



Friday 27th November 2020

Term	Start	Half Term	Reopens	Term Ends
Autumn 2020				Fri 18 th Dec – 2pm
Spring 2020	Mon 4 th Jan Training Day – School Closed. School Opens Tues 5 th Jan	Fri 12 th Feb	Mon 22 nd Feb	Thurs 1 st April – 2pm
Summer 2020	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

Covid-19 Update

A reminder- When to Keep Children at Home

Please **DO NOT** send your child into school under the following circumstances:

- If your child or member of the household (including siblings) are displaying symptoms of Covid-19, which may include: a high temperature, a new or continuous cough or a loss or change to sense of taste or smell
- If someone in your household is going for a Covid test or has been for a test and is awaiting results

Information to have ready

Thank you to parents who have been very proactive in informing school about any positive cases in households. If you do need to inform school of a positive test result, please have the following information ready:

- Person in the household who has tested positive
- Date of start and description of symptoms
- Date of test and notification of result
- All siblings in school
- Any other relevant information

Mixing of Households

In line with national restrictions, all families should be adhering to Government guidelines regarding the mixing of households. This means that children should not be going to other children's houses for 'play dates'. Childcare Bubbles are permitted, but regulations should be adhered to. Guidelines state that: 'You can only use a childcare bubble for childcare – that is, where the child's parent or regular carer is not present. You cannot use a childcare bubble to mix with another household for other reasons.' For further information on 'Childcare Bubbles' go to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household>

A Message from NHS111

In line with the rest of the country, all emergency departments (also known as A&E departments) and urgent treatment centres across Birmingham and Solihull are no longer 'walk-in' services; patients now need to contact NHS111 for advice before attending these services. Please remember that for all life threatening emergencies, people need to dial 999.

NHS111 is available 24/7, and it's free to call. Alternatively, people can go to: <https://111.nhs.uk/>

Home Learning if your Child is Self-Isolating

Please see the attached guidance which outlines Home Learning provision during self-isolation.

Norovirus

If your child exhibits norovirus symptoms including sickness and diarrhoea and stomach cramps, they need to remain off school until 48 hours following their last episode.

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

Catholic Life

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>

Advent

This Sunday 29th November sees the start of Advent, one of the most important seasons in the liturgical year of the church. I will be leading a whole school Advent assembly on Monday 30th November and the children will be preparing their hearts and minds over the coming weeks for the birth of our Lord and the Holy day of Christmas.

THE FIRST SUNDAY
IN ADVENT:

HOPE



Curriculum – Knowledge Organisers

With the introduction of each new unit of work or topic in Science, History and Geography, staff produce 'Knowledge Organisers' to help structure the children's learning. A knowledge organiser contains key facts and information that children need, to have a basic knowledge and understanding of a topic. They include the essential facts about the topic, laid out in easily digestible chunks. These will be uploaded to Seesaw, as and when new topics are started, to inform parents so that they can support their child with their learning.

World Faith Virtual Visits

Every year, each class visits 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.



Building Relationships

Staff do a lot of work with children around friendships and building relationships with their peers, both of which are covered in our RE and PSHE work. As we know, building friendships is something children will have to learn to navigate throughout their primary and secondary education. Sometimes children fall out over small squabbles and make up with one another very quickly. As parents, we may feel the need to interject and sort out friendship issues for our children by contacting the class teacher to sort out the issue. What would be effective is talking to your child about their friendship issues and discussing with them the strategies to work things out for themselves. Developing this independence in social skills is very important. Recently, staff seem to be spending an increased time speaking to parents and dealing with minor friendship disagreements. This takes staff away from their primary role of planning for teaching and learning. Whilst staff endeavour to sort out problems brought to their attention by parents, we ask you to work with us to support children with their friendships.

Rewards

House Points

Well done to St Andrews who are in the lead with 811 House Points. Followed by St George 746, St Patrick 711 and St David 528. Keep up the good work children!

Reading Eggs

Well done to Haris - Y1 and Sarah – Y3 for regularly accessing Reading Eggs/Express and working hard through the programme!

Mathletics

Well done to Amelia – Y2 and Adam – Y6 for regularly accessing Mathletics and working hard through the programme!



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Parent Class Representatives

Thank you to the following parents who have volunteered to be Class Parent Representatives. Many schools have this system in operation to improve communication. If several parents have the same query or are uncertain about class communication, then the Parent Rep can bring it to the attention of the class teacher, who can clarify the information sent out. They can then feed it back to fellow parents via various means including WhatsApp.

This is specifically for queries which affect the whole class (not individual queries) for example, clarifications about things such as school trips, Forest School, PE, events in class etc. This is a more streamline, efficient way of clarifying information, rather than the class teacher having to respond to several parents with the same query.

The hope is that the Rep will not be called on very often, as communication will be clear from the onset. For queries regarding individual children, please continue to go through the usual channel of contacting the class teacher via emailing enquiry@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk

Please see the attached information regarding the role of the Parent Representative.

Representatives for each year. Parent of:

Reception – Aisha

Y1 – Isabella

Y2 – Laiq

Y3 – Maurice

Y4 – Pavandeep

Y5 – Hessa

Y6 – Ryan

I know you will help to support them in their role.



Reception Intake September 2021 Virtual Open Day

Unfortunately, our new Reception Open Day will take place virtually this year. There is a section on the home page of our school website entitled 'New Reception Online Open Day', which has all the documentation and a virtual tour of Reception by myself.

<https://www.stjonmon.bham.sch.uk/school-life/new-reception-online-open-day>

Please spread this message to any family and friends you may know, who are applying for a Reception place for 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

Admissions

We also have the following places available should you know any family who is looking for a place in our school:

Current Reception class: 2 places

Year 3: 1 Place

Year 6: 1 Place

Please contact the School Office for further details.

Extreme Weather Conditions

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.**



Staffing

Mrs Riches will be leaving us temporarily at the end of the term to start her maternity leave. We wish her all the very best and are very much looking forward to meeting baby Riches! We are delighted to welcome Mrs Sparrow who will be teaching Reception class for the Spring and Summer term. I know you will join me in making her feel very welcome to our school family of SS John and Monica's.

Attendance Focus Week

This will take place week beginning 7th December. Attendance prizes to be drawn for those who achieve 100% attendance during that week.

Attendance for: Week 16th to 20th Nov – Well done to Year 1 & Year 5 - 100%
Week 23rd to 27th Nov – Well done to Year 99%

Class	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
% Attendance	97.4%	98.9%	98.9%	97.1%	98.9%	99.3%	93.4%
Lates	7	3	0	6	13	2	3
Whole School Attendance so far this year			96.2%		School Target		97%

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

Reception: Mrs. Riches & Mrs Hodges	Anna & Zunaira
Year 1: Miss Millar & Mrs Reed	Mia & Abbas
Year 2: Miss Geoghegan & Miss McKeown	Ameera & Amelia
Year 3: Miss Treacy & Mrs Ali	Maggie & Aydin
Year 4: Mrs Litchfield, Mrs Catling & Mrs Ali	Hawwa & Felicity
Year 5: Miss McEvoy & Miss Hill	Aahil & Hessa
Year 6: Mrs Gray & Miss Hill	Aisha & Ellyssia
Mr Ullah: Deputy Head Teacher	Angela – Year 5 & Eyob – Year 1
Mrs. Elliott: Head Teacher	Ryan – Year 6 & Year 5 Whole Class

Christmas Events

Christmas Lunch – Reception to Year 6

This will take place on Thursday 10th Dec - Years 3 to 6 – if you wish your child to have a Christmas Lunch please email the school office. (Reception to Year 2 no need to contact the office as your child is entitled to Free School Meals).

Christmas Jumper Day

This will take place on Thursday 10th Dec (please pay via School Money - proceeds to go to School Fund).

Christmas Parties

Class Christmas parties will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 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

Due to Covid- 19 and class Bubble restrictions, unfortunately, there will be no KS1 Nativity or KS2 Carol Concert. Instead, each class will produce a Christmas Montage, which will involve video and pictures. These will be shared via Seesaw.

Christmas Creative Activities

In light of the fact that we are not able to produce a Nativity or Carol Concert, we are going to devote extra time to planning and organising creative Christmas art and design activities.

Advent Fundraiser for CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development)

As a Catholic school, we organise an annual Advent fundraising event, as part of our charitable and social justice work. This year, we will be organising a Movie Afternoon on Thursday 17th Dec, which will be held in each class. We invite you to make a small voluntary contribution via School Money, which will be sent to CAFOD.

Home School Association Christmas Activities

School Money is set up for donations towards the Tree Decoration competition and festive online Bingo. Any donation, however small, is gratefully appreciated. See additional flyer for further information.



Christmas Virtual Performance Aladdin

As we are unable to take the children to a Christmas performance this year, we will be bringing a Christmas performance to school! We have booked the virtual pantomime 'Aladdin' for all our children to enjoy, in the safe comfort of their classroom Bubbles. We are all really looking forward to a magnificent performance, which will involve song and lots of fun!



Remembrance Day Fundraising Total

Thank you for your contribution towards our British Legion Remembrance Day Appeal. A total of £71 was raised.

Community Corner

Pause - Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health

Pause have launched a new way for people to register and request a session on the Forward Thinking Birmingham website. You can read about the service, access online resources and select request a session button. Go to <https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk/services/13-pause> for further information.

Birmingham Settlement

Birmingham Settlement is a charity to support people facing financial difficulty, isolation or social exclusion. They offer independent guidance and a range of support services. Go to <https://www.birminghamsettlement.org.uk/> for further information

Online After School Sport Club

The Youth Sport Trust have taken the step to deliver a free virtual after school club as part of a national response to the second lockdown. The 30-minute club will take place at 5pm each weekday and be led by a different member of the YST's athlete mentor network. The After School Sport Club will run for five weeks until December 18 and children and young people can take part live by visiting our YouTube channel - <http://www.youtube.com/user/YouthSportTrust>

Mrs M. Elliott – Head Teacher

Hope


Prayer for the First Week of Advent

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world.

This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important.

We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas.

Amen.

 Dynamic Catholic

Mission Statement



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