



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 15th December



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,



This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent, and we light the pink candle on our Advent Wreaths. The pink candle is a symbol of joy, hope and expectation. At the time of Jesus' birth, people were waiting for his coming. They had been told that a Messiah would come, and they were hoping and waiting for the time to come. The third Sunday of advent is also traditionally known as 'Gaudete Sunday'. The word 'Gaudete' is Latin and means 'rejoice!' The theme this week is therefore one of rejoicing that Christmas is very near.

As the feast of Christmas draws closer, we are reminded that Jesus is with us even now, and the Church emphasises the anticipation and joy which should be in our hearts as we come closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus and remembering the true spirit of Christmas. John the Baptist tells people that the one that they have been expecting, the light of the world, is amongst them and that their waiting is almost over. John prepares the way for Jesus through his preaching and baptising. This message also tells us that we should rejoice and have joy in our hearts, as the waiting of advent is almost over.



Philippians 4:4-5 says, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near."

Dates for your Diary

Please take note the change of time for the performances to 2:00pm and Christmas Carols to 2:15pm

Monday 18 th December	Reception, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly Parents	2:00pm
Tuesday 19 th December	Y3 & Y4 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly	2:00pm
Wednesday 20 th December	Y5 & Y6 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly	2:00pm
Thursday 21 st December	Christmas Carol Concert for Parents	2:15pm
Friday 22 nd December	School closes at 1pm for Christmas holidays	1:00pm
Monday 8th January	Teacher Training Day – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS	
Tuesday 9 th January	Return to school	8.55am

Teacher Training Day – Monday 8th January

We will be having a teacher training day in school on Monday 8th January and school will be closed to all children on this day. The children return to school after Christmas on Tuesday 9th January.

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.

Christmas Performances

Our Christmas Performances take place on the following dates:-

Monday 18 th December at 2:00pm	Rec Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly
Tuesday 19 th December at 2:00pm	KS2 Christmas Assembly for Y3 & Y4 Parents



Wednesday 20th December at 2:00pm

KS2 Christmas Assembly for Y5 & Y6 Parents

Please note that the KS2 Performance includes children from Y3, 4, 5 and 6. So if you have children in both Y3/4 and Y5/6 you do not need to come to both performances as they will be the same! It is just one overall KS2 performance performed twice on different days.



The children are working very hard to prepare for these and would be delighted to see their parents and carers in school to watch them perform. Please come along; it makes such a difference to the children when their efforts are well supported.

We will not be able to admit latecomers, this is because of the way the hall is set up, as entering the hall will involve you walking through the stage area. For health and safety reasons, once the performance has begun this will not be possible. **Also, there will be no staff in the office area to admit people once the plays have started, so please bear this in mind and allow enough time to get to school.**

Christmas Waste Collections

Birmingham City Council have asked schools to let parents know that:

There are changes to bin collections over Christmas and new year – please check the revised schedule so you know when to put your bins out over the festive season: birmingham.gov.uk/christmascollections

Winter Warmer Pyjama Day – Advance Warning

On Thursday 18th January the kitchen are holding a ‘Winter Warmer’ day with a special menu so that children who do not normally have school dinners can try a warm dinner for the day. The dinner will be an all-day breakfast – sausages & bacon (with vegetarian alternatives), omelettes, hash browns, beans and tomatoes. If your child usually has a packed lunch and they would like to have a dinner on this day, the cost will be £2.70.

This day will also be ‘Wear Your Pyjamas to School day’. There will be no charge for this and all children (and staff!) can come to school in their pyjamas!



Mini Bazaar at St Joseph’s Church



There will be a Mini Bazaar at St Joseph’s Church in the community room/centre on Saturday 16th December from 11am-1pm. Come along and enjoy some mince pies, Hot Chocolate, Raffle, toys etc. Please note they will only be accepting cash.

Ten:Ten Collective Worship

Below is a link a link to the Parent Newsletter from our Ten:Ten collective worship subscription:

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



This half-term virtues are: Attentive & Discerning

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Living Streets Wow Walk to school project



We have some good news to share with you! We are currently the most active school in the Living Streets Wow Walk to school project in the whole of Birmingham and 9th most active out of all the schools involved nationally! Congratulations, this is such a great achievement for our school!

Parent Consultation



You should have received a letter this week informing you that from September 2024 it will be a requirement from the DFE for all schools to be open for 6.5 hours each day. To meet this requirement we will need to add an extra 10 minutes to our school day. Please could you consider the two options highlighted in the letter on how you would like this 10 minutes to be added and return the form to school if you have not already done so. Thank you.

After-school Clubs

There will be no after-school clubs during the first week back after the Christmas holiday. Clubs available for the Spring Term will be confirmed when we come back.



New school website

We are currently having a new school website built through the MAC. This is estimated to be going live on the 18th December, but we will keep you up to date with developments on this.

Y6 SATS – May 2024

It may seem a long way away but just an advance warning that the Year 6 SATs tests will be taking place next May from Monday 13th May until Friday 17th May. It is important that your child is in school every day of this week for the tests.

Free Online Children's Emotional Health Resources for Parents and Carers

As part of our school's commitment to supporting mental health for your children, we are part of an emotional health resources hub. Parents and Carers can access a range of online support to better understand children's emotional health, brain development and wellbeing. You can find these resources at

www.inourplace.co.uk



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Family Support Service - Father Hudson's Care



Father Hudson's Family Support Worker Zoe works to provide a service to our school. Just a few of the services provided are as follows: individual work with children, supporting parents and carers, Home visits, parenting support, building children's confidence and self-esteem, bereavement and separation support, help to access debt relief and welfare benefits, assistance with specialist services, such as housing, domestic violence, drug and alcohol, health and social care, help with food bank referrals and much more. To find out about their services you can speak with Zoe who has a drop-in session in the library on Thursday mornings.

Important Measles/MMR Update from Birmingham Public Health

Measles cases have been confirmed locally in Birmingham. Measles outbreaks can happen when not enough children have been vaccinated. Education settings are asked to pass the below information to parents and encourage them to check that their child has been vaccinated. Parents can check the personal child health record (the Red Book) or if this doesn't help, speak to their GP surgery. Parents can contact their GP surgery to catch their child up, at any age, or indeed, for themselves.

Measles is highly infectious (it can spread easily from person to person). While most people recover completely within a couple of weeks, measles can cause serious illness and in rare cases it can be fatal. Vaccination with two doses of MMR is the only way to give people maximum protection.

The first signs of measles are:

high temperature, runny or blocked nose, sneezing, cough, red, sore, watery eyes, rash usually appears a few days after cold-like symptoms (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body) Measles can cause complications, especially in certain at-risk groups that include babies and small children, pregnant women and people with weak immunity.

If your child has not received two doses of MMR vaccination as part of their childhood immunisation programme, you should take up the offer of the MMR vaccine for your child now. If you are not sure if your child needs an MMR vaccine, you can contact your GP to check. The MMR vaccination is the best way to protect against measles as it is effective, safe and free of charge.

The vaccine provides effective protection against three diseases – measles, mumps and rubella. The first dose of MMR is given soon after the first birthday. A second dose is normally given before school entry. However, you can have the MMR vaccine at any age. If either you or your child are not fully protected against measles (two doses of MMR), you can contact your GP surgery to arrange vaccination. It is never too late to get vaccinated. Two doses of MMR are required to produce satisfactory protection against measles, mumps and rubella. If your family avoids pork, a MMR vaccine is available that does not contain any pork products.

This is especially important when measles is circulating because any child or adult who has not had at least one dose of MMR and comes into contact with a person with measles will have to be excluded from nursery, school or work for 21 days and stay at home.

If your child develops symptoms, you should contact your GP. You must contact the surgery by telephone before visiting and tell the reception staff that you think that your child may have measles and not attend the surgery unless you are asked to. The doctor will make special arrangements to see your child so that, if they have measles, they won't pass it to others.



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People with measles will remain infectious, and so be able to pass on the disease to others for 4 days after the start of the rash. Therefore, it is important that anyone with measles stays away from nursery, school, group activities, gatherings or anywhere with people outside of the household during that time.

Further information on the MMR vaccine can be found on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>



Starting School - Reception 2024

If you have a child that was born between 01-09-2019 and 31-08-2020, online application is now open on the Birmingham City Council website for Reception school places for September 2024. Preferences for school places must be submitted to the city council by **15th January 2024**. Please ensure that you have applied for places by then.

This Week's News



We had a fabulous time at our school/parish Christmas Bazaar!



PIC-COLLAGE



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In Reception, we were using our cutting skills to make paper chains to decorate our classroom.

We have also had a beautiful Advent prayer service, during which we have shared our own written prayers for this special season.



Year Six have been working really hard on their textiles project in DT. They worked hard in their pairs to assemble their waistcoat together by using the running stitch.



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Attendance – week ending 15th December 2023

Well done to **Year One** who once again had the best attendance this week with a fabulous **99.5%**! The full attendance figures are as follows:

This gives a whole school attendance of **97.7%**

Reception	98.7%	Year One	99.5%	Year Two	97.8%	Year Three	97.1%
Year Four	98.1%	Year Five	97.18%	Year Six	96.2%		



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

Reception	Lulya	Always being kind and thoughtful.
Year 1	Kimi	Trying his best with everything this week!
Year 2	Ezekai	For his excellent effort in Maths lessons.
Year 3	Eliana	For her super assessment in writing and effort in Maths this week.
Year 4	Dawud	For always having a mature attitude towards his behaviour and learning.
Year 5	Tian	For always having a smile and positive attitude!
Year 6	Dylan	For his fantastic effort in his poetry performance!

School Term Dates 2023 -2024

Autumn Term 2023	Spring Term 2024	Summer Term 2024
Monday 4 th September 2023 to Friday 27 th October 2023	Tuesday 9 th January 2024 to Friday 9 th February 2024	Monday 15 th April 2024 to Friday 24 th May 2024
HALF TERM	HALF TERM	HALF TERM
Monday 6 th November 2023 to Friday 22 nd December 2023	Tuesday 19 th February 2024 to Thursday 28 th March 2024	Monday 3 rd June 2024 to Friday 19 th July 2024
END OF TERM	END OF TERM	END OF YEAR

<p>Teacher Days – Monday 8th January Monday 22nd July <i>3 tba</i> Monday 19th February – MAC training day</p>
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<p>Bank Holidays – Friday 29th March 2024 Monday 6th May 2024</p>
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