



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 1st March 2019



Dear Parents and Carers...

“Friendships begun in this world will be taken up again, never to be broken off.”

St. Francis de Sales

Dates for your Diary

Monday 4 th March	Y1 Living Eggs Project starts	
Wednesday 6 th March	Ash Wednesday Mass	1.30pm
Tuesday 12 th March	Y2 SATs Parent's Meeting	1.30pm
Thursday 14 th March	Y6 SATs Parent's Meeting	1.30pm
Tuesday 19 th March	St. Joseph's Feast Day Mass & Day of Adoration	
Monday 25 th March	Y1 Mother's INSPIRE workshop	1.30pm
Tuesday 26 th March	Y2 Mother's INSPIRE workshop	1.30pm
Wednesday 27 th March	Y3 Mother's INSPIRE workshop	1.30pm
Thursday 28 th March	Y4 Mother's INSPIRE workshop	1.30pm
Friday 29 th March	Y5 Mother's INSPIRE workshop	1.30pm
Monday 1 st April	Y6 Mother's INSPIRE workshop	1.30pm

Term Dates

Thursday 18 th April	School closes for ONE WEEK * Easter break	1.00pm
Monday 29 th April	Return to school	8.55am
Monday 6 th May	<i>School closed</i> – May Day Bank Holiday	
Friday 17 th May	School closes for TWO WEEK * half-term break	3.15pm
Monday 3 rd June	Return to school	8.55am
Friday 21 st June	<i>School Closed</i> - INSET day	
Friday 12 th July	<i>School Closed</i> - INSET day	
Friday 19 th July	School closes for Summer	1.00pm

- *Please note that our Easter and May holiday dates are different to the City Council dates. We will be having just one week's holiday in April and two weeks in May.*



School Mass

Our School Mass next week takes place on Wednesday at **1.30pm**, for the Holy Day of Ash Wednesday, and will be led by Year 5. You are most welcome and encouraged to come along and join us for this very special day in the church's year. It would be wonderful if more parents and carers could attend Mass especially when your child's class is leading the liturgy. All parents,

carers, family and parishioners are warmly invited

Rock Star Maths

We are using a new times tables program in school called 'Rock Star Maths'. This enables the children to learn their times tables in a fun and exciting way! Every child will be given a log-in over the next few weeks. If your child has had theirs already, please encourage them to log in and practise their times tables at home. The web address is <https://play.trockstars.com/auth/school/student>



International African Week

We have really enjoyed our African Week! The children have enjoyed African food, taken part in African Dance and Drumming workshops and have looked at traditional costumes. They have learned about different African countries, languages and flags. Please talk to your child about what they have learned this week; I am sure that they will be happy to tell you all about it!

SATs Meetings

You will see above that we have arranged two meetings for Parents regarding SATs. There will be a meeting for Y2 parents and carers on Tuesday 12th March at 1.30pm and a meeting for Y6 parents and carers on Thursday 14th March at 1.30pm. This is an important meeting which will be an opportunity for you to find out about the SATS tests and their importance to your child's education. We will show you the sort of work that your children have to do and discuss the ways that you can be more involved in your child's progress. Please put this date in your diary!

School Nurse Drop-ins

If you have any concerns about your child's health or development, the School Nurse is in school every Friday morning and is happy for any parents to drop-in to see her between 8.30 - 9.00am. Just come along, there is no need to make an appointment.



St. Joseph's Mass Times

Weekly Mass at St. Joseph's is on Saturday evening at 6.00pm. St. Joseph's Church can be found on Thimblemill Lane and the telephone number is 0121 327 0235. All families are invited and more than welcome to attend church. I look forward to seeing you there!

Father Stephen

*If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact one of the safeguarding team;
Mrs Treadwell, Miss Price, Mrs Pattinson, Mr Caffrey and Miss Collins.*

Lent

Lent begins next week, with a holy day known as Ash Wednesday, when we go to Mass and receive ashes on our foreheads as a sign of penance, or sorrow for our sins. It is a special day in the church, known as a holy day, when all Christians are supposed to go to church. Ash Wednesday is the first of the 40 days of Lent, which represents firstly the Israelites' journey from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land and also the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His Ministry when He would preach and heal the people. The word '**Lent**' means '*to lengthen*', and is used because Lent is observed in Spring, when the days begin to get longer. Lent is our time to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Easter. Jesus died to free us from sin and to bring us forgiveness, so during Lent, we remember the sacrifice that he made for us. Traditionally, we give something up for Lent, such



as chocolate or sweets, as a small way of representing this sacrifice. The money we save is then given to the poor. In Lent we practise Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. On Ash Wednesday, we do not eat meat.

In days gone by, people would eat very basic food throughout Lent, as it is a time of abstinence, or giving things up. On **Shrove Tuesday**, or **Pancake Day**, they used up all of the rich foods in their house, such as eggs, fat and butter, and made them into pancakes. Traditionally on Shrove Tuesday, people would also go to confession, to prepare themselves for Lent. The name '**Shrove**' comes from the word "*shriven*", which means '*to be forgiven for your sins*'.

At school, we are encouraging the children to do something for Lent, not necessarily to give something up, but to think of a way in which they can act more positively, such as trying to be more patient or to help around the house.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday this week to Orion (Year One), Bethel Y & Adal (Year Two) and Idris (Year Four)



Attendance – week ending 15th February 2019

Well done to Year Two who achieved an amazing **100%** attendance for last week. The full attendance figures are as follows:

Rec	97%	Year One	96%	Year Two	100%	Year Three	99%
Year Four	92%	Year Five	94%	Year Six	99%		

This gives a whole school attendance of 97%

Many thanks,

A. Treadwell

Head Teacher

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