

Class	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
% Attendance	82.8%	90.8%	91.9%	95.6%	88.8%	86.6%	95.2%
Lates	2	7	4	5	11	4	9
Whole School Attendance so far this year			93.6%		School Target		97%

Attendance and Punctuality

This term, our whole school attendance has fallen well short of our school target. There have been some legitimate reasons why this is the case, including illness and self-isolation. However, we are having more children who are being taken out of school for unauthorised reasons. Furthermore, we have an increase in the number of children who are persistently absent (under 90% attendance). Any child who has attendance below 95% is a cause for concern and are having their attendance closely monitored. We recognise that this term has been a challenge, but school attendance is mandatory, and persistent absence may, unfortunately, result in prosecution. All schools are judged on their attendance by the government, that is why we consistently have to monitor school attendance, I cannot stress enough the amount of learning that is lost with poor attendance. This is learning that is very difficult to make up.

Highest Class Attendance

Well done to Year 6 Who have achieved the highest class Attendance this term with 99%!



100% Attendance

Well done to the following children, who despite it being very challenging times, made it to school every day this term. Each will receive a 100% Attendance Certificate: Rec: Arsema & Sonia. Y1: Aryan, Aisha & Alyssia. Y2: Hafsa, Sukmani, Haris & Ayyana. Y3: Safaa, Amelia, Laiq, Preet, Arlo, Poppy, Emilia, Ava, Melissa & Jayden. Y4: Fleur, Maggie, Milaan, Khadija, Amin, Pedro & Serena. Y5: Maisie, Mariyah, Felicity, Caleb & Ali K. Y6: Ekrama, Bryan, Bavleen, Lucas, Shakeel, Mark & Oliver.

Christmaths 2021

A huge well done to the following Year 5 children who took part in the annual Bishop Challoner Catholic College 'Christmaths' maths festival: Eliza, Aayan, Tiago, Mariyah and Hibba. The day was filled with fun Christmas and Maths activities and Competition. We are delighted to announce that the children came second out of nine of the local cluster schools. An excellent achievement!



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

Reception: Mrs. Riches, Mrs. Deacon & Miss Smith	Taim, Arsema & Rhaqeel
Year 1: Miss Geoghegan & Mrs. Shaheen	Paul M, Miah & Aisha
Year 2: Miss Millar & Mrs. Tutt	Hafsa, Isabella & Umar
Year 3: Miss Treacy & Mrs. Ali	Muawiyah, Sehar & Arisha
Year 4: Mrs. Litchfield, Mrs. Catling & Mrs. Ali	Ibrahim, Amin & Fleur
Year 5: Miss McEvoy & Miss Hill	Khaydan, Taio, Eliza, Mariyah, Caleb, Ali & Togh
Year 6: Mrs. Gray & Miss Hill	Vlada, Ikra, Amar & Ekrama
Mr. Ullah: Deputy Head Teacher	Angela – Y6 & Year 2 Class & Zulena – Y5
Mrs. Elliott: Headteacher	Year 3 & Eliza, Aayan, Tiago, Mariyah & Hibba – Y5

Rewards

Head Teacher Postcards

The following children received Head Teacher postcards in the post as a recognition for all their recent hard work in school. Well done children!

Ayana, Taim Rec, Daniyal, Luca Y1, Seema, Haris Y2, Muawiyah, Melissa Y3, Ivo, Khadija Y4, Eliza, Aleks Y5 Ekrama, Vlada Y6.

The following children have been chosen by their class teachers for regularly accessing the following educational programmes:

Name	MyOn	Reading Eggspress
Year 1	Paul M	Luca
Year 2	Abbas	Maxwell
Year 3	Samuel	Amadou
Year 4	Maurice	Milaan
Year 5	Chitrani	Ono
Year 6	Ali	Mariam



Well done to the following children who have taken part in lots of quizzes this term on Accelerated Reader!

Year 2 - Robert

Year 3 - Arlo, Elena, Ayden

Year 4 - Maurice

Year 5 - Ali, Alek, Tegh, Aayan, Pavandeep, Caleb

Year 6 - Mark, Ollie, Kai, Hessa, Amanda, Vlada, Aymen, Khio, Johanna, Jessica, Bavleen, Talisha

Well done to **St Andrew's House** for having the highest house point total over the last two weeks! This is a great start to the year!

1st St. Andrew 4933

2nd St. George 3447

3rd St. Patrick 2978

4th St. David 2676

Lunchtime Awards

Well done to the following children who have shown beautiful lunchtime manners this term!

Yeamlak Rec, Yoel Y1, Robert Y2, Ameera Y3, Mae Y4, Miya Y5, Hessa Y6.



All of these children will be receiving a special 'Lunchtime' certificate at our end of term celebratory assembly tomorrow.

Polite Reminders

Cars Idling

We have again had local complaints about cars idling outside school. That is, parents leaving car engines running while they are waiting outside school. We have already flagged this issue up several times in the past and are reminding our school community again, that exhaust fumes are a health hazard to all our children.

Dangerous Driving

We ask all parents/carers/visitors to drive and park safely within our school vicinity. We have heard recently about dangerous driving outside school, with cars speeding down Chantry Road, and children being dropped off to school in an unsafe manner. Any neglect of a child's welfare is seen as a safeguarding issue and we ask that your child/ren are dropped off safely to school.

DO NOT PARK ON THE YELLOW ZIG-ZAGLINES OUTSIDE SCHOOL- IN DOING SO, YOU MAY PUT A CHILD'S LIFE IN DANGER.

*Come, Lord Jesus,
Your people come to this Advent Season
With hope in our hearts.*

*Throughout history, the Prophets have spoken your Word,
And promised a Messiah, a Leader of your People.*

*Open our ears to hear your living Word,
Open our hearts to know the best ways to change
and to make our lives today like the life of heaven.*

*Give us the wisdom of those who have lived long lives.
Teach us daily to accept the wisdom of those who teach us.
May we be a sign in the world of your gift of hope.
Come, Lord Jesus.*

Amen.



Please note school finishes Friday 17th Dec at 2.00pm. Please make sure that children are collected promptly from school. School reopens on Tuesday 4th January.

The Staff and Governors SS John and Monica Catholic Primary school would like to wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas. May the Lord grant you and your loved one's love, joy and goodwill this Christmas and for the coming New Year.

Mrs. M. Elliott - Head Teacher

Mission Statement



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