



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 8th December



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,



This Sunday (10th December) is the Second Sunday of Advent, The theme of this Sunday is “preparing the way for the Lord.” When you go to church on Sunday, you will hear about John the Baptist, who was the son of Mary’s Cousin Elizabeth. John also features in the Christmas story, as the baby born to Elizabeth whom Mary went to share her news with after the angel’s visit. You may remember in that story, Elizabeth tells of her baby, John, ‘leaping for joy’ in her womb, when Mary told her the news. John, as an adult, was a preacher and baptised people, and was the first person to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. John and Jesus would have been around the same age, and John was preaching at the time just before Jesus started his public ministry of preaching in Jerusalem and Galilee.

Just as once before he “prepared the way” for the coming of Christ, so today he does the same for us. Our hearts should be open to his voice, as he calls us to repentance, and asks us to make the way straight for the coming of our Lord. The theme of preparing the way for the Lord is very important at this time of year, because in celebrating advent, like John the Baptist, we are preparing for the coming of Jesus.

“A voice of one crying out in the desert. ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” Luke 3:4



🌿 Dates for your Diary 🌿

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

Wednesday 13 th December	Sacrament of Reconciliation for Y4, 5 & 6 in school	
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day	
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 teacher training in school on Monday 8th January and school will be closed to all children on this day. We 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 20 th 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.**

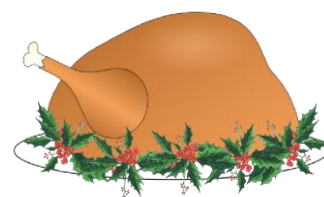
Christmas Dinner – NEXT Thursday 14th December

Our School Christmas Dinner will take place on Thursday 14th December. The menu is

- ★ Roast Turkey/ Chicken / Quorn/ Tempura Fish
- ★ Yorkshire Pudding, Stuffing balls & Pigs in Blankets
- ★ Mashed / Roast potatoes
- ★ Sprouts / Carrot & Swede batons / Roast parsnips/Gravy

Followed by

- * Arctic roll/ Mince Pies/ Christmas Hedgehogs/ Custard



Children who have dinners normally in school will get Christmas dinner anyway, but **if your child usually has a packed lunch** and you would like your child to have a dinner on this day, please send in the payment of £2.70 in an envelope with your child's name and class on it by Friday 8th December.

Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day – Thursday 14th December

Thursday 14th December is also 'Wear Your Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day' in school. The cost of this will be £1 per child, and you should come to school dressed in your *craziest* Christmas jumpers!!!



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!



This half-term virtues are: Attentive & Discerning

*If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact one of the safeguarding team;
Mrs Ashley, Mr Caffrey, Mrs Gowen and Mrs West*

Bloomsbury Street Tree Planting - Saturday 9th December 10:30-13:30

Come and join our community planting fun day! Help us plant and welcome new trees on Bloomsbury Street! We will be serving tree themed refreshments, and there will be leafy arts and crafts for all the family! Take part in a creative welcoming ritual, so bring things that make noise, like maracas, whistles and bells.

You will find us next to Bloomsbury Medical Centre (30 Bloomsbury Street, Birmingham B7 5BT). The planting will start outside, moving along Bloomsbury Street, all within walking distance. Please call if you have trouble finding us! Any questions? Contact Katy 07522550526.

engagement@birminghamtreepeople.org.uk



Anti-Social Behaviour Bloomsbury Park

The Community Safety Intervention Officer for the West of Birmingham is in the process of obtaining views on Anti-Social Behaviour in Bloomsbury Park due to concerns around this being highlighted.

We have created a QR code which takes you to a short survey that captures concerns and will help shape our response moving forwards. Alternatively, it can also be accessed via the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/bdGcVHPKSU>

If this can be completed by **14th December 2023** that would be appreciated, we value your involvement with this.

Anti-Social Behaviour Survey West
- Bloomsbury Park



Multi-skills After School Club

Please note that the Multi-Skills After School Club is now finished for this term; there will be none running next week. The last Art Club will be on Tuesday 12th December. Both Clubs will be re-advertised during the first week in the new term for you to put your child's name down. It will be first come first served and payment must be made in full for all the weeks before your child can start.

New school website

We are currently having a new school website built through the MAC. This is estimated to be going live on 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, as late application

This Week's News



In Reception, we are using our Advent Prayer table to find out about preparing for Christmas.

Year One have been having fun with a phonics game.

Year One have also enjoyed taking part in Bike Ability this week!



During science this half term we have been learning about inheritance! The children had an important task today and had to identify the matching offspring, mother and father for our little Miss and Mister Men characters!

Y6 are working very hard on their textiles project in DT. The children are working in pairs to design and make a waistcoat! We can't wait to see the end results.



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Year Three in preparation for Advent, we re-enacted the Annunciation, where Mary was visited by Angel Gabriel, and told she would have a baby, who would be the son of God.

Attendance – week ending 8th December 2023

Well done to **Year Four** who once again had the best attendance this week with a fabulous **100%**! The full attendance figures are as follows:

This gives a whole school attendance of 96%

Reception	89%	Year One	95.7%	Year Two	94.6%	Year Three	94%
Year Four	100%	Year Five	97.2%	Year Six	98.7%		



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

Reception	Alexander	A fantastic first week at our school.
Year 1	Vida	Fantastic knowledge of Advent in RE this week!!
Year 2	Rahma	For fantastic effort learning her nativity
Year 3	Abigail	For her excellent results during assessment week, well done!
Year 4	Ahmed	Trying his best during assessment week.
Year 5	Jessica	For having a really positive week and having a fantastic attitude! Well done!
Year 6	Edom	For always trying your best!

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 3 tba Monday 19th February – MAC training day</p>

<p>Bank Holidays – Friday 29th March 2024 Monday 6th May 2024</p>
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