



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 16th December 2022



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

"I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the Gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town, and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand, whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself.

I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world. Amen."



Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 3rd January

Return to school

Merry Christmas and Thank you

I would like to thank you all for your support with so many things this term and particularly with our Christmas events. Our fundraising and productions were all so successful because of the support that you gave to them. This is very much appreciated and really helps to make our school a happier place to be! It is so lovely to have the involvement and interest of our parents and carers and it really encourages the children to see their families in school.

On behalf of all the staff and Governors of St. Joseph's, I would like to wish all of you and your families a peaceful, blessed and joyful Christmas, and a very happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all back safely in January.

We return to school on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at 8.55am.

Attendance

In January we will be starting to make referrals to services and issue FAST track letters to families where children are persistently absent from school and have attendance under 90%. Please ensure your child is in school, every day, unless they have a illness which means they cannot attend. Minor coughs, colds etc are not a valid reason for children to stay off school.



Father Christmas' visit to St. Joseph's

Santa has visited St. Joseph's today! All of the children have received a small gift to take home.

After-school Clubs

There will be no after-school clubs during the first week back. Times for after the holiday will be confirmed when we come back. Please note that there will be some changes to days.



School Christmas Carol Concert

Thank you to everyone who attended our Carol Concert yesterday. We had an amazing turn out, much bigger than ever before and it was lovely to see so many parents and carers joining us to start our Christmas celebrations.

St. Joseph's Church Festive Afternoon

St. Joseph's Church are hosting a 'Festive Afternoon' on Saturday 17th December. Come along to the community room in the church between 11am and 1pm and enjoy a hot chocolate, tea, coffee, mince pie, table-top sale and raffle. Everyone is welcome to attend – bring your friends and neighbours!



St. Joseph's Mass Times - Christmas Services at St. Joseph's

I would like to invite all families to our Christmas services at St. Joseph's. It is always a pleasure to see so many of you at Mass and you are all most welcome. The family service on **Christmas Eve** is always very special and popular. This starts at **7.00pm**. Christmas Day Mass will be at 9.45am.

There are also masses at **St. Vincent's** on Christmas Eve at 5pm and 8.20pm, and Christmas Day at 11.30am.

It is important to remember the true meaning of what we celebrate at this time of year, especially for those of us who are Christian or Catholic. The word 'Christmas' means 'the birth of Christ' and that is what should be at the heart of all that we do to celebrate, so it would be wonderful to see the church full for our services! I look forward to seeing you over Christmas.

Father Solomon



Starting School - Reception 2023

If you have a child that was born between 01-09-2018 and 31-08-2019, online application is now open on the Birmingham City Council website for Reception school places for September 2023. Please note that paper applications are no longer available and applications must be submitted via the website. Preferences for school places must be submitted to the city council by **15th January 2023**. Please ensure that you have applied for places by then, as late applications are less likely to get the school of their choice



This half-term's virtues are: Faith-filled & Hopeful

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





Snow!

In the event of any heavy snow over the coming weeks or extreme weather which causes significant disruption, any school closures will be listed on local radio stations, as follows: Free Radio 96.4, Heart FM 100.7 and Radio WM 95.6. If you do not hear our school name or any mention of 'blanket closures', then school is open!! Remember that there are several St Joseph's schools and you must listen out for ours. We will also send a text message out so please ensure that you keep us up-to-date with any changes of contact numbers. Thank you!

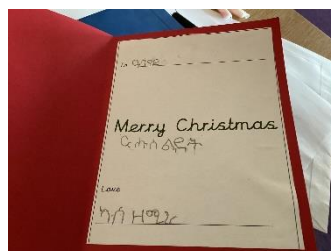
This week's news

This week the elves have been caught on CCTV, having a party in Mrs Ashley's office and eating all the chocolate from the staff room!!! 😊



Let it snow! Do you want to build a snowman? KS2 enjoying their break time in the snow.

Year 1 enjoyed making Christmas cards. They asked their friends in year 5 to help them to write merry Christmas in our home language



Reception have enjoyed lots of lovely Christmas themed activities this week!

All of the children worked so hard to perform wonderful Nativity plays this week. Congratulations to you all for fabulous performances!



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Medical help for children

The NHS have asked us to share the following information regarding how to get medical help for your child over the next few weeks

- **The Children's Hospital Emergency Department is incredibly busy – those who are not seriously ill will face very long waits to be seen and may need to go elsewhere for help.**
- Remember, the Children's Hospital Emergency Department can't help with dental or eye issues. For an eye emergency, please attend the Midland Eye Centre at Dudley Road open 9am-7pm. NHS 111 can help with finding and accessing an Emergency Dentist

There are things you can try before visiting, such as:

- View our 'virtual consultations' to hear our doctors' advice on the most common reasons people come to the Emergency Department. [Click here.](#)
- Visit Healthier Together, a website recommended by our doctors, which has advice and resources for parents and young people. [Click here.](#)
- Visit 111 online (for children aged 5 and over) answer questions about your symptoms on the website and they will tell you what to do next.

Take these simple steps to keep well this winter:

- Wash your hands regularly just like you did during the pandemic
- Get your flu jab and COVID-19 booster

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.



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

Reception	Samuel	Trying hard with his writing, Well done!!
Year 1	Alfie	Super behaviour this week and always being really helpful
Year 2	Whole class	A fabulous nativity performance!
Year 3	All of year 3	An amazing first term, Well done!
Year 4	All of Year 4	An exceptional performance in the Nativity and at the Carol concert.
Year 5	Whole class	An amazing nativity play and singing
Year 6	Ryan	Super reading during Y5 and Y6's Christmas Play!



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