



Friday 5th March 2021

Term	Start	Half Term	Reopens	Term Ends
Spring 2021				Thurs 1 st April – 2pm
Summer 2021	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

Head Teacher's Message

We are delighted to be welcoming all our children back to school on Monday 8th March!

Please make sure that you have read the important letter sent out last week regarding arrangements for this return to school. Although there is much positivity around schools reopening and the government's 'Road Map' out of lockdown, we still have to remain vigilant, as rates of infection are still over 100 per 100,000 in the local area. The safety of our children and staff remains our priority, before any teaching and learning.

We are confident that our children will settle back quickly, but please be rest assured that our focus for the first week will be the social and emotional aspects of transitioning back to school.

Covid-19 Update

Covid-19 PCR Tests

If any family members of children are showing signs of coronavirus, they should ensure that they and their children self-isolate and are tested.

Parents **MUST** inform school for tracking and tracing purposes via enquiry@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk if their child tests positive.



Class/IT Emails

We will continue to operate our class email system when children return. If you have any queries regarding your child, please contact your child's class teacher (not the school office) via the class email. Remember for more general class based queries, you might like to contact your child's class representative. Please read all school correspondence before phoning the school office. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Online Safety

Please find the Governments updated guidelines regarding keeping children safe on-line at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online>

Uniform

Children should return to school in full uniform (summer uniform may be worn). This gives them a strong sense of school community. If your child has grown out of their school uniform and you are having difficulty replacing it, please do not worry, just drop your child's class teacher an email. We do have some spare uniform available if any family is particularly struggling. I am also aware that children may have grown out of school shoes, which you have not been able to replace. In this case, we ask you to send your child in the most appropriate footwear available to them.

Medication

If you received an email from school about your child's inhaler expiring or you know that your child's medication is about to expire can you ensure your child returns to school with up to date replacement. Thank you.

Catholic Life

Churches Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday (17th Feb) marked the start of the Lenten season. Lent is a 40-day fast — a reference to the time Jesus spent being tempted in the desert. It is a time when we can prepare our hearts and minds for the solemn remembrance of Jesus' death. It concludes and is followed by the Easter Sunday celebration of the resurrection of Christ. The six-week period is dedicated to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for the most important season in the churches liturgical calendar- Easter. Click on the following link to see Pope Francis' message for Lent 2021

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=2c3884d0-7384-42d1-85de-2ae1a6f8aace>

Wednesday Word

Please find the link for this week's *Wednesday Word* <https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/change?pid=MTA101634&v=4.4>

Lenten Charity Fundraising

As part of our Lenten journey and almsgiving, we raise money for those less fortunate than ourselves. Each class decides on a local or national charity and we also send a donation to (CAFOD) Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. Even small amounts can make a difference to people's lives locally, nationally and internationally. We will be deciding on each class's fundraising event when the children return, so they are part of the decision making process. The chosen Charities this year will be:

Rec – Birmingham Children's Hospital

Y1 – Anawim (Birmingham Centre for Women)

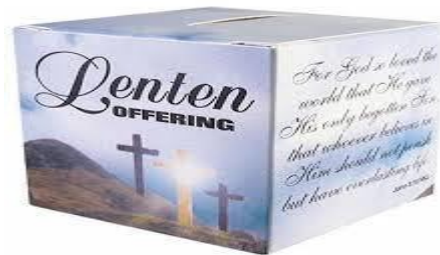
Y2 – Water Aid

Y3 - Mind

Y4 - Sparkhill Food Bank

Y5 – Guide Dogs for the Blind

Y6 – Birmingham Children's Hospital



World Book Day 2021

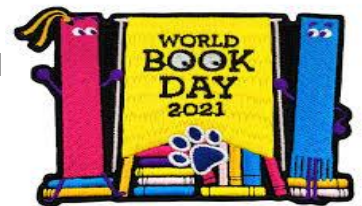
“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go”Dr Zuess

World Book Day took place this week – Thursday 4th March. We have always enjoyed celebrating this special day as a school community. This year, even though many of us were not in school, we still made it a special celebration of all thingsREADING!!

Teachers welcomed the opportunity to have a day off curriculum and created only reading related activities for all of the children, whether they were at home or in school. There were interviews with authors and illustrators and lots of readings from books we all know and love. Our children also enjoyed getting busy decorating pebbles, two penny pieces, potatoes, old clothes and any other materials they could find at home to model and make. They used their favourite books as inspiration for their creations!! The teachers now have the difficult job of working out which are our winning creations!

As you know, teachers at SS John and Monica love to dress up for World Book Day. Not wishing to miss out, they chose to celebrate in a different way this year and created their own Masked Reader activity on See Saw. Take a look, if you haven't already, and try to work out who the teachers are who are reading some famous children's books. Prizes for the winners of this competition on our return to school!

As well as this, we hope most of all, that all of our children and families took some time out to escape into the world of their favourite books.



Your child will be receiving their World Book Day Book Token on Monday. You have until 28th March to use these vouchers.

Go to: [BookFest-Resource-Pack-Parents.pdf](#) for a really useful book resource pack for parents and children at home.



Parents Digital On-line Survey

Thank you to all parents who contributed to our On-line Digital Survey. The aim of the survey was to see what we are doing well and what parents would like to see more. Mr Ullah has already collated the responses and sent these out. Although children are returning to school, the improvements we have made with regards to digital learning will remain and be built upon going forward.

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations will take place via telephone on 22nd and 23rd March. The link to sign up for these will be sent out shortly. You will receive your child's termly report on Friday 19th March prior to this meeting. The focus of the meeting will be: How your child has settled back into school and their progress since the last parent consultation back in October. This will include learning completed remotely during lockdown.



Secondary School Offers

Information was sent to families of Year 6 pupils who applied on time, explaining the process for them receiving their offers. This information is set out on the council's website at https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/Year_7_offer_day Offer emails were sent on Monday 1 March 2021. Families only need to contact School Admissions if they are refusing the offer. If families do not contact the Local Authority to refuse the offer by 15th March, the offer will be accepted.

Park Stars

Well done to the following children who submitted fantastic half-term Park Stars project evidence!

- Y1- Isabella
- Y2- Emilia and Elena
- Y3- Serena
- Y4- Aleksander
- Y5- Vladislava



Reading Eggs

Well done to Ubaid - Rec and Mohiudeen - Y5 who are regularly accessing Reading Eggs/Express and working hard through the programme!

Mathletics

Well done to Safaa - Y2 and Seraj - Y6 for regularly accessing Mathletics and working hard through the programme!

MyOn

Well done to the following children who have made fantastic efforts reading lots of books on MyOn. Ethan - Y1 (14 books read) Azaan - Y2 (22 books read) Caleb - Y4 (73 books read) Ryan - Y6 (41 books read).

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

Reception: Mrs. Sparrow & Mrs. Hodges	Younis & Liyana
Year 1: Miss Millar & Mrs. Reed	Aria & Yusuf
Year 2: Miss Geoghegan & Miss McKeown	Inaya & Sofia
Year 3: Miss Treacy & Mrs. Ali	Milaan & Michaela
Year 4: Mrs. Litchfield, Mrs. Catling & Mrs. Ali	Tegh & Zofia
Year 5: Miss McEvoy & Miss Hill	Vlada & Zosia
Year 6: Mrs. Gray & Miss Hill	Aisha, Rio & Adam
Mr. Ullah: Deputy Head Teacher	Kushagra - Y1 & Haniyah - Y6
Mrs. Elliott: Head Teacher	Ava - Y2 & Eyob - Y1

Staff Area

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



Kieran Reel: Foundation Governor

Training / College / Background :

I was born in Marston Green Hospital and grew up in Small Heath, Birmingham. The youngest of eight children (4 boys - 4 girls) and both my parents were from the same town in Co Armagh, Ireland who had come over to England in search for better prospects that were not available at that time in Ireland.

I attended Holy Family RC Primary school and followed on to Holy Trinity RC Secondary School both in Small Heath and grew up in a diverse community of immigrants from all over the world. I have great memories of my upbringing and the community and feel enriched because of both.

On Finishing school, I took on a Technician Apprenticeship that was funded by a company called Delta and the EEC, but the plug was pulled on the funding and after the first year I continued with the college and started an apprenticeship as a Trainee Production Controller with a Company in Sparkbrook called British Metal Treatments Ltd. I changed from a Technical course to Business but was made redundant at 21 and worked within the Steel Industry for a few companies, along the way I carried out a Sales and Marketing Diploma. I had no idea on leaving school where life would take me and was very close to joining the RAF and the Fire Service.

Favourite Subject and Why:

My favourite subject at School was History but my real passion was sport and PE. My favourite sport is Football and I enjoyed playing throughout all my school days, I was never that good, but enjoyed being part of a team and improving and it is amazing what can be achieved with teamwork and organisation . It was also why I volunteered to work with the PE dept. as part of my Governor role.

I would be very interested in knowing what your favourite sports are and why, so maybe you can pass these on to Mrs Elliott for me.

What I do now:

I have been married for over 21 years to Debbie and have two daughters Ella who is 20 years old and doing a Chartered Management Degree at my company CA Honemaster Ltd which I have had for the last 18 years in Cheltenham. We carry out various machining process and stock and sell Chrome Bar and Tube. My other daughter is Lily and she is 16 years old and carrying out a Media course at Solihull College. We live in Kings Heath.

What I like to do in my spare time:

I do enjoy socialising which often involves having a beer, which I miss now and I also enjoying watching sport, especially my beloved Birmingham City who I have supported all my life. In normal times I would go to watch them play a dozen or so games a season. I enjoy watching TV and films and of late started cycling. I enjoy walking and sometimes exercise, but only sometimes.

My favourite book of all time and why:

I must confess I am not the strongest reader, but I as I do a 100-mile round trip to work sometimes a listen to audio books and to enjoy crime / thrillers.

My favourite book/books are Children's books that I would read to my daughters when they were young. These include "You Choose" as we would have great fun with our silly answers and "Billy Bucket" which struck a chord with my daft sense of humour.

Mrs Elliott – Head Teacher

University/Training background:



After completing my 'A' Levels in Geography, Business Studies and French, I had already firmly decided that I wanted to work either for the Foreign Office or in Business abroad. However, my best-laid plans changed when it came to choosing universities and I eventually decided to train to be a primary school teacher instead. Which just goes to show that the direction you think you may take in life, often isn't the one you end up taking! I have a long-standing relationship and love of SS John and Monica School, which started when I was a twenty-year-old trainee teacher and ended up doing teaching practice at SS John and Monica's back in 1990! Coming back to SS John and Monica's as deputy head teacher nearly thirty years later was a strange feeling and a story I often tell to visitors as I am taking around the school!

Why I wanted to become a teacher:

Once I started to train to become a Primary School teacher, I quickly decided that it was the route for me and I have never looked back! My specialism was KS1 and Early Years and those teachers who know me well, know that I am happiest teaching lessons and reading stories to our youngest children! That said, I genuinely like spending time with all primary aged children and feel very lucky to have such a wonderful job, whereby I can see children learn and grow. In fact, my favourite part of the day, is getting out and about and going to visit classrooms; seeing all the wonderful work that children are doing across the school! Watching children growing in confidence and make the most of their gifts and talents is the most rewarding job in the world!

My favourite subject and why:

My favourite subject has and always will be Geography. I remember as a little girl getting an atlas off Father Christmas and spending hours flicking through it, learning all the capital cities and planning where I wanted to travel to when I was older. Physical Geography was more of a challenge to me, as I used to find Humanities easier than the Sciences, but still loved to go out on Geography field trips and learn about physical landscapes. Human Geography was definitely my favourite and I particularly liked to learn about different people and compare and contrast what it was like living in different places.

What I like to do in my spare time:

As a sociable person, I love to spend my spare time with my family and friends. My two teenage daughters take up a lot of my time outside school, but they make me smile and remind me a lot of what I was like when I was their age! Other pastimes I enjoy are getting my head into a good book, walking and watching documentaries. My favourite though has to be travelling. I am very fortunate to have been able to travel to most continents and the most interesting places I have visited include Russia, Hawaii, Vietnam and New Zealand.

My favourite book of all time and why:

As an Early Years teacher, my favourite book has to be 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' By Eric Carle. I remember my Reception teacher reading this book to me and I have never forgotten it. It was written in 1969 and it is such a timeless classic. I still have a worn and dog-eared copy at home, which I used to read to my two daughters when they were little. I often get it out and bring to school to read to our own Reception children!

Community

['From Birmingham with Love'](#)

The following package is still available to all families in Birmingham and can help with food poverty, mental health, domestic violence, financial problems and bereavement

[file:///H:/Downloads/From Birmingham with love Winter 2020 AF.pdf](file:///H:/Downloads/From_Birmingham_with_love_Winter_2020_AF.pdf)

Hall Green Families Newsletter

Please find the above attached for support across Balsall Heath, Sparkhill, Sparkbrook, Moseley, Kings Heath and Hall Green.

Local Help Directory

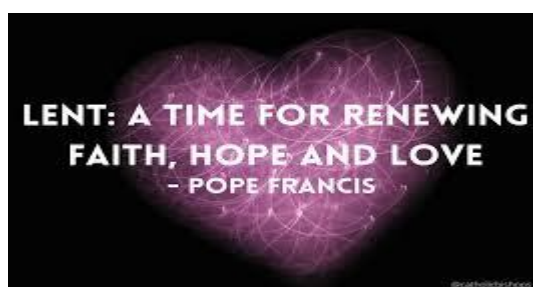
Please find the above attached, which covers the Ladywood District.

Severn Trent Water

Please see information attached regarding those who may be struggling to meet their water bills.



Mrs M. Elliott - Head Teacher



Mission Statement



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