



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St. Joseph's News

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

## Prayer for our World

God of all,  
Open our eyes to see the needs of our brothers and sisters.  
Open our ears to hear your words of hope and compassion.  
Open our mouths to speak up when people are suffering.  
Open our hearts, to reach out in love. Amen.

## Dates for your Diary

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 pre-packaged 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>	<b>1.45pm</b>
	School & Parish Christmas Bazaar	2.00pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Sacrament of Reconciliation for Y4, 5 & 6 in school	

## Christmas Dates for your Diary

Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day	
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly Parents	1.45pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Y3 & Y4 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly	1.45pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Y5 & Y6 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly	1.45pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Carol Concert for Parents	1:45pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b>School closes at 1pm for Christmas holidays</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>

<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Teacher Training Day – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS</b>	
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Return to school	8.55am

## 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
HALF TERM	HALF TERM	HALF TERM
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
END OF TERM	END OF TERM	END OF YEAR

<p><b>Teacher Days –</b> Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 3 tba 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 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.

## 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.



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

## 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.

## Christmas Performances

Our Christmas Performances take place on the following dates:-

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December at 1.45pm	Rec Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly	1.45pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December at 1.45pm	KS2 Christmas Assembly for Y3 & Y4 Parents	1:45pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December at 1.45pm	KS2 Christmas Assembly for Y5 & Y6 Parents	1:45pm

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 already 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.**

*This half-term's virtues are: Attentive & Discerning*

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

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

Our Christmas Bazaar will 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!

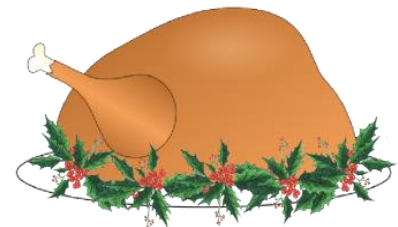
## Christmas Dinner – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

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.



## 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!!!

## Teacher Training Day – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

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



## Winter Warmer Pyjama Day – Advance Warning

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 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!

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# 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



## Feedback from Parents' Evening Questionnaire - October 2023 (results)

Thank you so much to all of the parents who took the time to complete our parental questionnaire in October. The questionnaire was to help us find out your views on the provision delivered by school. It is a valuable tool for us to be able to celebrate what we do well but to also have the data to see the vital areas we can pinpoint for improvement.

Here are the responses from the next three questions....

### Q7: My child is making good progress

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
47%	47%	4.5%	1.5%	
94% positive responses		4.5 % neutral	1.5% negative	

94% of respondents felt that their child was making good progress at school. Only two parents or carers felt negatively about this question, suggesting that those who answered neutrally would maybe benefit from more clarification of how their child is progressing.

### Q8: The school communicates with me effectively about my child's progress

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
47%	43%	7%	3%	
88% positive responses		7% neutral	3% negative	

90% of respondents feel that the school communicate effectively regarding their child's progress.

### Q9: The school communicates with me effectively about how to support my child's learning

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
45%	43%	9%	1.5%	1.5%
87% positive responses		9% neutral	3% negative	

88% of respondents feel that the school communicates effectively on how to support their child's learning.

A few of the comments we have received from parents:-

*"I think this school is a great place for my child"*

*"We as parents are very pleased and happy with the school, and teaching and all the activities conducted in the school"*

*"The staff and the atmosphere is really amazing. Well done to each and everyone"*

*"Keep doing what you do, thanks for educating my child",*

*"I would recommend this school to friends and family", "We are very happy with the management, the school communications and the teachers, Well Done!"*



## 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.

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# Weekly Events at the POD

Every Monday  
Every Tuesday

3:45pm – 4:45pm  
9:45am – 10:45am

Fencing  
Stay & Play pre-school children



## 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 learning about weddings. We had lots of fun role playing.



In RE, **Year Six** have been learning about the powerful signs and symbols in the sacrament of Baptism. During our RE lesson this week, we acted out the Rite of Baptism, pausing at each stage of the Baptism to discuss the importance of the symbols or sign being shown.



**Year One** and **Reception** enjoyed a visit from PC Alex West this week. They learnt about how police keep people safe and really loved going in the police car!

Oh dear, looks like Miss Young is in trouble! Don't worry, PC Alex was just showing us how his handcuffs work.



**Year Two** have been working together to use manipulatives to solve problems including subtraction of 2 two digit numbers. They were able to show how they got their answers!



**Year Three** took part in a tennis session with a coach. We learnt how to hold the racket and pass the ball between each other.

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## Harvest Foodbank Collection

This week, we were able to make our donation to the local food bank. Thank you so much to all of our families for their incredible generosity - it really will make a huge difference! We donated 271kg of food and essential items!!!



## 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 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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

Reception: 98.4%	Year One: 93.7%	Year Two: 95.8%	Year Three: 97.6%
Year Four: 99.2%	Year Five: 98.8%	Year Six: 98.7%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 97.5%



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

Reception	Yosan	Having a really positive attitude to all her work.
Year 1	Elora	Excellent reading aloud during English.
Year 2	Oluwadamilola	Always being so kind
Year 3	All of year 3	Excellent behaviour and attitude on their Stratford trip.
Year 4	Liliana	Using concrete resources to help with her timestables.
Year 5	Aryam	A positive attitude towards everything she's done this week! Well done!
Year 6	Samuel	Your excellent effort in Maths this week!

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