



Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Term	Start	Half Term	Reopens	Term Ends
Spring 2021		Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> April – 2pm
Summer 2021	Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> April Training day – School Closed. School opens Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> May Training Day School Closed	Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> July – 2pm

### Head Teacher Announcement

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in our school community safe and well.

We are over half way through this half term and almost at the end of January, usually one of the hardest months to get through and even harder for us all this year. One blessing is that as the weeks go by, the nights are starting to become a little lighter. I think this makes a difference and helps us to be positive and hopeful that spring is on its way.

These last few weeks have been particularly challenging for us all and we have heard of deaths of loved ones from Covid-19 from our parents and staff. This is particularly hard and we pray for all those bereaved in our extended school community and those across the globe who have been or are affected by the pandemic.

### *Your loving care*

*Lord Jesus,*

*when you walked with us on earth*

*you spread your healing power.*

*We place in your loving care*

*all who are affected by Coronavirus.*

*Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.*

*Bring relief to our sick,*

*console our bereaved,*

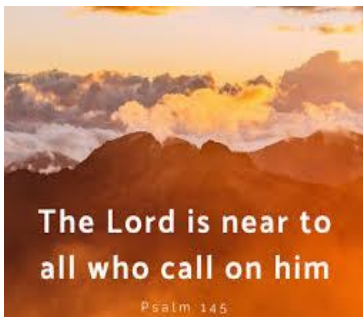
*protect those who care for us.*

*We lift our prayer to you Lord,*

*and trust in your infinite mercy,*

*as we wait for the daybreak.*

*Amen.*



## **Covid-19 Update**

### **Lateral Flow Testing for Primary School Staff**

All Primary schools are being issued with Lateral Flow Tests for staff to self-administer twice weekly. All staff at SS John and Monica School have now had the training and will be ready to start once the tests have been distributed. If you like to read more click on the following link: [Here](#)

### **Communication**

You should now have received information regarding new emails, which have been set up for each class. This is a way to contact the class teacher directly, should you have a specific query regarding your child's education. Please do not use this email if it is for any other purpose i.e Office enquiries, which should be emailed via [enquiry@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk) . If you have any specific IT related queries, please email [ict@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk](mailto:ict@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk) and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

### **Free School Meals Vouchers**

The office are in constant contact with parents whose children are eligible for Free School Meals. Please check emails from school and Edenred, including your junk box, regarding these vouchers. There is wider government support in place to support families and children outside of term-time (February Half-term) through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](#).

### **Covid-19 PCR Tests**

If any family members of Critical Worker children are showing signs of coronavirus, they should ensure that they and their children self-isolate and are tested. Although school will not be open during February half term (Mon 15<sup>th</sup>-Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Feb), staff will be checking the enquiry email and parents MUST inform school for tracking and tracing purposes via [enquiry@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk) if their child tests positive.

### **Critical Worker Children Absence**

Please note that all Critical Worker pupils, who have been allocated a place, need to attend the days that they have been allocated. Failure to do so, many result in the place being withdrawn and given to a child who is on the waiting list.

### **Remote Offer**

You have recently received much information regarding remote home learning, including our remote learning offer. All this information is on our school website on the front page in the 'Remote Digital Home Learning' Section <https://www.stjonmon.bham.sch.uk/school-life/home-learning>

### **Thank you!**

I recognise that home learning can be a challenge for all families. This is especially so if parents are trying to work from home themselves and support several siblings who may be sharing devices! I have two secondary aged children at home accessing remote learning from school, as well as a husband trying to work from home and can fully appreciate these difficulties - is not easy for all families! That said, I wanted to say thank you for all that you are doing to support your children with their home learning. You are doing a great job!

## **Catholic Life**

### **Weekly Gospel Assembly**

Short weekly Gospel assemblies are uploaded to Seesaw each week with themes following the churches liturgical year for children to follow and reflect upon.

### **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>



## Mental Health and Well-Being

### Children's Mental Health Week 2021

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on 1st-7th February 2021. This year's theme is 'Express Yourself'. All of the free resources can be adapted for home schooling. Please add the dates to your calendar and sign up for email alerts for the latest Children's Mental Health Week news at <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

**Oak National Academy** has teamed up with Place2Be and BAFTA Kids to create a free assembly for Children's Mental Health Week 2021. Make sure you set your reminders to come back [Here](#) at 9am on Mon 1st Feb to join Blue Peter's Lindsey Russell and CBBC presenter Rhys Stephenson, alongside some other special well-known faces for a free and exciting assembly available to all children and families.

### Mental Health Services

Please find attached and up-to-date flyer from Forward Thinking Birmingham Mental Health service. The flyer include important numbers and websites of local and national mental health services.

### Birmingham Mental Health Recovery and Employment Service

Please find attached information regarding workshops and support.

### BCC Top Tips to Help Your Child

A flyer is attached from Birmingham City Council highlighting simple ways that you can support your children during the current lockdown.

### Well-Being Wednesday

Throughout the current pandemic, we have been reminded more than ever of the importance of mindfulness and wellbeing. We are aware that the current need for schooling at home has potentially increased the amount of screen time your child is receiving. For reason, we have introduced 'Well-Being Wednesday' (see previous emails) to give our children opportunities to develop their wider life skills and have fun at the same time!



### Well-Being

Please find two very useful Power Points attached regarding maintaining good well-being for pupils and families during lockdown.

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

Reception: Mrs. Sparrow & Mrs Hodges	Aisha & Miah
Year 1: Miss Millar & Mrs Reed	Ethan & Bobby
Year 2: Miss Geoghegan & Miss McKeown	Laiq & Samuel
Year 3: Miss Treacy & Mrs Ali	Fleur & Argun
Year 4: Mrs Litchfield, Mrs Catling & Mrs Ali	Caleb & Aleks
Year 5: Miss McEvoy & Miss Hill	Aaishah & Khio
Year 6: Mrs. Gray & Miss Hill	Alfie & Jesse-John
Mr. Ullah: Deputy Head Teacher	Ahmed – Year 6 & Areeba – Year 3
Mrs. Elliott: Head Teacher	Whole School & Mae – Year 3



### Rewards

#### Reading Eggs

Well done to Paul M – Rec and Argun - Y3 for regularly accessing Reading Eggs/Express and working hard through the programme!

#### Mathletics

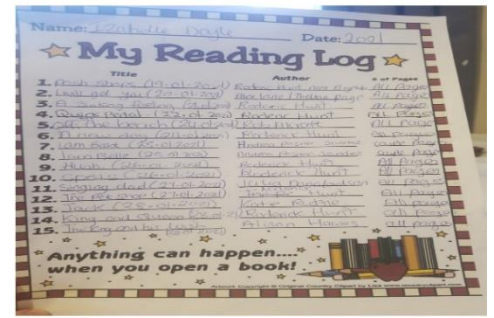
Well done to Kyrese - Y2 and Khadeejah Javid - Y5 for regularly accessing Mathletics and working hard through the programme!

## Readers of the Week

A special 'Well done' goes to Izabelle in Y1, who uploaded a record of her reading log of all the Oxford Reading Tree eBooks that she has read recently.

Well done also to Caleb Jordan who has read 53 books and Fleur Davis who has read 26 on MyOn.

Izabelle, Caleb and Fleur will be receiving a very special certificate from Mrs Elliott. Fantastic reading - Well done children!



## Staff Area

Time to get to know more about the governors and staff of our school!

### Mike Murphy: Foundation Governor

I was appointed as a Foundation Governor of S.S. John and Monica R.C. Primary School in the early part of 2020 just before the emergence of the pandemic.



I grew up in the Birmingham/Solihull area and lived with my parents and sister at various locations before moving to Shropshire in the late 60's. Prior to that, I attended St. Augustine's R.C. Primary in Solihull as well as Holy Souls R.C. Primary in Acocks Green. After briefly attending Archbishop Williams High School in Tile Cross, we made the move to Shropshire where I attended Blessed Robert Johnson R.C. High School in Wellington. After spending some time studying at Shrewsbury Technical College, I moved back to Birmingham in 1971 where I trained to become a teacher at Newman College (in those days). I have always enjoyed learning about mathematics and that became my main subject area during that time. I began my career at Stuart Bathurst R.C. High School in Wednesbury before moving to the Primary sector. I eventually became Headteacher of St. John Bosco R.C. Primary in West Bromwich where I stayed for eighteen years before leaving in 2001. Since then, I have worked part-time in various Primary Schools and still work part-time at St. Mary's R.C. Primary in Studley. I have also worked part-time for Newman University as a Partnership Tutor until 2019.

I am married with two grown up sons; one is a High School teacher in Warwickshire whilst the other has his own plastering business. We have been registered and attended Olton Friary Parish now for over thirty-five years and indeed my older son got married there in 2019.

I am now semi-retired, which normally gives me the time to enjoy my favourite past-times of swimming and walking. I also really enjoy listening to music, reading, and watching films. I think my favourite book for many years is 'The Silver Sword' by Ian Serraillier, which tells the story of a family caught up in the struggles during WW2. My favourite film from childhood has to be 'The Great Race' – a superb, silly comedy!

I am still busy despite being semi-retired but do have the time to help in my parish in Olton and spend time being the Governor of two schools. I hope to be able to support and assist my fellow Governors, Headteacher and staff as well as the wider school community as we face up to new post-COVID challenges in the future years ahead.

## Community

Please see attached the following information:

- NHS Free Online Courses for Parents and Parents to be
- Hall Green Families newsletter
- Hall Green Emergency Food and Essential Supplies Grant



### Community Spirit

Well done to Mae in Y3 who sent in some lovely writing about her weekend via Seesaw! She informed us that her and her family had helped clear the snow to help people in the local community! Well done Mae!

## Miss Millar - Year One Teacher and RE Lead



### **Why I wanted to become a teacher:**

I was inspired by the teachers who had taught me to love learning and shown me the satisfaction you get as a result of hard work. They were kind, caring, patient, and creative; qualities I too believe I possess. I thought about how amazing it would be to teach children to love learning as much as I do now.

**My favourite subject and why:** My favourite subject is Art and design. I enjoy being creative, learning about artists; their life and the impact this has on their style. Look around you, everything you see has been designed with a specific intention – pretty amazing, don't you think?

**University/Training background:** Even though my parents lived in Moseley, I was actually born in Redditch as they had temporarily moved there for work. Shortly after my birth, we moved back to Moseley and I never left (until very recently!). I went to nursery at Park Hill then I started Ss. John and Monica's in reception. I never used to like school, I wanted to stay at nursery with my two younger sisters (I thought I was missing out on all the fun), but after a while I made friends, I got to know the teachers and I loved school. After that, I went to Bishop Challoner secondary school and sixth form college. My favourite lessons were Art and D&T; some nights I stayed at school as late as 7pm to complete my projects. I enjoyed working hard and the feeling I got when I accomplished the finished article. When I left sixth form, I was torn between teaching and business. I went to University College Birmingham to study Business Management and to train as a Beauty Therapist. I thought I wanted to own a business, but I soon came to realise I had made the wrong choice! I graduated from university and signed up for a PGCE straight away to complete my teacher training and I have never looked back!

### **What I like to do in my spare time:**

I love to cook healthy food and get creative in the kitchen. Sometimes I follow a recipe to learn something new, sometimes I make a meal from memory and sometimes I make something up. I find it fulfilling when friends and family can gather around a home cooked meal together to share and talk. I must admit, I am very critical of my cooking and always look for ways to improve!

I do enjoy baking but I definitely see that as a science, everything needs to be measured out carefully - so I always make sure I have plenty of time if I am baking. I also have a dog at home who needs lots of attention and exercise so I take him for long walks. He likes to swim and gets very dirty so after his walk he needs a wash (often I treat him to a bubble bath!). We then like to get cosy and cuddle up on the sofa to rest.

### **My favourite book of all time and why:**

It is so hard to pick just one!! I enjoy reading books by Roald Dahl, particularly *The Twits* because it is funny. I always enjoyed this book as a child.

I also love to read books by Julia Donaldson, especially *The Gruffalo*. I enjoy the character descriptions and the rhyme and rhythm. The children in my class also enjoy listening to her stories!



### **Staffing News**

Congratulations to Mrs Riches and her husband on the recent birth of their baby daughter Sophie! We are delighted to hear this wonderful news and wish them love and best wishes in these early days of caring for their precious daughter.

**Please note: School will be closed to all pupils for February Half Term (Week Beg Mon 15th – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Feb).**

"What do you think  
success is?" asked the boy



"To love," said the  
mole

Mrs M. Elliott - Head Teacher

### Mission Statement



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