



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St. Joseph's News

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

*“They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning  
We will remember them.”*

Laurence Binyon

## Dates for your Diary

w/c 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-bullying Week	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-bullying Week Odd Socks Day – <i>bring tins for our Christmas Bazaar</i>	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Non-uniform Day – wear green – <i>bring bottles for our Christmas Bazaar</i>	
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Non-uniform Day – wear blue – <i>bring prepackaged cakes for our Christmas Bazaar</i>	
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	First Holy Communion Commitment Mass	9.45am
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>School closes at 1.45pm</b> School & Parish Christmas Bazaar	<b>1.45pm</b> 2.00pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Sacrament of Reconciliation for Y4, 5 & 6 in school	
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b>School closes at 1pm for Christmas holidays</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>

## School Term Dates 2023 -2024

Autumn Term 2023	Spring Term 2024	Summer Term 2024
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 to Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 to Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 to Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 to Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024 to Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024
<b>END OF TERM</b>	<b>END OF TERM</b>	<b>END OF YEAR</b>

<p><b>Teacher Days –</b> Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July <i>3 tba</i> Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February – MAC training day</p>
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<p><b>Bank Holidays –</b> Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024</p>
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## St Joseph's Church

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.

## Remembrance Day

This Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November is Remembrance Sunday. We remember at this time all who have suffered or lost their lives as a result of war and all who gave their lives for their country.



*Father of all, look with love on all your people, living and departed. On this day we especially ask that you would hold for ever all who have suffered during wars, those who returned scarred by warfare, those who waited anxiously at home, and those who returned wounded, and disillusioned and those who mourned. Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion, those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades, and those who in the aftermath of war, worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world. And as you remember them, remember us, O Lord; grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language, race, and nation will be brought into the unity of Christ's kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Poppies are currently on sale in school. They are available to the children during the day. The suggested donation is 20p per poppy. Please send your child with the correct change. Thank you!

## After-School Clubs

The next round of Afterschool Clubs has started and this is just a reminder for any parents who wish their child to attend. Tuesday Art Club will now be for Years 5/6 and will run for 5 weeks and Thursday Multi-skills will be for Years 3/4 and will run for 4 weeks. You will need to sign up at the office and pay for the full 5 or 6 week's sessions when booking your child's place.

Places will be given on a first-come, first-served basis and will not be held. Bookings is now and the **half-term must be paid in full to reserve your place**. In the event of your child being absent from school on the day of the club, the credit will be rolled over to the next term. No refunds will be given for missing clubs for any other reason, as there were children regularly not attending last year when others were waiting for places.

The cost for the clubs for the half-term is as follows;

Art Club	Y5 & Y6	from Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November (5 sessions)	£15.00
Multi-skills	Y3 & Y4	from Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November (4 sessions)	£12.00

All clubs will finish at 4.15pm and children must be picked up on time by a responsible adult.

## First Holy Communion Commitment Mass



On **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 at 9.45am** the children and their parents are asked to attend a First Holy Communion Commitment Mass at St Joseph's Church, so we can officially start the preparation process. Further meetings will be held throughout the year for parents, so parents can help prepare their children at home to receive these sacraments and we will make you aware of these dates shortly.

### The key dates are as follows:-

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2023	9:45am	First Holy Communion Commitment Mass at St Joseph's Church
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2024	1:30pm	First Reconciliation for Holy Communion for Children & Parents at St Joseph's School
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	12:20pm	Actual Holy Communion at St Joseph's Church

*This half-terms virtues are: Grateful & Generous*

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

## Parents Collective Worship Newsletter

A letter has been attached with this Newsletter about Parents Collective Worship, please click on the following link for further details, the link is also in the attached Newsletter:-

[www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/](http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/)

## Online Safety Newsletter

Also attached to your newsletter today is our monthly Online Safety newsletter.

## ‘Odd Socks’ Day – NEXT Friday 17th November

Next Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, our Wellbeing Champions have arranged a ‘Wear Odd Socks’ day in school as part of our Anti-Bullying week. Please come to school dressed in your usual uniform but wear odd socks for the day! The cost of this is some tins for our Christmas Bazaar.

## Parking Outside School Gates

I have received an email from Councillor Lee Marsham (Labour Councillor for Nechells), asking me to speak with parents regarding **not parking outside the school gates or on zig-zag lines.** Councillor Lee Marsham will be contacting Parking Enforcement and the local police to see if they can do some targeted enforcement.

## St. Joseph’s School & Parish Christmas Bazaar

We are currently planning a Christmas Bazaar to take place on the afternoon of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December with St. Joseph’s Church. There will be lots of lovely and exciting things planned for this (including a visit from Father Christmas) and it would be fantastic to see everyone supporting it. There will also be a sale of toys, sweets, books and brand new designer kitchen ware, at fantastic prices! Further details will follow in the weeks to come, but on this day **school will close at 1.45pm** for you to take your children into the hall and the bazaar will run from 2.00pm until 3.30pm. It would be wonderful to see everyone coming along. Bring your friends and family too!



## Bazaar Donations

If anyone also has any raffle prizes or good quality unwanted gifts that they would like to donate for the bazaar, please could you send them into school. Also, if you have any good quality toys in good, clean condition, we would be very grateful for donations. Thank you!

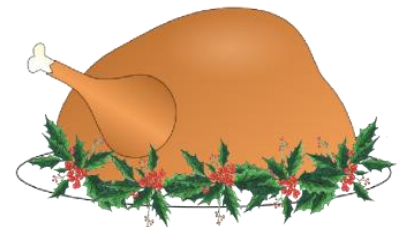
## Christmas Dinner

Our School Christmas Dinner will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> December.

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## Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 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!!!



## 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 **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. Please ensure that you have applied for places by then, as late application



## Measles (MMR) Vaccine Reminder

There has been a recent rise in measles cases across the country. Birmingham and Solihull have low MMR vaccination rates and there is a risk of a measles outbreak this winter. Please read the attached letter regarding this from Birmingham City Council and for further information you can visit:

Measles – NHS (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>)

## Events at the POD

The POD have organised some fabulous events for you to share with your families. Coming up are:

Every Monday	3:45pm – 4:45pm	Fencing
Every Tuesday	9:45am – 10:45am	Stay & Play pre-school children
Every Monday	9:30am – 11:00am	Nurturing ADHD Kids (6 weeks)

\*see further details below.

\*There is a free 6 week course available for any parents and carers of children with ADHD. Those who are on the pathway for assessment would really benefit from it. Join us from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November every Monday for 6 weeks from 9:30am – 11:00 am. For more information Phone: 07311 167485.



## FREE Auditions for Students with NYMT

In partnership with the National Youth Music Theatre, we are able to offer students at Titan Partnership schools a FREE audition (usually £45) to become part of their 2024 company.

The National Youth Music Theatre have workshops, masterclass, and fully staged musicals for students to take part in, all led by working Musical Theatre Professionals. Auditions are open to all students who want to perform as an actor, musician, or to be part of the backstage team. Birmingham Auditions will take place on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024**.

Students will need to complete the online application form and make sure that along with their school name, they also include 'Titan Partnership'.

Students are to ignore the £45 payment request and will need to inform [sean.bates@titan.org.uk](mailto:sean.bates@titan.org.uk) that they have applied so this can be confirmed with the National Youth Music Theatre.



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## Free@Last Warm Space

Free@Last hold a 'Warm Space' session every week, where you can enjoy the warmth of some friendly company, tea, coffee and toast. It runs on a Friday from 10am until 3pm and you can drop in at any time during the day. There is no need to book. Free@Last can be found at 49 Nechells Park Road.

## 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 West, Mrs Koumi, and Miss Crane.

## This Week's News

**Reception Class** have been enjoying the story of The Gingerbread Man. We have been decorating our own Gingerbread boys and girls.



**Reception Class** children are enjoying their new role play area - The Bakery.



**Year One** were learning how to tell the time and were able to show o'clock.



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**Year Three** - In science we carried out an experiment to see if children with a longer femur could jump further than children with shorter femurs.



**Year Six** have started the new term considering what it means to be 'Attentive and Discerning'. They created their own flames to represent how we can be more attentive and discerning in our daily lives.



## Class Attendance – weekly attendance treats

As you know, it is very important that children attend school every day, both for their wellbeing and academic achievement and also to encourage good habits of their future working life. At the end of each half term, the class with the most certificates will be given a treat!



## Attendance – week ending 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Well done to **Year Two** who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous 99%! The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 96%	Year One: 94%	Year Two: 99%	Year Three: 94%
Year Four: 95%	Year Five: 96%	Year Six: 98%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 96%



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

Reception	Flourish	Excellent progress in reading.
Year 1	Naod	Fantastic work in Maths showing different times on a clock 😊
Year 2	Eyole	Fantastic work in Maths solving addition problems.
Year 3	Penelope	For giving 100% effort to everything she does.
Year 4	Deon	For always smiling and having a positive attitude in class.
Year 5	Arsema	For her great prior knowledge in History. Well done!
Year 6	Miheret	For your fantastic responses in RE!

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## November 2023

The feasts of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> along with Remembrance Day on 11<sup>th</sup> November highlight that this is traditionally the month when we remember and pray for the dead and ask God to bring them to their eternal rest in heaven. At the end of the month, we mark the end of the Liturgical Year with the great Solemnity of Christ the King. It's a busy month in the Church calendar and no doubt in the school calendar too!

This newsletter shares a glimpse of some of the prayer and liturgy resources that children will experience at school during this month. We hope you find this resource to be a useful addition to your family prayer time.

A video explaining and celebrating the feasts of All Saints and Holy Souls can be found on the Collective Worship Parent Portal - [www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal](http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal)

# November Assemblies in brief

Here's a look ahead to the Assemblies for the month of November including links to where you can read the Gospels, prayers, and some prompt questions that you might like to explore further with your child/ren.

<h2>Place of Honour</h2> <p>In this week's Gospel, Jesus teaches us the importance of humility explaining that to be great is to be a servant. Through a choosing game, children discover that being humble means putting others before ourselves. True greatness involves putting God first by serving and loving Him and our neighbours through our words and deeds.</p> <p><a href="https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+23%3A1-12&amp;version=NRSVACE">https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+23%3A1-12&amp;version=NRSVACE</a></p>	<p>w/c 6th November</p> <p>"The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted." <b>Matthew 23:12</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Being humble takes the focus away from ourselves and challenges us instead to think about others. You might want to explore with your child ways to be humble by being patient, listening, admitting mistakes and putting others first.</li><li>• You could even make a family star chart with rewards for putting others first!</li></ul>	
<p>w/c 13th November</p> <p>"So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour." <b>Matthew 25:13</b></p>	<h2>Be Ready</h2> <p>In this week's Gospel Jesus reminds us to be ready for His return. Through a modern-day retelling of the parable of the Ten Bridesmaids, this assembly helps children learn that Jesus teaches us that we need to be ready for the unknown time of His return by loving God and loving others.</p> <p><a href="https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A1-13&amp;version=NRSVACE">https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A1-13&amp;version=NRSVACE</a></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read the parable of the Ten Bridesmaids and discuss the idea of preparing and being ready in different contexts e.g. getting ready for school, being prepared for a spelling test. It's easy to put off getting ready until the last minute but the parable tells us that the time to get ready is now!</li></ul>	



- You might want to talk to your child about being ready by exploring ways of showing kindness and care for others.

## Gifts from God

Through an interactive version of the Parable of the Talents, children will learn that God wants them to experience being loved and choose to love Him in return. This assembly helps children to celebrate the precious gifts God has given them.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A14-30+&version=NRSVACE>

w/c 20th November

“Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things; I will trust you with greater.” **Matthew 25:23**

- Read the parable and discuss the three different ways the servants tried to please their master. We all have the chance to be like the first servant – to accept God’s love and do something good with it.
- Ask your child/ren to talk about activities they are good at and/or enjoy and explain that these are gifts from God. Challenge your child/ren to consider ways they can use their gifts to praise God or show love and kindness to others.

w/c 27th November

Jesus said to His disciples: “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, escorted by all the angels, then He will take His seat on His throne of glory. **Matthew 25:31**

## Throne of Glory

This week’s Gospel reminds us that Jesus is the great King of the universe. This assembly reflects on how through His Kingship, He unifies nations, heals His people, defeats the enemy and leads His people to join Him in glory.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A31-46&version=NRSVACE>

- Search for images of Jesus as a king and discuss all the kingly elements such as a crown and splendid robes. You might also like to discuss the role of a king and explain how Jesus leads us, looks after us and unites us all in His love.
- In prayer time, ask your child to think of praise words that they can use to describe Jesus the King. You might want to get them to colour in or illustrate words to pin up in their room.

# Prayer

*'Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power...  
Pray in the Spirit at all times.'  
Ephesians 6:10,18*

There's a time to be still and a time to move! The prayers for the week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> November encourage children to move and exercise their bodies as they pray. Just as it's important to stay fit and healthy by exercising our bodies, children learn that the more that we practise praying and being a loving person, the better we get at it.

Perhaps you'd like to do some of these movement prayers each day. You could even make it into a family prayer workout routine!

## **#1 Worshipping and being grateful to God**

- Say "I love you, Jesus" to yourself.
- Then bend down from the waist and touch your toes.
- Repeat several times.

## **#2 Including Everyone**

- Say "Everyone is welcome" to yourself.
- Then spread your arms out wide and wrap them round yourself as if giving yourself a big hug.
- Repeat several times.

## **#3 Being Giving and Generous**

- With your arms by your side, say "I will be a giving person."
- Then curl your arms into the body and throw them open wide in a gesture of giving.
- Repeat several times.

## **#4 Trying Our Best**

- Say "I will try my best every day."
- Squat down to touch the floor.
- Jump up high and stretch arms up as far as they can go.
- Hold the stretch on tiptoes.

- Repeat several times.

#### **#5 Jesus at the Centre**

- Stand or sit in a relaxed position, with arms to your sides or resting on your knees.
  - Close your eyes.
  - Breathe in and out slowly.
- Say "Thank you, Jesus" to yourself and spend a few moments thinking of Jesus.

Here's a final prayer to end your workout.

**Jesus,  
you are the best at loving.  
Help me to become like you.  
Amen**