



Friday 8th September 2017

Term	Start	Half Term	Reopens	Term Ends
Autumn 2017	Tuesday 5 th Sept	Mon 23 rd October	Monday 30 th October	Friday 22 nd Dec -Finish at 2pm
Spring 2018	Tuesday 9 th January	Monday 19 th February	Monday 26 th February	Thursday 29 th March
Summer 2018	Monday 16 th April	Monday 28 th May	Monday 4 th June	Friday 20 th July

Welcome!

Welcome back to school everyone! Thank you for helping your children make a good start to the new school year. The children have certainly grown over the summer and look very smart in their new school uniforms. We are very proud of our uniform as it identifies us within our community. We ask that you adhere to our uniform policy this year (available in our school prospectus on our website) to ensure that we continue to uphold our high standards.

Class Masses

The next school Mass will be celebrated on **Thurs 14th Sept at 9.15am - Y6 (New Beginnings) and Thurs 21st Sept Y5 (St Matthew)**. Parents, friends and parishioners are most welcome to attend.

Parent meetings

It is important that a representative for each child attends our Parent Meetings. To enable a more productive meeting for you and the teachers, we are running a crèche in the forest school for the children to go to with their siblings.

Afterschool Clubs

We have a range of afterschool clubs starting next week organised internally and by external providers. Parents should have received a form to fill in for your child. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, however those on the waiting list will get an opportunity to go to the club next term. Can I request that parents avoid seeing the clubs as child care and only register your child for a club if they really want to go to it. There is no point in pupils having to attend a club they have no interest in – as this affects attitude and behaviour. All clubs will incur a cost of **£3.50 per session**. This slight price increase from last year reflects a rise in staffing costs.

Secondary Transfer packs – URGENT

Y6 pupils will have received their Secondary Transfer letters and information pack before the holidays. The Local authority asks all parents to apply for their child's Y7 school place online at <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/online-admissions> We are happy to offer advice to parents about the process and we shall be holding a session in our Computer Suite on **Thursday 21st September 3.15-4.00pm** to help you complete the form. It would be a good idea for you to have decided on your 5 schools in advance of the sessions as this will save you time.

Swimming lessons for Y5

Y5 will start two weeks of swimming lessons on Monday 25th September. Please ensure the correct kit is sent into school.

Attendance

Our attendance target for this year is 97%. We hope that everyone will work hard to achieve this target. We recognise and celebrate class attendance by displaying which classes have achieved 97% attendance each month. We will also be rewarding children who achieve 100% for the Autumn Term. Our first Attendance Focus Week will be **Monday 18th September to Friday 22nd September**. Pupils who attend on time, every day, will be entered into a prize draw for a reward.

Attendance this week – Well done to Year 1 !

Class	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
% Attendance	N/A	96.6%	92.3%	96%	93%	90.7%	94.7%
Lates	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Whole School Attendance so far this year			93.9%		School Target		97%

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Time
Tuesday 12 th September	Y3 Parents Meeting	3.15pm
Wednesday 13 th September	Y4 Parents Meeting	3.15pm
Thursday 14 th September	Y2 Parents Meeting	3.15pm
Friday 15 th September	Y1 Parents Meeting	3.15pm

Fundraising

We are pleased to announce that we received confirmation that Ss John and Monica School raised the following amounts last year: Father Hudsons Care (Good Shepherd Appeal) - £194.58 and International Book Aid (World Book Day) - £100. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Homework

Reading continues to be a vitally important area that we are all trying to improve this year. Children will receive 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 and we ask that you support your child's learning by ensuring that you check their book bags to see what homework tasks they have been set. Children should get into the habit of completing their weekly homework tasks. Thank you.

Open Evenings Y5/Y6

Please make a note of the following Open Evenings which will be taking place this term:

Bishop Challenor School: Wed 20th Sept 6.00pm

St Thomas Aquinas School: Thurs 14th Sept 6.00pm, Mon 25th Sept 9.15am, Tues 26th Sept 9.15am

Queensbridge School: Mon 25th Sept 6.30pm, Tues 26th 9.30am, Wed 27th 9.30am

Newsletter

From this term we will be sending out our newsletter on a fortnightly basis. Our aim is that we will email all parents a copy of the newsletter (with a few hard copies being available in the Reception area for those who do not have email addresses). If you have not already done so please forward you email address to the school office ASAP. We hope to be up and running before Oct half term at which point newsletters will be sent electronically.

Diary

We will be sending out a calendar of events for this term. This will not be an exhaustive list but is something you may find useful, as it will give you an overview of what's happening this term. Please do not lose it, but stick it up somewhere handy (i.e. on the fridge!) so that you can refer to it throughout the year.

Mrs M.Elliott - Headteacher

Mission Statement



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