



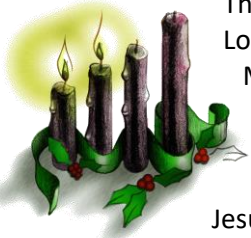
Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 2 December 2022



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,



This Sunday 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.

Christmas Dates for your Diary

Monday 5 th December	Y2/3/4 trip to Millennium Point	£6
Tuesday 6 th December	Y5 / 6 trip to the Old Rep Theatre	£16
Tuesday 6 th December	Reception and Y1 attending Pantomime in school	
Friday 9 th December	Christmas Jumper Day	£1 per child
	School Christmas Dinner	
	Father Christmas’ visit to St. Joseph’s	
Monday 12 th December	Reception, Y1 & Y2 Christmas Assembly	1.45pm
Tuesday 13 th December	Y3 & Y4 Christmas Assembly	1.45pm
Wednesday 14 th December	Y5 & Y6 Christmas Assembly	1.45pm
Thursday 15 th December	End of Term Christmas Mass	9.15am
	Christmas Carol Concert	2.00pm
Friday 16th December	School closes for Christmas holiday	1.00pm

School Term Dates 2022 -2023

Autumn Term 2022	Spring Term 2023	Summer Term 2023
Monday 5 th September 2022 to Friday 21 st October 2022	Tuesday 3 rd January 2023 to Friday 17 th February 2023	Monday 24 th April 2023 to Friday 26 th May 2023
HALF TERM	HALF TERM	HALF TERM
Monday 31 st October 2022 to Friday 16 th December 2022	Monday 27 th February 2023 to Thursday 6 th April 2023	Monday 5 th June 2023 to Friday 21 st July 2023
END OF TERM	END OF TERM	END OF YEAR

Teacher Days - Monday 5th September 2022 / Tuesday 6th September 2022 / Friday 10th February 2022 / Monday 24th July / Tuesday 25th July
+ MAC teacher day - Friday 17th February

Bank Holidays - Monday 1st May 2023 / Monday 8th May 2023

Our teacher days have now been allocated as Friday 10th February, Friday 17th February, Monday 24th July and Tuesday 25th July. School will be closed on those days.

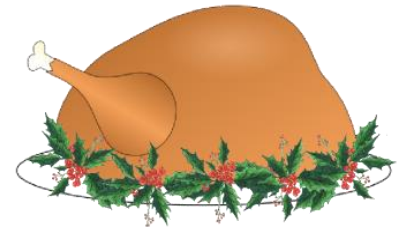
St Joseph's Parish

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 Dinner

Our School Christmas Dinner will take place next Friday 9th December. The menu is

- ★ Roast Turkey/ Beef / 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

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 £2.50 in an envelope with your child's name and class on it by Friday 2nd December.



Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day – NEXT Friday

Next Friday 9th December we are having a '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!!!

Christmas Performances

We are delighted that, for the first time since 2019, we will once again be able to welcome you into school for live performances of our Christmas plays! Our Christmas Performances take place on the following dates

Monday 12 th December at 1.45pm	Rec, Y1 and Y2
Tuesday 13 th December at 1.45pm	Y3 & Y4
Wednesday 14 th December at 1.45pm	Y5 & Y6

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: 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*

Y5 & 6 Christmas Theatre Trip – Tuesday

As you know Years 5 and 6 are going to the Old Rep theatre this coming Tuesday (6th December) to see 'Beauty and the Beast'. The show is a matinee performance and so we will be expecting to arrive back at school by 4.15pm.

Please ensure that a responsible adult is here to meet your child at 4.15pm, as no child will be allowed to travel home alone. If your child is usually collected by the after-school club, please ensure that you have made alternative arrangements for this day. Thank you.

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!



Y6 SATS – May 2023

The Year 6 SATs tests will be taking place next May. This year, they will run from Tuesday 9th May until Friday 12th May. This is due to the extra bank holiday we get on Monday 8th May next year. It is important that your child is in school every day of this week for the tests.

Stay and Play – free@last

free@last run a stay and play session every Friday from 1.30pm for children under 5 at the free@last building, 49 Nechells Park Road. Everyone is welcome to attend – just drop by! This is also a lovely way of meeting other parents with young children and making new friends, especially if you are new to the area.

Help with employment

free@last are also holding a drop in session for anyone who would like help with finding employment. The sessions will run every Tuesday morning, between 9am and 1pm. You can get help and advice with finding jobs, cv writing, interview technique or any aspect of job hunting that you need support with. Please feel free to drop in any Tuesday.

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

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This week's news



Reception have been decorating their salt dough Christmas decorations 🎄🍪



All of the children (especially Y1!) have enjoyed taking part in the Onelife Advent livestream today. They did lots of singing and actions.



Year 2 have been learning about countries, and the capital cities of United Kingdom.

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.

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.

Every week, the class with the highest attendance will be rewarded with a certificate and an extra day during the week to attend our lunchtime 'Board Games' club. At the end of each half term, the class with the most certificates will be given a treat!



Attendance – week ending 2nd December 2022

Well done to **Year Three** who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous 99%!!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Rec	81%	Year One	92%	Year Two	92%	Year Three	99%
Year Four	94%	Year Five	93%	Year Six	97%		

This gives a whole school attendance of 93%

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

Reception	Elora	Excellent progress in Reading and Writing
Year 1	Bitanya	Showing kindness when helping others in class
Year 2	Matthew	Always trying his best and doing extra work at home
Year 3	Jay	A big improvement with his handwriting
Year 4	Sofoniyas	Excellent performance during assessment week
Year 5	Amara	Excellent effort during assessment week
Year 6	Isahak	Super effort in swimming

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