

SS John & Monica's Catholic Primary School – Bulletin 3

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Friday 9th October 2020

Term	Start	Half Term	Reopens	Term Ends
Autumn 2020		Fri 23rd Oct Training Day School Closed	Mon 2nd Nov	Fri 18 th Dec – 2pm
Spring 2020	Mon 4th Jan Training Day – School Closed. School Opens Tues 5th 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 28th May Training Day School Closed	Mon 7th June	Wed 21st July – 2pm

Covid-19 Update

Masks

Thank you to all those in our school community who are wearing masks on the school site. It is very much appreciated and it is an extra preventative measure in keeping us all safe.

2 Covid Free Weeks

We are delighted that over the past two weeks our school has had no notification from Public Health England or parents of positive test results of children in our school. We still have children and families who are awaiting test results and self-isolating and thank parents for keeping us fully informed. It is clear that we are all working very hard to keep ourselves and each other safe, in what is considered extremely difficult circumstances.

NEU Website

The National Education Union has launched a new website which presents an accurate, accessible and up-to-date information about the Covid-19 rate in the locality of every school in England <https://www.schoolcovidmap.org.uk/>. The site shows that local rates in the local Moseley and Balsall Heath area are still high.

Thank you

Thank you for the cards, emails and sweet treats we have received recently from parents! Your kind words and thoughtful messages have really helped the staff during this stressful and challenging time.

Staffing

I am delighted to report that the governors of SS John and Monica School and the Archdiocese of Birmingham have successfully appointed a Deputy Head Teacher to our school. Mr Ullah, who many of you already know very well, has been appointed to the role of permanent Deputy Head with immediate effect. I know you will join me in wishing him all the very best in his role.



PARENTS
CONSULTATIONS

Parent Consultations

To comply with Covid restrictions, Parent Consultations this term will be via telephone throughout Week Beg 19th October. Appointments will be ten minutes apart and these can be booked by clicking on the link that you received via text. The dates are as follows:

Monday 19th October - Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4
Tuesday 20th October - Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4
Wednesday 21st October - Y5, Y6, Rec
Thursday 22nd October - Y5, Y6, Rec

A termly overview report will be sent home with your child on Friday 16th Oct.

School Fund

Thank you to all families who have contributed to our annual school and building fund. Total contributed so far is: £300.00 School Fund, £235 Building Fund. This goes a long way in purchasing those additional resources our children need in school. Last year, among other things, school funds raised went towards the purchase of new interactive smart boards in all classrooms. Since the pandemic, we have spent over £6,000 in adapting our school to be Covid safe. This money is not additional money from the government, but has come out of the school's usual budget share. It covers costs such as additional hand sanitisers, PPE equipment, cleaning products, additional cleaning hours and staffing. By the end of this term, this will rise to at least £10,000, so every contribution, however small, helps. Thank you again.



Attendance

Our attendance remains high, in spite of concerns from some families regarding sending their children back to school in the current pandemic. Although the local authority recognises and sympathises with parents with regards to these concerns, their message remains the same – all children should be back in school. If parents wish to 'Home Educate' their children, they must inform the school, who will refer them to the LA Home Education team. At which point, unfortunately, they will be taken off role and their place offered to a child on the waiting list.

If you have any concerns/issues regarding your child's attendance, please speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Communication

Seesaw

Please keep an eye on your child's Seesaw account as class teacher may send messages/updates regarding curriculum issues.

Class Parent Representative - WhatsApp

We recognise the usefulness of parent's WhatsApp groups for each class in passing on information, especially where updates have been missed. For this reason, we are keen to seek a nominated parent from each class to be a Parent Rep. This parent will be the nominated person to liaise with the class teacher, for example if there is confusion around communication sent from school about that specific class (e.g. Homework, PE, Trips, Forest School). We hope this initiative will help with class communication. If you wish to volunteer, please contact the school, via enquiry@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk and your child's class teacher will get in contact with you.

School Policy and Procedures for Issues

School has a policy and protocol for parents when dealing with issues and concerns with regards to your child. The procedure is as follows and is one which parents must follow:

1. **Parents must make contact with the class teacher in the first instance. (Please address emails for the attention of your child's Class Teacher)**
2. **If parents are not happy that the concern/issue has been dealt with effectively, it will then be referred to the phase leader or Deputy Head Teacher**
3. **If parents are still not satisfied that the concern/issue has been dealt with, the Head Teacher will become involved**

Email/Phone Calls

As we are unable to carry out face-to-face meetings with parents, we are all currently relying on communication with class teachers via email or phone. Please be mindful that staff are teaching all day and may not be able to return your call/respond to your email on that particular day. Please be rest assured, staff will answer your query as soon as they can.

We are currently updating our Parent Code of Conduct, in light of an increase in communication via email and phone. Can I remind all parents that the school will not tolerate, and staff will not respond to, any communication via email or phone call that is deemed to be rude, inconsiderate, aggressive in tone, offensive, or unreasonable. If this is the case, the Code of Conduct will be followed and all future communication and responses may be in the form of letter rather than phone call or email.

We are guided by our Mission Statement to Love, Respect, Value and Understand each other. Furthermore, we are all here to work in partnership, as good role models, in the best interests of all our children.

School Office

The school office is closed. Do not bring forgotten items e.g PE Kits, water bottles to the office during the day. Please send them following day with your child. Thank you.

World Mental Health Day

Thank you to everyone who joined in and contributed to World Mental Health Day. A programme of activities was planned throughout the day, including work on emotions and a variety of creative and sensory tasks. The focus of the day was developing mindfulness and the children were all able to practise this important discipline. Thank you to Miss McEvoy for leading on the day.



Catholic Life

- **Saturday Family Mass at 4.00pm– St John and Martin’s Church**

A reminder that Fr Mario, our new parish priest of St John and Martin’s Church, has introduced a weekly Mass for families on a Saturday at 4.00pm. This is a lovely way for the community to come together and be as one.

- **October is the Month of the Holy Rosary:** A recording of the Rosary with Archbishop Bernard is available at the following: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1f5Ujq-KGR4>
- **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>



Black History Month

Black History Month takes place every October. In school, we explore black history, heritage, culture and achievements within each class. Next week, we will be starting the week with a whole school virtual assembly within classrooms. During the week, the children will be covering a variety of lessons and activities to develop their understanding of Black History. They will be producing work which will be showcased at a final virtual feedback assembly on Friday. Keep an eye on our school Tweeter feed:

[@SSJohnMonicas](#) to see some of the activities being covered.

Secondary School Applications

If your child is due to transfer from primary to secondary school in September 2021 you should apply for your child’s secondary school place online at:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1778/apply_for_secondary_school_year_7_place before 31st October 2020.



Community Events

Black History Month

Birmingham’s Black History Month has become an important feature of the city’s event calendar since the mid-1990s. Birmingham holds its diversity dear and the City Council is proud to support the annual Black History Month each October. Throughout October, residents and visitors will be able to take part in various cultural activities which celebrate and explore our black history. Communities are encouraged to engage in Black History Month as a portal for developing lifelong partnerships and friendships and celebrating our black heritage together.

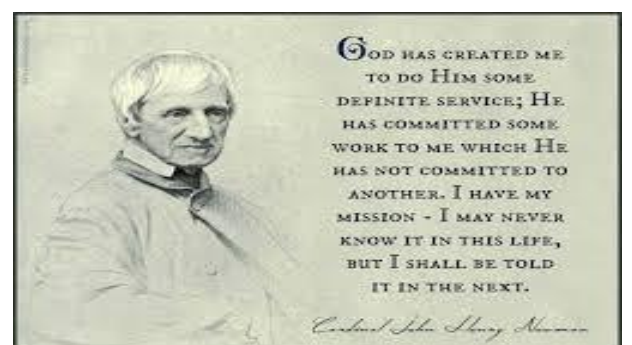
Link: <http://birminghamblackhistorymonth.co.uk>



St John Henry Newman

Today 9th October is the feast Day of St John Henry Newman.

St John Henry Newman, the educationalist and person of faith had a huge commitment to the people of Birmingham, rich and poor who came to him for advice and instruction. He was a deeply spiritual man and when he died the streets of Birmingham were lined with thousands whose lives he had touched and inspired. Today, we are all reminded of his life’s work and of how much he gave himself to others.



Mission Statement



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