

**SS John & Monica's Catholic Primary School – Bulletin 1**

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**Friday 6th September 2019**

Term	Start	Half Term	Reopens	Term Ends
Autumn 2019		Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct Training Day School Closed	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	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	Fri 14 <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	Fri 22 <sup>nd</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.

**A New Academic Year!**

Welcome back to all our children and families! The children have already settled well into their classes and daily routines and have made a positive start to this year. Thank you for ensuring that your children are smart in their new labelled school uniforms. Children may wear their summer uniforms up until October half term. Over the summer holidays we were very busy with various maintenance projects across the school. All KS2 classes and stairs were re-floored, various rooms were painted and several external maintenance jobs completed. We are pleased that, over the last couple of years, there have been some real improvements to our school environment, which creates a better learning environment for our children.



**Fr Dominic - Retirement**

We are very sad to say that Fr Dominic has decided to retire as parish priest of SS John and Martin's Church after over 20 years of faithful service. During this time, Fr Dominic served both the parish and the schools of SS John and Monica and St Martin de Porres and worked very closely to strengthen inter-faith relations within the community of Balsall Heath. He will be sorely missed by pupils, staff and families both old and new. To say thank you to him, for all the years he has helped us to grow spiritually as a school, we are organising a 'retirement collection' for him. If you would like to contribute to this whole school collection, please put your donation into an envelope and give it into the school office. Thank you.

**New Parish Priest**

We have been informed by the Archdiocese of Birmingham that Fr Thomas Mudukammoottil will be the new parish Priest of SS John and Martin's Parish. Fr Thomas is currently a Parish Priest in the Diocese of Brentwood and we anticipate welcoming him to our school family of SS John and Monica's sometime in October. In the intervening weeks, Fr Mario from St Catherine's will celebrate Mass or staff will lead a Service of the Word each Thursday.

**Catholic School Pupil Profile**

Our virtues for this half term are **Grateful and Generous**. We are helping pupils grow by encouraging them to know and be grateful for all their gifts, developing them to the full so that they can be generous in the service of others.



**Class Masses**

The next school Mass will be celebrated on **Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Sept Year 6 (Creation)** and **Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Sept – Year 5 (St Matthew the Apostle)** at 9.00am. Parents, friends and parishioners are most welcome to attend.

### School Fund and School Building Maintenance Fund

Last year we ask our families for a voluntary £5.00 (per family) contribution towards school fund. This was used to purchase a range of resources such as library books and picnic benches, to enhance learning and the school environment. This year, in addition to school fund, we are asking our families to contribute a small voluntary donation (£5.00 per family) towards our school maintenance building fund. Our school is 50 years old this year and this fund will go towards the maintenance and upkeep of our school building. Thank you in advance for your support for our school. Payments can be made online via School Money from next week onwards.



### Swimming lessons

Two weeks of swimming lessons will start for **Y6 on Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Sept** and **Y5 on Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Sept**. The children will be having their swimming lessons at Balsall Heath baths again this year. Please ensure your child brings into school a waterproof coat and their full, labelled swimming kit, which includes, costume/trunks, a towel and a swimming cap.

### Homework

Reading continues to be a vitally important area that we are all trying to improve this year. Children will have received their first reading book of the year and will have an opportunity to select a book from our school library. We ask that you regularly help and encourage your child with their reading. Weekly homework will be given out either as homework booklets, worksheets or on-line. We ask that you support your child's learning by checking book bags every day and ensuring homework tasks have been completed. Thank you.



### Switch Off School Poster Competition

Thank you to all pupils who entered the Modeshift Stars 'Switch Off School' poster competition. Unfortunately, the winner was selected from another school, but many of the entries will be used as part of a social media campaign. (Twitter [@bhamconnected](#) and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bhamconnected>).

### Secondary School Applications

If your child is due to transfer from primary to secondary school in September 2020 you should apply for your child's secondary school place online at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) between 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept and 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2019.

### School Places Available

We currently have two places available in both Reception and Y5. If you know of any family who would like to apply for their child to come to SS John and Monica School, please ask them to call the school office. We usually have a waiting list for Reception, but with a lower birth rate this year, we are not at capacity.

### Holidays in Term Time

We would like to politely remind parents that holiday in term time is **not** allowed under Government regulations for school attendance. Pupils have **175 days** off school each year and there is an expectation that holiday will be booked in these periods. The impact of taking time off is significant for pupils of all ages. Any term time holiday will be recorded as unauthorised absence and will make it difficult for your child to stay above the 90% that is needed before external agencies/legal processes start to become involved.

### Attendance

We were delighted that our school achieved our 97% Attendance target last academic year. We hope that we will do the same this year. Thank you for ensuring that your child is in school, on time, every day.

### Attendance for this week 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Sept- Well done to Year 5 – 100%

Class	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
% Attendance	N/A	99.2%	99.2%	96.7%	99.2%	100%	94.2%
Lates	N/A	0	1	0	0	0	0
Whole School Attendance so far this year				98%		School Target	
						97%	

## Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Time
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept	International Literacy Day	
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Magic Maths Assembly – Whole School	9.15am
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Y6 Swimming	am
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Y4 Visit to Balsall Heath Library	1.40pm
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	PC Khan Community Police Officer to talk to Y6 'Keeping Ourselves Safe'	pm
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Y5 Swimming	am

### Communication

As we move to eco-friendlier, paperless system, we will be increasingly corresponding via email. Please make sure that you check your emails regularly to keep up-to-date. Please only call the school office for clarification, if you have checked all correspondence/website first. Although we do send texts, we try to keep these to a minimum, as they are expensive to send. Thank you for your co-operation.

### Mission Statement

Mrs M. Elliott – Head Teacher



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