St. Philip's
RC Primary School

Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our first half term back at school, I would like to say thank you all for your continued support. It has been a positive and successful start to the school year and it has been wonderful to see the children settling back into their routines, engaging with their learning and making progress.

There are a few important reminders and updates I would like to share with you as we head into the half-term break.

St Philip's Day Talent Show

Wow! What a talented group of children we have at St Philip's! It was wonderful to see so many children sharing their talents, demonstrating their confidence and supporting one another. We had a fabulous afternoon filled with enthusiasm, creativity and some fantastic performances. A huge thank you to every child who took part in both Round One and the final; you should all be incredibly proud of yourselves for having the courage to step forward and showcase your talents. A very big congratulations to our winners! We cannot wait to see what talents next year's St Philip's Has Talent will bring!

Loaves and Fishes - St Philip's Day Donation

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the Loaves and Fishes collection for St Philip's Day. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated and help us to support others within our community. It is great to see our school values being demonstrated through such thoughtful acts of giving.

ParentPay - Outstanding Payments

We currently have a number of outstanding ParentPay payments and I would ask that all accounts are brought up to date before the start of next term. Please remember that ParentPay is not a credit system and any outstanding balances represent debt owed to the school. Ensuring payments are made promptly is essential, as chasing outstanding payments is taking up a significant amount of our office team's time, which could otherwise be spent supporting our children and families. If you are experiencing financial difficulties or are struggling to make payments, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. We will always endeavour to offer support and work with families wherever possible. However, where outstanding debts remain unpaid, we may need to review access to school dinners and extracurricular activities to prevent further debt from accumulating. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Attendance and Punctuality

We have recently seen an increase in requests for absence from school. I would like to remind all parents and carers that regular attendance is essential to ensure children do not miss valuable learning opportunities and can achieve their full potential.

Please find attached our School Attendance Policy, which is shared for your awareness and outlines the school's approach to attendance, including the relevant government legislation and guidance. As Headteacher, I am unable to authorise requests for absence unless they meet the criteria set out in the policy and statutory guidance. All requests will be considered on an individual basis, but submitting a request does not guarantee that the absence will be authorised. All absence request forms must be submitted at least four weeks in advance of the proposed absence. Please make every effort to arrange appointments and family holidays outside of the school term wherever possible. Thank you for your support in ensuring that every child has the best possible opportunity to learn, develop and succeed. attendance-and-punctuality-policy-1.pdf

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When Should I Keep My Child Off School?

We have noticed that some children are being kept at home due to minor illnesses, such as runny noses and sore throats. While we understand that children can become unwell, these symptoms alone do not always mean that they need to remain at home. Please refer to the attached guidance on when to keep your child off school to help you make an informed decision. If your child is well enough to attend and participate in school activities, we encourage them to come to school. However, if your child is genuinely unwell, has a high temperature or is unable to manage the school day, they should remain at home until they are well enough to return. Please always follow the relevant health guidance – I have attached the link for your information. Is my child too ill for school? - NHS Your support in maintaining good attendance makes a real difference to your child's learning and development.

A Successful School Disco

A huge thank you to our PTA for their fantastic support in making our autumn school disco such a success! It was lovely to see the children enjoying themselves, spending time with their friends and making happy memories. Events like these would not be possible without the continued support of our wonderful school community and we really appreciate everything our PTA does for the school.

Reading at Home

It has been pleasing to see an increase in the number of children reading regularly. Thank you to everyone who is supporting reading at home. It is so important that this continues throughout the year as regular reading helps children to develop their vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and confidence. Please continue to listen to your child read, share books together and encourage them to read as often as possible. Our Borrow Box is available in school, allowing children to borrow a book from the class library to enjoy at home. This is a lovely opportunity to explore different authors, discover new stories and develop a lifelong love of reading. Salford Libraries also host a range of lovely activities for children to enjoy during the half-term holidays

Looking Ahead to Next Half Term

As we head into the half-term break, I hope you all have a safe, happy and restful week. The next half term is always a busy and exciting one as we begin the lead-up to Christmas. Dates for the term ahead are available on the school website. I will be in touch with further information about upcoming events and activities so that you have plenty of time to plan ahead.

Thank you once again for your continued support .I look forward to welcoming everyone back after half term, refreshed and ready for another exciting term.

Have a wonderful half-term break!

Miss McNamara

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