



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Thursday 6th April 2023



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

Dates for your Diary

Monday 24 th April	Return to school	8.45am
Monday 1 st May	SCHOOL CLOSED – May Day bank holiday	
Monday 8 th May	SCHOOL CLOSED – Coronation bank holiday	
Tuesday 9 th – Friday 12 th May	Y6 SATs tests	

A Reflection for Holy Week

Dear Lord,

May I realise afresh today what Your death and resurrection mean for me.

Forgiveness, freedom, and the ability to walk with You through this fallen world into eternity.

May I always find my satisfaction in You and Your willingness to offer Yourself to me.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen



St Joseph's Parish

Mass at St Joseph's Church takes place every Sunday morning at 9.45am. Please do try to attend Mass as often as you can.

End of Term

School finishes today for our two week Easter holiday. We return to school on Monday 24th April at 8.45am

Holy Week Services

These are times of the Holy Week services for St. Joseph's and St. Vincent's parish this year, led by Fr Solomon.

Maundy Thursday	7.00pm	Mass of the Last Supper at St. Vincent's Church.
Good Friday	12.00pm	Good Friday Liturgy at St. Joseph's Church
	3.00pm	Good Friday Liturgy at St. Vincent's Church
Holy Saturday	7.30pm	The Easter Vigil at St. Vincent's Church
Easter Sunday	9.45am	Easter Day Mass at St. Joseph's Church



Weston-Super-Mare trip

We have now booked the coaches for Friday 30th June and everyone who requested places has been allocated a seat.

It is looking as if the cost will be around £17 per seat. Please ensure that you pay a deposit during the first week back after Easter to secure your seats. The balance will need to be paid by Friday 9th June.

Year 6 SATs Week

Year Six SATS will take place during the week of 9th – 12th May. It is VERY IMPORTANT that your child is in school for the whole of this week, and also that they are in on time each day. To help with this, we will provide a free breakfast club for all Y6 children for the duration of the week. Research has shown that a good, healthy breakfast improves brain function and helps children to function better in their lessons! We will send out a letter to Y6 families regarding this after the Easter break.

Y4/5 Football

Just a reminder that the Y4 and 5 football starts on the first day back after school until 4.15pm for those children who returned letters. Please ensure that you have your PE kit in school.



Place2Be Mental Health Support

Place2Be have launched a 'Parenting Smart' site, filled with a number of resources for parents and carers of 4-11 year olds. Their latest articles on supporting healthy gaming habits, developing a child's talent and safe social media for younger children can all be read or watched in under ten minutes. Visit <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/> for more information.

Free@Last Law Clinic

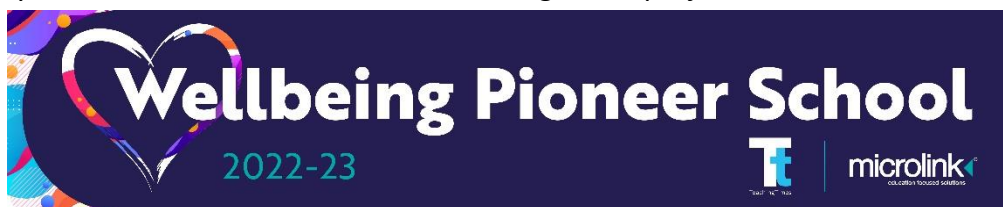
Free@Last is hosting a drop-in law Clinic for anyone who needs advice about money issues or benefits. It runs every Tuesday, between 6pm and 8pm (term time only). Please go along if you would like any advice or support with these issues – you don't need an appointment.

Pastoral Team

In school we have a team of safeguarding DSLs, Wellbeing staff and we also have a Pastoral Team. Our Pastoral Team is made up of myself (Mrs Ashley), Mr Caffrey, Miss Teague, Mrs Pattinson, Mrs West, Mrs Koumi, and Miss Crane.

Wellbeing Pioneers

We are currently taking part in a 'Raising Attainment with Wellbeing' project in school, that focuses on the wellbeing of children and its importance in helping them to achieve well in school. As part of this we have started many new initiatives in school, including our Wellbeing Champions, who are currently developing a new anti-bullying strategy, our lunchtime board games clubs and a staff wellbeing team. The aim of this project is to raise the profile of good mental health across the school and to support in helping positive experiences during the school day. I am proud to say that we have now been named a 'Wellbeing Pioneer School' and awarded a quality mark for this. As we continue through this project and look at further improving the wellbeing of our children, staff and families, we hope to share lots more exciting initiatives with you.



Free Thinktank Entry for B7 residents

Attached with your newsletter today is a leaflet giving information about free entry to Thinktank for all residents of B7 postcodes on weekdays (including school holidays). You just need to take along proof of address when you visit.

*This half-term's virtues are: Learned & Wise
If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact one of the safeguarding team;
Mrs Ashley, Mrs Pattinson, Mr Caffrey and Mrs West*

This Week's News

This week, the whole school have been gathering together to revisit the events of Holy Week.

On Monday Reception and KS1 reminded us of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The children made palms to wave, sang a song about and led us in a Palm Sunday procession around school. It was a joyous occasion!

On Tuesday, Years 3 and 4 reminded us of the events that took place at the Last Supper. The children re-enacted the story, read out readings and sang relevant hymns.

On Wednesday, Years 5 and 6 reminded us of the events of Jesus' passion and death. They led us through the Stations of the Cross, by reading scripture, re-enacting some of the scenes and singing relevant hymns. This was a very sombre and moving occasion.

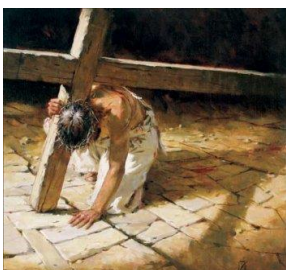
Holy Week/Easter

Today is Holy or Maundy Thursday, which marks the second special day in Holy Week, the most important week in the Church year. Holy Week is the week leading up to Jesus' death, and resurrection on Easter Day. There are five special days in Holy Week on which Christians go to church; Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. These days remember special events in the Easter story.

Maundy Thursday is the day on which Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples. It was the Jewish feast of Passover, and Jesus broke bread and shared wine with the disciples. This is an important event for the church, as it was the first celebration of the Mass, where Jesus told the disciples (and us) 'Do this in memory of me'. Jesus told the disciples that when they did, the bread would become his body and the wine would become his blood; the sacrifice which he was going to make. Jesus also washed the disciples' feet, to show them that he was the 'servant of mankind'. If you go to Mass tonight, you will see Father Solomon washing the feet of people in the congregation to remember this act. Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray on Holy Thursday, and it was here that Judas (one of the disciples) betrayed Jesus by bringing the soldiers to arrest him. At the Maundy Thursday Mass, the Eucharist (communion) is taken from the altar and taken to a side chapel. Everything is removed from the altar in preparation for Good Friday, which is a day of mourning in the church. People sometimes stay after the service to pray, as Jesus asked the disciples to pray with him in the garden.



Good Friday was the day on which Jesus was crucified. Good Friday is a day of mourning in church, and traditionally, people choose to fast or not eat certain food and drink. This is where the tradition of 'Hot Cross Buns' came from, as people would eat these on Good Friday as a simple alternative to other foods, the cross on the bun representing the cross on which Jesus died. We do not have Mass on Good Friday, but we go to a solemn, simple service, which is traditionally held at 3.00pm. This is the time that Jesus is believed to have died. If you go to church on this day, you will see Father Solomon holding the cross for people to kiss. This is called 'veneration', which means to worship, and it is done as a symbol of adoration and honour for Jesus and what he did for us. On Good Friday, Jesus was questioned by the Jews after his arrest, who believed that Jesus was a troublemaker and a sinner, as he claimed to be the Son of God. They wanted Jesus to be punished, but were not allowed to do it themselves, so they handed him over to the Romans. Despite giving the crowd many opportunities to free Jesus, Pilate, who was the Governor of Rome, eventually gave in and sent Jesus to be flogged and crucified. The Gospels tell us that Jesus was mocked and given a purple robe to wear (the colour of Kings and royalty) and a crown of thorns. This is because they said that Jesus claimed to be the King of the Jews. Jesus carried his own cross to the place where he was crucified, known as 'Golgotha' or 'the place of the skull'. After Jesus died and was taken from the cross, he was placed into the tomb.



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On **Holy Saturday**, we celebrate the 'Easter Vigil'. This is the first Mass of Easter. The word vigil means to keep watch and wait, as we are awaiting the resurrection of Jesus, the light of the world. At the Easter Vigil Mass, Fr. Solomon lights a special fire. He blesses the fire and lights the new Paschal Candle from it. The Paschal Candle represents Christ as the light of the world. It is lit every week throughout the season of Easter, up until Pentecost Sunday. It is also lit at special times throughout the year, such as funerals and baptisms. If you go to Mass on this day, you will also see the veils being removed from the statues and crucifixes in the church, and the Eucharist being brought back to the altar. You will also notice that we use the 'Alleluia' again, which you will remember that we buried at the beginning of Lent. This is a time of great joy and celebration; the most important day in the year of the church.



Class Attendance – weekly attendance treats

Every week, the class with the highest attendance are rewarded with a certificate and an extra day during the week to attend our lunchtime 'Board Games' club. At the end of each half term, the class with the most certificates will be given a treat!



Attendance – week ending 6th April 2023

Well done to **Year Four** who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous 96%!! The full attendance figures are as follows:

Rec	93%	Year One	94%	Year Two	92%	Year Three	93%
Year Four	96%	Year Five	92%	Year Six	95%		

This gives a whole school attendance of 94%



Congratulations to the following children who have shone in school over the last week;

Reception	Praise	Super answers in RE :)
Year 1	Damilola	Wonderful RE work this week
Year 2	Whole Class	Their hard work in preparation for our Holy Week assembly
Year 3	Eliab	Wonderful ideas in RE during Holy Week!
Year 4	Lidya	An amazing performance at the Lenten assembly.
Year 5	Samuel	Enthusiasm throughout this week.
Year 6	Betty Y	Fantastic reading in our Stations of the Cross liturgy.

School Term Dates 2022 -2023

Spring Term 2023	Summer Term 2023
Tuesday 3 rd January 2023 to Thursday 16 th February 2023	Monday 24 th April 2023 to Friday 26 th May 2023
HALF TERM	HALF TERM
Monday 27 th February 2023 to Thursday 6 th April 2023	Monday 5 th June 2023 to Friday 21 st July 2023
END OF TERM	END OF YEAR

Teacher Days – Monday 24 th July Tuesday 25 th July
Bank Holidays – Monday 1 st May 2023 Monday 8 th May 2023

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