



Friday 9th September 2022

Term	Start	Half Term	Reopens	Term Ends
Autumn Term 2022		Mon 24 th – Fri 28 th Oct	Mon 31 st Oct	Fri 16 th Dec (2pm)
Spring Term 2023	Tues 3 rd Jan – Staff Training Day – School Closed Wed 4 th Jan – Children Return	Mon 20 th – Fri 24 th Feb	Mon 27 th Feb	Fri 31 st Mar
Summer Term 2023	Mon 17 th Apr	Mon 29 th May – Fri 2 nd Jun	Mon 5 th Jun	Fri 21 st July (2pm) (Staff Training Mon 24 th & Tues 25 th July)

Staff Training Days 2022 - 2023 – Mon 5th Sept, Fri 21st Oct, Tues 3rd Jan, Mon 24th & Tues 25th July



A very warm welcome back to all our children and families! We are very happy to have our children back in school and our school family together again, after the school summer holidays.

The children have already settled well into their classes and have made a really positive start. Thank you again for ensuring that your children are smart in their labelled school uniforms and ready to learn. We know this promises to be another busy and exciting year!

Queen Elizabeth II

It is with great sadness that we mourn the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Queen Elizabeth was our country's longest serving monarch and we are filled with great sadness to hear of her passing. We are grateful for her life and the service she gave to her country, over her long reign. A remembrance assembly was held this morning for the whole school. The children learned about her life and reign and prayed that she may rest in peace. We also prayed for her family at this sad time. As we are in a period of National mourning, we will be continuing to recognise and mark the work that Queen Elizabeth did, as we remember her life of service.

"We pray for the repose of the soul of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We give thanks for her life of faith and service to God and to the people of this country, the Realms and the Commonwealth."

"We remember all those who in mourn for Her Majesty and especially her family. May they be comforted by the love of the Our Lord Jesus Christ."

"Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen."

Reception Open Day – Thursday 10th November

We are holding our Reception 'Open Day' on Thursday 10th Nov. Prospective parents have an opportunity to visit our school and talk to staff. There are 3 time slots available:

- 9.30 am
- 2.00 pm
- 4.30 pm



Each session will start with an address by the Head Teacher, followed by a tour of the school. If you would like to book a timeslot, please phone the school office on 0121 464 5868 or email enquiry@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk.

School Fund and School Building Maintenance Fund

This year our school funding has been cut substantially again. For this reason, we rely on any extra school fund monies, in order to enhance the learning environment for the children. We ask our families for a voluntary £5.00 (per family) per year contribution towards school fund. This year this money was used to purchase a range of additional school resources. In addition to school fund, we ask our families to contribute a small voluntary donation (£5.00 per family) towards our school maintenance building fund. Last year's funds went towards a variety of school improvements. This year money's will go towards:

- Reward Systems
- Wet Play equipment
- Additional fiction and non-fiction books



Thank you in advance for your support for our school. Payments can be made online via School Money <https://eduspot.co.uk/>.

Secondary School Applications

If your child is due to transfer from primary to secondary school in September 2023, you should apply for your child's secondary school place online at:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1778/secondary_school_year_7_admissions/1
before 31st Oct 2022.

Open Evenings

Details for local Open Evenings are as follows:

- Bishop Challoner Catholic College – Wed 21st Sept
- Queensbridge – Tuesday 20th Sept

Modeshift Bronze Travel Award

We are delighted to have been awarded the Modeshift Stars Silver Award. This is in recognition of what SS John and Monica's has done in the promotion of sustainable and active travel. We thank Miss Geoghegan for all the work she has done in putting the school application together and we look forward to working towards the silver award this year. If you would like to know more about the programme visit:

<https://www.modeshiftstars.org/>



Homework and Reading

Homework, especially reading, continues to be vitally important in achieving expected standards. We ask that you regularly help and encourage your child with their reading, including reading scheme books, library books and e books - myON. Weekly homework will be given out in a range of formats e.g., in exercise books, purchased homework booklets, worksheets or on-line. We ask that you support your child's learning by ensuring homework tasks have been completed. Thank you.

Breakfast Club

Please be informed that there has been a price increase for Breakfast Club to **£3.50 per day**. This is due to the rise in food costs. Thank you.

Uniform Policy

Thank you to all parents who support their children in following our school Uniform Policy.

We are very proud of our school uniform, as it identifies us as being part of our SS John and Monica family. Please visit <https://www.stjonmon.bham.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform> if you are unsure about the governors and school uniform policy.

Children may wear summer uniform until October half term.

Please note, if you are having difficulty accessing school uniform or shoes, speak to your child's class teacher, Mrs Elliott or Mr Ullah. We are here to help.



PE and Sports

As a school, we follow the School Games Value programme, to inspire pupils to be motivated in taking part in school competitive sport (both inside and outside school). This term we are focusing on the value of **Teamwork** and rewarding pupils who are increasingly showing this value, including:

- Pupils who co-operate well with each other.
- Pupils who communicate and support each other.



Nut Free School

As we have several pupils in school who suffer from a severe nut allergy, we would like to remind everyone that our school has a 'no nuts' policy. Pupils with severe allergies, if they come into contact with a nut product, it can suffer life threatening consequences. A reaction can be caused by a simple handshake or by touching a table where nut products have been eaten. The school endeavours to be a nut-free school; this includes sesame seeds. We would ask that parents exercise care and consideration towards the pupils in the school with a nut allergy when planning the contents of lunch boxes. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Attendance for: Week 5th to 9th Sept – Well done to Year 5 – 99.2%

Class	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
% Attendance	N/A	92.9%	94.8%	97.5%	96.4%	99.2%	92.5%
Lates	N/A	3	1	3	2	1	1
Whole School Attendance so far this year				95.6%	School Target		97%

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

Reception: Mrs Riches, Mrs Deacon & Miss Smith	Whole Class
Year 1: Miss Geoghegan & Mrs. Griffiths	Whole Class
Year 2: Miss Millar & Mrs Tutt	Younis
Year 3: Miss Treacy, Mrs Ali, Mrs Zahid	Aria
Year 4: Mrs Litchfield, Mrs Catling, Mrs. Ali, Mrs Zahid	Whole Class
Year 5: Mr Walsh & Mrs Reed	Ibrahim
Year 6: Mrs Gray & Miss Hill	Whole Class
Mr Ullah: Deputy Head Teacher	Ali –Year 6
Mr. Elliott: Headteacher	Whole School

Attendance

Our attendance target for this year is 97%. Last year, our whole school attendance was 94.5%. All schools are judged on their attendance and it is important that we strive as a whole school community to achieve our target. Missed days equal a lot of missed learning time and often it can be very difficult to catch up if knowledge/concepts have been missed.

GREEN	98 – 100% attendance	Excellent! Fantastic attendance
YELLOW	95 – 97% attendance	Good Effort! You are trying hard to be in school ☺
RED	Less than 95% Less than 90% - Classed as persistent Absence	Danger Zone! You are missing a lot of learning time ☹

Holidays in term time must not be booked as they will NOT be authorised. Exceptional leave must be agreed with the Head Teacher in advance.

Exceptional leave is NOT:

- Availability of cheap flights and/or holidays
- Parent/carer work commitments
- Overlap with the beginning or end of term, half term.

Exceptional leave MAY be:

- Significant trauma in the family recently and a holiday will benefit the child – this must be backed up by a doctor's letter
- A one-off, never to be repeated occasion that can only happen at that time, e.g. funeral.

Legal Action

Please find attached the Fast Track whole school letter. **Please note that where parents fail to ensure their child attends school regularly, legal action, including penalty notices, may be considered.**

Punctuality

Punctuality is a life skill and leads to higher achievement and success in the long run.

TYPES OF LATENESS

- 1.Late before register closes:** Your child is a few minutes late – but they have missed the opportunity to say hello to friends. They are likely to feel unsettled and embarrassed as they start morning lessons.
- 2.Late after register closes:** This counts as an unauthorised absence and will show on your child's attendance record. Not only has your child missed the chance to meet with their friends before school, they have missed the start of lessons and could feel unsettled, embarrassed and much less confident than their classmates as the lesson moves on.

SS JOHN AND MONICA'S TOP TIPS FOR GOOD PUNCTUALITY

- ✓ Get to know your child's school timetable – work together to make sure they have everything ready the night before e.g. Homework, Reading Books
- ✓ Get your child into the habit of doing their homework/Reading in the evening – instead of in the morning at the breakfast table.
- ✓ Make sure your child has a good bedtime routine so they get plenty of rest and don't struggle out of bed in the morning – not a bad idea for parents either!
- ✓ Invest in a good, reliable alarm clock – make setting it part of your child's bedtime routine. Leave yourself plenty of time to get ready.
- ✓ Try to ensure your child has a good breakfast to set them up for the day – we have a super breakfast club you could use if you need to be at work early.
- ✓ Have a backup plan for getting your child to school in case something crops up – friends or family, perhaps neighbours who are taking their children to school anyway.
- ✓ Allow lots of time to for your journey.
- ✓ If you are finding it difficult to get your child to school on time, talk to a teacher and ask for help!

If you need any support with your child's attendance or punctuality, please speak to Mrs Elliott or Mr Ullah.

Catholic Life

Catholic School Pupil Profile – Compassionate and Loving

This term we are focusing on the virtues of being **compassionate and loving**. We are reaching our children to grow to be **compassionate** towards others, especially those less fortunate; and **loving** by their actions and forgiving words.



Class Mass

The next Class Mass is Thursday 15th September – Year 6 (24th Sunday of Ordinary Time) and Thursday 22nd Sept – Year 5 (St Matthew – Apostle, Evangelist). Parents of class most welcome.

Wednesday Word

Please find the link for this week's *Wednesday Word* which shares Sundays Gospel with parents and families.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/change?pid=MTA101634&v=4.4>



Parish of SS John and Martin

Please click on the following to access Mass times and the current SS John and Martin parish newsletter.

<http://www.ssjohnandmartin.org.uk/newsletter.htm>



TenTen Parent Newsletter

Please click on the following link for September Parent's Newsletter.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

Education Sunday

This Sunday, 11 September, is Education Sunday. The theme for this year is 'enlightening the mind' and is based on Ephesians 1:17-18. Bishop Marcus Stock, (the Bishop of Leeds and the Chair of the Catholic Education Service) has written an inspiring message for Catholic schools to mark this occasion. In his message Bishop Marcus also gives thanks for those who work in Catholic schools, colleges and universities. A copy of the message is attached.

A Prayer for our Pupils for Education Sunday 11th Sept

For all pupils and students. We pray that they know they are beloved children of God. May they journey through nursery, school, college or university, supporting one another through life's joys and hardships. At the beginning of this academic year, may they be filled with courage and hope to face the new, exciting and challenging experiences ahead of them.

Lord, in your mercy

Skills Builder

Our Skills Builder programme gives our pupils the opportunity to learn the essential skills of: Listening, Speaking, Problem Solving, Creativity, Staying Positive, Aiming High, Leadership, Teamwork.



This half-term we will be focusing on the skill of 'Teamwork' and developing skills such as: Getting on as part of a team, helping my team to make decisions, helping my team to finish a task, resolving and problems my team may face and making useful contributions to my team.

Wear Yellow World Mental Health Day- Monday 10th October 2022

10th October marks World Mental Health Day. We would also like to mark this special occasion by dressing up in yellow, as a way of making a statement to say: We understand about the importance of mental health and we know what we can do to make a difference for ourselves and those who are having mental health difficulties. **We ask for a voluntary contribution (suggestion £2.00) which can be paid via <https://eduspot.co.uk/>** Thank you for supporting this worthy cause.



End of the Day Collection:

**Please Note Reception and Year 1 Parents only may enter via the Reception gate to collect their children. If you have older siblings, please continue to collect via the main playground entrance.
Thank you.**

Mrs. M.Elliott – Head Teacher

Mission Statement



**“At SS John & Monica’s, we learn through the example of Jesus,
to Love, Respect, Understand and Value each other.”**