



Friday 26th Nov 2021

| Term | Start | Half Term | Reopens | Term Ends |
|------------------|--|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Autumn Term 2021 | | | (Friday 26 th Nov) (Training Day School Closed) | 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 |

COVID Update

Rates

Local Covid-19 rates have increased rapidly over the past couple of weeks and all schools across the authority are working with public health advisers and monitoring the situation closely.

This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. With the number of cases in the community on the increase, we would like to advise parents/carers to take regular lateral flow tests, even if they are asymptomatic, to try and reduce the spread.

There are a number of outbreak management actions that may be taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in schools including increasing cleaning, ventilation and reducing mixing in schools. We will inform you of these possible measures if needed. We are extremely mindful of the negative impact of missing education has on children and young people, therefore, restricting attendance at school will only be considered as an absolute last resort. The school remains open and providing your child remains well they can continue to attend school as normal.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

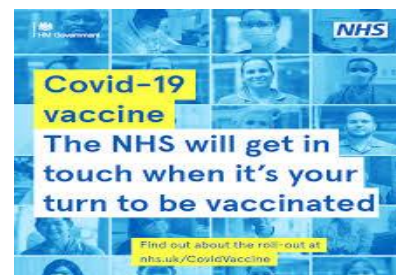
If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 (new, continuous cough, high temperature, loss/change in taste/smell), they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-fora-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

If the person with symptoms receives a positive test result, all household members who are fully vaccinated (had their second vaccine more than 14 days ago) or are aged below 18 years 6 months, do not need to isolate but should access a free PCR test. Adults who are not fully vaccinated need to isolate from 10 days from the case's first symptoms (or test date if they had no symptoms). Full guidance can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-forhouseholds-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

How you can help protect your family and yourself

Vaccination is the single, most effective step we can take to protect ourselves and other from the virus and Public Health England would urge everyone aged 12 and above to 'grab a jab'. This is crucially important for lowering the infection rate in schools/settings and the wider community and is the best way you can protect yourself and your family from COVID-19. Symptoms - It is also extremely important that all parents/carers are vigilant in spotting symptoms in their child(ren) and do not send them to their school/setting if they have COVID-19 symptoms. During this period when there are COVID-19 cases in schools, if you are in any doubt about your child's symptoms, please take them for a PCR test. Testing - Asymptomatic COVID-19 testing is extremely important in reducing the risk of the virus spreading and we encourage you to support your child in taking their tests at least twice per week and reporting their results.



Balsall Heath Library – KS2 Visits

We are delighted that we are able to resume our visits to Balsall Heath library. Thank you to Mrs Gray (English Lead), who has organised the visits. They will take place within the school day and the children will walk to the library, accompanied by adults. Please note, if your child already has a Birmingham Library card, they may bring it on the day along with the pin number, if they wish to take out a book. The library will also give out application forms for other children who wish to join the library. The dates are as follows:

Monday 29th November – Year 6
Wednesday 1st December – Year 4
Monday 6th December – Year 5
Wednesday 8th December – Year 3



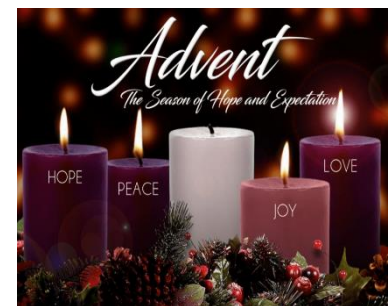
Catholic Life

Class Mass

The next Class Mass is Thurs 2nd Dec – Year 3 (First Sunday of Advent), Thurs 9th Dec Year 2 (Second Sunday of Advent). Please contact the school office, if you would like to book a place. (a limit of 10 spaces).

Season of Advent

The Christian season of Advent begins this year on Sunday 28th November. This important liturgical season commemorates the waiting and preparation for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. During this time, the children will be involved in assemblies, activities and retreats, which will give them an opportunity to reflect and prepare their hearts and minds for Jesus' birth.



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>

World Faiths

Usually our classes get an opportunity to visit a place of worship linked to a major world faith. As we are unable to do these visits this year, we have decided to give our children the opportunity to experience places of worship by taking them on a virtual tour. They will then be able to become more knowledgeable about other world religions and grow a strong appreciation for other world faiths that are represented in our school community.

Fr Dominic

Fr Dominic, who was our school and parish priest for over twenty years, will be the grand age of 90 years old next week. As a school, we will be sending birthday cards from each class to help him celebrate this very special occasion!

Rewards

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

| Name | MyOn | Reading Eggspress |
|--------|---------|-------------------|
| Year 1 | Aisha | Liyana |
| Year 2 | Machair | Sami |
| Year 3 | Emilia | Elena |
| Year 4 | Maggie | Michaela |
| Year 5 | Yanet | Hafsah |
| Year 6 | Vlada | Vlada |



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!

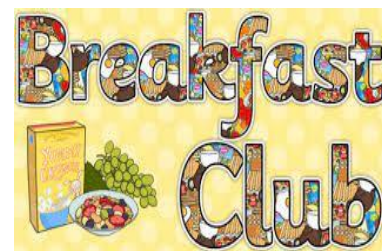
1st St Andrew – 3529 2nd St George – 2501 3rd St Patrick – 2485 4th St David - 2075

School Dinners/Change in Circumstances

If you feel your financial circumstances have changed and your child may now be eligible for Free School Meals (even if you wish to send a packed lunch) please speak to the school office. There is £1,345 extra funding allocated to the school per pupil eligible for Free School Meals. This is vital funding that school would greatly benefit from.

Breakfast Club

We have some spaces available for our school breakfast club. The club runs from 8.00am in the morning and provides the children with a nutritionally balanced breakfast and a range of engaging activities. The cost is £3.25 per day and parents are able to book their children in, as and when, they require this service. We have recently added to our breakfast menu and this is attached for you to see. If you would like further information and to book a place, please contact the School Office.



Attendance and Punctuality

Lateness

If your child is having any difficulties getting to school in the morning, please contact the school who may be able to assist in the form of an Early Help Assessment.

Chicken Pox

We have had a small outbreak of Chickenpox in school and believe that this may be due to previous contact restrictions over the last couple of years. Children should not attend school until the blisters become crusted (about 4-6 days after rash appears), or no new lesions appear within a 24-hours period

Attendance Focus Week

The following children have been drawn for our 100% Attendance Focus Week. They will receive a book and attendance certificate.

**Rec - Yahya & Sonia , Y1 - Alyssia & Rafael, Y2 - Ayyana & Haris, Y3 - Poppy & Callum, Y4 - Milaan & Serena
Y5 - Maisie & Tiago, Y6 - Khio & Mark**

Well done!

Attendance for Week 15th to 19th Nov – Well done to Year 3 – 97.9%

Week 22nd to 25th Nov – Well done to Year 5 – 98.3%

| Class | Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|--|-----------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|
| % Attendance | 85.9% | 80.1% | 90% | 95% | 92.2% | 97% | 97.3% |
| Lates | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Whole School Attendance so far this year | | | 94.8% | | 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 | Alizah & Yahya |
| Year 1: Miss Geoghegan & Mrs. Shaheen | Dawud & Arvinder |
| Year 2: Miss Millar & Mrs. Tutt | Aria & Sami |
| Year 3: Miss Treacy & Mrs. Ali | Rosa & Jayden |
| Year 4: Mrs. Litchfield, Mrs. Catling & Mrs. Ali | Alayna & Whole Class |
| Year 5: Miss McEvoy & Miss Hill | Whole Class & Imarni |
| Year 6: Mrs. Gray & Miss Hill | Hessa & Whole Class |
| Mr. Ullah: Deputy Head Teacher | Oji – Year 3 & Anna – Year 1 |
| Mrs. Elliott: Headteacher | Ayden – Year 3 & Klareece – Year 4 |

Advent Fundraising - Monday 13th to Friday 17th December

During this week, all classes will be holding events to raise money for CAFOD (Catholic International Development Charity) and our new chosen Charity, St Mary's Trust (see below). We are striving to raise as much as possible for these two worthy charities and invite parents/carers to donate via School Money.

One payment will cover all events. A donation of £3.00 per pupil is suggested, however this amount can be overridden.

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



St Mary's Trust Charity

St Mary's Trust is an Educational Charity; which Fr Mario has strong links with. This registered UK charity supports children with their education in the diocese of Eluru, Andhra, India. Their mission is to raise money for those who would be trapped in extreme poverty, with no hope for the future. Bonita Rennie, one of the Trustees, will be coming into school on 30th Nov to lead an assembly and talk to the children about this charity. If you would like to learn more about St Mary's Trust go to: <https://www.stmarystrust.org/about-us/>

Thank you

Royal British Legion

Thank you for your generous contributions to our Poppy Appeal. A total of £94.10 was raised which will go to the Royal British Legion.

Christmas Toy Appeal

This year, we are joining with Bishop Challoner school in teaming up with the Birmingham Irish Association to support families in Birmingham who face the struggle of buying gifts for their children this Christmas. To support this worthy charity, we are asking our staff and children to donate new toys (unwrapped) for various age groups. If you feel that you can support in some way, please send your new toy donation into school via the school Office or your child's class teacher. Thank you

Fundraising Committee Christmas Events (All payments via School Money online)

Playground Santa Hunt – Fri 3rd Dec - £3.00

The children will have an opportunity to hunt for the hidden Santa's in the School's grounds in class groups and solve the puzzle. There are themed Christmas Prize for everyone! (Thank you to Sonia and Serena's mom and dad for organising).

Bingo – Wed 8th Dec - £3.00

Another great evening of Bingo is planned. Online cards will be emailed to everyone who registers in advance! (Thank you to Ivo's dad).

Christmas Jumper Day – Thurs 16th Dec - £1

A chance to wear your own clothes and a Christmas jumper too!

Christmas Raffle - Draw Date Fri 3rd Dec

Don't forget to sell as many tickets as you can to friends, family, neighbours. Extra tickets can be picked up from the School Office if you run out. Please return monies & stubs in an envelope by Monday 29th November.



Christmas Events

Reception/KS1 Nativity

The REC/KS1 Nativity performance will take place as follows:

- Tuesday 14th Dec 2.00pm – Y1 and ½ Rec Class
- Wednesday 15th Dec 2.00pm – Y2 and ½ Rec class



DUE TO RESTRICTIONS, PLEASE NOTE ONLY ONE ADULT MAY ATTEND ON THE DESIGNATED DAY. ALL ADULTS MUST WEAR A MASK UNLESS THEY ARE EXEMPT. THANK YOU.

Christmas Dinner

This will take place on **Thursday 9th Dec.** (If your child has packed lunch & you would like to order a dinner please email the school office enquiry@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk)

Christmas Parties

Class Christmas parties will take place on the afternoon of **Thursday 16th December.** To ensure that we are Covid compliant, we would ask you to send any of the following in a small plastic bag for your individual child: packet of crisps, chocolate bar, biscuits, cake. School will provide a carton of juice. Thank you.

Christmas Montages

Each **KS2** class will produce a Christmas Montage, which will involve video and pictures. These will be shared via Seesaw by **10th Dec.**

Christmas Pantomime (Virtual) - Cinderella

We have booked another 'virtual' pantomime for the children this year for all our children to enjoy in their classrooms. We are all very much looking forward to a performance of Cinderella involving songs and lots of fun!



Extreme Weather Conditions

In the event of heavy snowfall, **we will send out a text message to confirm that the school is closed.** Please listen to local radio stations to hear if the school has had to close or not (Heart FM, Radio WM, Free Radio and 1296am Radio XL). **DO NOT TELEPHONE THE SCHOOL OFFICE. Please ensure that the office has up to date mobile contact and email information.**

Mrs. M. Elliott - Head Teacher

Mission Statement



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