



Friday 22nd November 2019

Term	Start	Half Term	Reopens	Term Ends
Autumn 2019				Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 2pm
Spring 2020	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan Training Day – School Closed. School Opens Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> April – 2pm
Summer 2019	Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> April Training day – School Closed. School opens Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July – 2pm Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> July Training Day – School Closed.

### Class Masses

The next school Mass will be celebrated on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec Year 3 (First Sunday of Advent – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin) at 9.00am**. Parents, friends and parishioners are most welcome to attend. Please Note if no Priest is available there will be a Service of the Word.

### Reading

We are always encouraging our children to read a wide variety of reading material both at home and at school. This wide diet of reading can include: school reading scheme books, class and school library books, books from home and books from the local library, to name but a few. This year, I am going to be looking especially for children who are trying really hard to read consistently and develop a greater love of reading. I have bought some special 'Head Teacher' Postcards, which I will be sending out in the post to 'surprise' pupils who deserve that extra recognition with their reading. Happy Reading Everyone!



## Why Your Child Can't Skip Their 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight

**James**

reads 20 minutes per night,  
5 times per week



**Travis**

reads only 4 minutes per night  
...or not at all



In one week:

**100**  
minutes of reading



**20**  
minutes of reading

In one month:

**400**  
minutes of reading



**80**  
minutes of reading

In one school year (9 months):

**3600**  
minutes of reading



**720**  
minutes of reading

By the end of eighth grade:

**28,800**  
minutes of reading



**5760**  
minutes of reading

Which student would you expect to read better?  
Which student would you expect to know more?  
Which student would you expect to write better?  
Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?  
Which student would you expect to be more successful in school and life?  
How do you think each student will feel about himself as a learner?



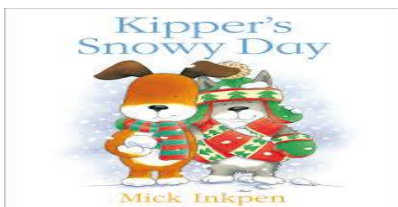
### Maths Parent's Open Week

This year we are hosting a Maths Parent's Open Week from **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November (Year 3 - 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November & 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> December)**. This is instead of our usual Inspire Workshops. If you have not already done so, may we remind you to complete the slip to indicate your attendance and send in to your child/ren's class teacher. There will be a parent's evaluation to complete on the day and we would be grateful for any feedback.



### SS John and Martin's Parish Church and Christmas Fair

This year's Parish Christmas Fair will take place in the B12 Urban Village Hall (formerly Parish Hall) at St John & St Martin's Church, George Street, Balsall Heath on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December (12.00 – 2.00pm)**. We would like to ask our families to bake cakes that can be sold at the Parish Fair in order to raise money for the Parish. Teachers will **judge the best cakes on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**. All entrants will receive a small treat and there will be a larger prize for the winning cake.



### Christmas Theatre Trips

Each Key Stage will be visiting the theatre again this year to enjoy a Christmas production. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to experience real live theatre! Rec/KS1 will be walking to the Midlands Arts Centre as we did last year and KS2 will be travelling by coach to the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham. Details of the trips are as follows:

**REC/KS1: 'Kippers Snowy Day' on Tuesday 10th December (Cost: £10.00) Please collect children normal time – 3.15pm**

**KS2: 'A Christmas Carol' – Crescent Theatre on Thursday 5th December (Cost: £13.28) – Please note children will return to school at approx. 5.00 pm**

Please be aware of the deadline which was – **Thursday 21st November** for the above trips. If payments are not made, these trips are in danger of being cancelled. For consent and payment log-on to <https://login.eduspot.co.uk>

### Sacrament of Confirmation Y5/Y6

Our Catholic pupils in Y5 and Y6 received the **Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 19th November at 7.00pm which was led by Canon David Evans**. The children conducted themselves very well during the service and we were very proud of them! This sacrament is an important part of their faith journey. Thank you to all those children who were part of the SS John and Monica's Choir.



### Fr Dominic Retirement Mass

A special retirement Mass for Fr Dominic has been organised by the Parish on Friday 29th November at 7.00pm at St John and Martin's Church. There will be refreshments afterwards in the newly refurbished B12 Urban Village Hall (formerly Parish Hall), where we will be presenting Fr Dominic with a small gift from our school community.

### Attendance

I am pleased to see that we are above our attendance target for this year. Well done to everyone! December and January are often difficult months to get through with coughs and colds. As part of our PSHE curriculum, we talk to our children about the importance of eating healthily and getting plenty of sleep, especially in these winter months.

Attendance for Week 11th-15th Nov – Well done to Year 2 – 99.3%

Week 18th-22nd Nov – Well done to Year 6 – 99.3%

### Average Attendance for the last 2 weeks:

Class	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
% Attendance	95.7%	97.1%	98.1%	97.6%	95.8%	96%	97.2%
Lates	13	16	20	13	15	16	9
Whole School Attendance so far this year				97.7%		School Target 97%	

Congratulations to the following children who were selected for 100% Attendance Focus Week draw: Rec: Robert, Y1: Ava, Y2: Elijah, Y3: Mariyah, Y4: Vladislava, Y5: Shaniya, Y6: Hamaad.

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

Reception: Mrs. Riches & Mrs Hodges	Lina & Fariyah
Year 1: Miss Millar & Miss McKeown	Danish & Amelia
Year 2: Miss Geoghegan & Miss McKeown	Serena & Alayna
Year 3: Mrs. Flaherty & Mrs Ali	Isabelle & Ono
Year 4: Miss McEvoy & Mrs Ali	Jeremiah & Zosia
Year 5: Mrs Litchfield, Mrs Catling & Miss Hill	Davinder, Gabriel, Confirmation Children & Whole Class
Year 6: Mr. Ullah, Mrs Gray & Miss Hill	Bareeah & Raul
Mrs. Elliott: Head Teacher	Suhaan - Year 6 & Iris - Reception

## Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Time
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Mathematics Parents Open Week	9.00am-10.00am
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Enabling Enterprise - Lesson Time Project Week – Whole School	pm
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec – Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Assessment Week – Whole School	am
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Reception Reading Inspire Workshop – A representative for all Rec children to attend	9.15-10.30am
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 Theatre Visit	pm

### Road Safety Week

This week saw the launch of National Road Safety week. In light of a recent letter which was sent out to all parents/carers with regards to driving and parking safely in the school vicinity, we ask you to recognise the important message carried by the campaign.

<http://www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk/>



### School Fund/School Building Fund

Thank you to those families (approximately one third of our school community) who have contributed their £5.00 to each of our school fund and school building funds. So far the following has been donated: £295 – School Building Fund and £320 – School Fund. Our school fund monies this year will be going towards the following:

- New small apparatus playground equipment
- New KS1 playground wall target boards
- A plaque to commemorate 50 Years as a school

### School Building Fund Projects

Our school fund contribution towards the school building will go towards the following:

- Painting of remaining KS2 classrooms

In these difficult financial times, we would like to thank you all for your contributions whether it be to school fund or by supporting all our fundraising activities.

### Data Sheets

Please ensure that all data sheets sent home recently are completed and returned to school. This includes correcting any information that is incorrect, so that we are fully up-to-date with emergency contact details. Please also complete the form regarding Free School Meals eligibility and additional languages spoken at home.

### Christmas Raffle

Thank you to everyone who has been hard at work selling Christmas Raffle tickets over Half Term. If you have sold all your tickets - don't forget you can pick up extra books from the School Office. **The three children who sell the most tickets will get a special prize and everyone who sells their initial 20 tickets will get a little Christmas Reward from the School Office when they hand in their ticket stubs and money.** Please do encourage friends, family, work colleagues, neighbours etc., to support our School's fundraising efforts. Some wonderful new prizes have been donated by generous local businesses over Half Term - please see the updated prize list on the school website. There are over 30 prizes currently and still more pledged.



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

SS John & Monica Catholic Primary School

**Fundraising Christmas Fair**  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
3:15–5:15pm

Christmas Pentathlon  
Try Your Luck at 5 Christmassy Games  
**PRIZE EVERY TIME**

Raffle Prizes will be drawn in the morning and be ready for collection at the fair

Tombola Prize Donations Welcome at School Office

Christmas Pentathlon £3

Socks & Box Stall

Henna Stall

Raffle Prize Claim

Tombola

Tric a Brac Stall

Face Painting £3

Craft Stall

Non-Uniform £1

Guess Sweets In Jar 50p

Tea, Coffee & Mince Pies £1

Food Stalls from 50p

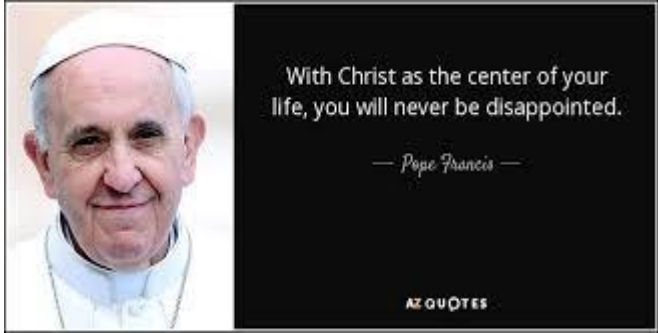
Xmas Grotto £2

Photo Booth £1-£2

Candle Stall

Donations of food and cakes welcome on the day

**Date for your diary**  
Our Fundraising Committee are holding their first **SS John and Monica School Christmas Fair on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019 3.30-5.15pm**. Please put the date in diary and if you can support in any way speak to Mrs Santra (LA Governor and parent of Serena Y2). Thank you for your support.



Mrs M. Elliott – Head Teacher