



Friday 17th September 2021

Term	Start	Half Term	Reopens	Term Ends
Autumn Term 2021	School re-opened Mon 6 th Sept (Training Day School Closed Friday 22 nd Oct)	Mon 25 th Oct	Mon 1 st Nov (Training Day School Closed Friday 26 th Nov)	Fri 17 th Dec
Spring Term 2022	Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Mon 21 st Feb	Mon 28 th Feb	Fri 8 th Apr
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



Welcome Back! A New Academic Year!

Welcome back to all our children and families! The children have already settled well into their classes and daily routines and have made a positive start to this year. Thank you for ensuring that your children are smart in their new labelled school uniforms. Children may wear their summer uniforms up until October half term. We are all looking forward to a busy, but productive year!

COVID-19 Update

Thank you for being co-operative in dropping and collecting your child/ren to and from school and following our new system. Things seem to be running smoothly and by operating in this way, we are continuing to keep our school community as safe as possible. A reminder that if it is raining, Rec/KS1 children will be dismissed from the entrances near their classrooms and KS2 from the school hall.

Outbreak Management Plan

As we start another academic year, we are learning again to manage another year of Covid-19. Guidelines, which were given to schools in the summer, are continually changing and we are having to adapt quickly to new situations. Covid rates locally remain high 343 cases per 100,000 and we have already had two positive cases in school and currently have pupils awaiting PCR results. Indications are that we will be managing this virus for some time in addition to, schools bracing themselves for the winter months and the usual coughs, colds and flu season.

Risk Assessment/Outbreak Contingency Plan

You will find these important documents on our website. Please make particular note of the Outbreak Contingency Plan, which outlines the steps school will have to take should cases increase. At the minute, we are still having to limit the number of visitors and parents in school. **If you do have to come into school, we ask you to wear a mask and maintain a distance.** The school office is only open for exceptional circumstances. Please email/phone if you require information or need to send proof of an appointment.

Remote Teaching

Please be aware that if a Class teacher has been contacted by Track and Trace to self-Isolate as they are not double vaccinated, then remote learning may have to take place. That is, the children will remain in school with Teaching Assistant Supervision and the class teacher will teach remotely via video link. We are aware that this is not an ideal situation, but one which may occur.

We thank you for bearing with us as we adapt to another 'new normal'.

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

Reception Open Day – Thursday 11th November

We are holding our Reception 'Open Day' on Thursday 11th Nov. Prospective parents have an opportunity to visit our school and talk to staff. There are 3 time slots available:

- 9.30 am
- 2.00 pm
- 4.30 pm

Each session will start with an address by the Head Teacher followed by a tour of the school. If you would like to book a timeslot, please phone the school office on 0121 464 5868 or email enquiry@stjohnmon.bham.sch.uk.



School Fund and School Building Maintenance Fund

This year our school funding has been cut substantially. For this reason, we really rely on any extra school fund monies, in order to enhance the learning environment for the children. We ask our families for a voluntary £5.00 (per family) per year contribution towards school fund. This year this money was used to purchase a range of additional school resources. In addition to school fund, we ask our families to contribute a small voluntary donation (£5.00 per family) towards our school maintenance building fund. Last year's funds went towards a variety of school improvements such as carpeting, painting and replacement windows. Thank you in advance for your support for our school. Payments can be made online via School Money <https://eduspot.co.uk/>.

Secondary School Applications

If your child is due to transfer from primary to secondary school in September 2022, you should apply for your child's secondary school place online at:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1778/secondary_school_year_7_admissions/1
before 31st Oct 2021.

Open Evenings

Details for local Open Evenings are as follows:

- Bishop Challoner Catholic College – Wed 22nd Sept 6.00-8.00pm (See attached information)
- St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School – Open Morning 20th/21st Sept <https://www.stacs.org/>
- Queensbridge - 21st Sept <https://www.queensbridge.bham.sch.uk/calendar/2021-09-21/open-evening-1-1>

Modeshift Bronze Travel Award

We are delighted to have been awarded the Modeshift Stars Bronze Award. This is in recognition of what SS John and Monica's has done in the promotion of sustainable and active travel. We thank Miss Geoghegan for all the work she has done in putting the school application together and we look forward to working towards the silver award this year. If you would like to know more about the programme visit:

<https://www.modeshiftstars.org/>



Homework and Reading

Homework, especially Reading continues to be vitally important in achieving expected standards. We ask that you regularly help and encourage your child with their reading, including Reading Scheme, Library book and e books. Weekly homework will be given out in a range of formats e.g., in exercise books, purchased homework booklets, worksheets or on-line. We ask that you support your child's learning by ensuring homework tasks have been completed. Thank you.

We have a number of old exercise books that, rather than throw away, we have been distributing to classes for children to take home to doodle, draw or write in.

Catholic Life

Catholic School Pupil Profile – Eloquent and Truthful

This term we are focusing on the virtues of Eloquence and Truthfulness. Our aim is to help pupils grow by developing **eloquent** language, which they can use to understand and articulate their emotions, beliefs and questions. They will be encouraged by the example of adults in school to be **truthful**, in the way they represent themselves and speak about the world.



Mass

We are delighted that we were able to hold our first whole school Mass of the year in the school hall yesterday. Fr Mario came to celebrate Mass and it was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a school community and celebrate the Word of the Lord and the Eucharist. Each class will be leading class Masses through the year and we ask you to support your child if they have readings to practise. Fr Mario will be coming into school over the next term to visit different classes to support the spiritual life of the school.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Our Y5/Y6 Catholic children will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday 3rd November (see letter from Mr Ullah). We ask our school community to pray for these children and their families as they begin their important sacramental journey.

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>

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>



Education Sunday

This national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education took place on 12th Sept. This year the focus of was to thank all those who work in Catholic schools, for their hard work and dedication, over what has been a very challenging 18 months. Attached is the Education Sunday Prayer and we ask you to pray for our teachers, teaching assistants and everyone else here at SS John and Monica's, myself included, in the coming year ahead.

TenTen Parent Newsletter

Please click on the following link for September Parent's Newsletter.

www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/



PE and Sports

As a school, we follow the School Games Value programme, to inspire pupils to be motivated in taking part in school competitive sport (both inside and outside school). This term we are focusing on the value **Self - Belief** and rewarding pupils who are increasingly showing this value:

- Pupils who looked for support from others
- Pupils who demonstrated an attitude to try and do well
- Pupils who show confidence in their ability/performance



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Attendance

Our attendance target for this year is 97%. Last year, our whole school attendance was 95.1%. All schools are judged on their attendance and it is important that we strive as a whole school community to achieve our target. Missed days equal a lot of missed learning time and often it can be very difficult to catch up if knowledge/concepts have been missed.

GREEN	98 – 100% attendance	Excellent! Fantastic attendance 😊
YELLOW	95 – 97% attendance	Good Effort! You are trying hard to be in school 😊
RED	Less than 95% Less than 90% - Classed as persistent Absence	Danger Zone! You are missing a lot of learning time 😞

The government have confirmed, even in the current pandemic, that school attendance is still compulsory, we are part of the Birmingham Fast Track to Attendance Process. Where parents fail to ensure that their children attend school, legal action may be taken. (Please find Fast Track to attendance information attached)

Holidays in Term Time

Holidays in term time must not be booked as they will **NOT** be authorised. Exceptional leave must be agreed with the Head Teacher in advance.

Exceptional leave is NOT:

- Availability of cheap flights and/or holidays
- Parent/carer work commitments
- Overlap with the beginning or end of term, half term.

Exceptional leave MAY be:

- Significant trauma in the family recently and a holiday will benefit the child – this must be backed up by a doctor's letter
- A one-off, never to be repeated occasion that can only happen at that time, e.g. family wedding/funeral.

Punctuality

Punctuality is a life skill and leads to higher achievement and success in the long run.

TYPES OF LATENESS

- 1. Late before register closes** Your child is a few minutes late – but they have missed the opportunity to say hello to friends. They are likely to feel unsettled and embarrassed as they start morning lessons.
- 2. Late after register closes** This counts as an unauthorised absence and will show on your child's attendance record. Not only has your child missed the chance to meet with their friends before school, they have missed the start of lessons and could feel unsettled, embarrassed and much less confident than their classmates as the lesson moves on.

SS JOHN AND MONICA'S TOP TIPS FOR GOOD PUNCTUALITY

- ✓ Get to know your child's school timetable – work together to make sure they have everything ready the night before e.g. Homework, Reading Books
- ✓ Get your child into the habit of doing their homework/Reading in the evening – instead of in the morning at the breakfast table.
- ✓ Make sure your child has a good bedtime routine so they get plenty of rest and don't struggle out of bed in the morning – not a bad idea for parents either!
- ✓ Invest in a good, reliable alarm clock – make setting it part of your child's bedtime routine. Leave yourself plenty of time to get ready.
- ✓ Try to ensure your child has a good breakfast to set them up for the day – we have a super breakfast club you could use if you need to be at work early.
- ✓ Have a backup plan for getting your child to school in case something crops up – friends or family, perhaps neighbours who are taking their children to school anyway.
- ✓ Allow lots of time to for your journey.
- ✓ If you are finding it difficult to get your child to school on time, talk to a teacher and ask for help!

Attendance for: Week 6th to 10th Sept – Well done to Year 1 – 100%
 Week 13th to 17th Sept – Well done to Year 2 – 99.3%

Class	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
% Attendance	95.6%	98.8%	97.6%	95.3%	94.1%	98.9%	94.9%
Lates	0	1	4	1	4	3	5
Whole School Attendance so far this year			96.5%		School Target		97%

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

Reception: Mrs. Riches, Mrs. Deacon & Miss Smith	Whole Class & Humayd
Year 1: Miss Geoghegan & Mrs. Shaheen	Eli & Eden
Year 2: Miss Millar & Mrs. Tutt	Jibriel & Sukhmani
Year 3: Miss Treacy & Mrs. Ali	Jameelah & Laiq
Year 4: Mrs. Litchfield, Mrs. Catling & Mrs. Ali	Aisha & Areeba
Year 5: Miss McEvoy & Miss Hill	Tegh, Hasan, Ihsam & Khaydan
Year 6: Mrs. Gray & Miss Hill	Ikra & Khio
Mr. Ullah: Deputy Head Teacher	Alfie – Year 5 & Whole Class – Year 6
Mrs. Elliott: Headteacher	Ali – Year 6 & Reception Class

House Points

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

St Patrick - 474
 St David – 324

St Andrew - 365
 St George - 300

HOUSE POINTS

School Spaces

We have a number of spaces available in certain classes, particularly Reception. If you know of any family who require a place for their child/ren please tell them to contact the school office. Thank you.

After-School Clubs

We are currently organising our After-School programme, which will hopefully commence next half term. The clubs will be led by school staff and external providers, where they can be secured. More details will follow this term.

Communication

We communicate with parents/carers in a variety of ways and we ask you to support us, by reading correspondence sent home. Communication is sent via:

- Fortnightly Head Teacher Newsletter
- Additional Letters
- School Website
- Email (via enquiry and class)
- Seesaw Online Learning Platform

Please phone or email the School Office with all enquiries. If you must visit the School Office, this should be in exceptional circumstances. Please do not relay messages or discuss issues regarding your child with the Office staff, rather email via the class email or speak to your child's class teacher. Office staff are not able to receive late lunchboxes. In this case, a school lunch will be provided.

If you do have to come to the school Office, please wear a mask. Thank you

Wear Yellow World Mental Health Day Friday 8th October

8th October marks World Mental Health Day. We would also like to mark this special occasion by dressing up in yellow, as a way of making a statement to say: We understand about the importance of Mental health and we know what we can do to make a difference for ourselves and those who are having mental health difficulties. **We ask for a voluntary contribution (suggestion £2.00) which can be paid via <https://eduspot.co.uk/>** Thank you for supporting this worthy cause.

Mrs. M. Elliott - Head Teacher

Prayer FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder
of our being, for mind, body and spirit.

Be with our children as they begin a new school year.

Bless them and their teachers and staff.

Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow;

Give wisdom and knowledge to

their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and
zeal to their hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mission Statement



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