



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 27th October 2023



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

At the end of this half-term, we thank you God for...
 Every prayer we have prayed,
 Every song we have sung,
 All the things we have learned,
 All the laughter and fun.
 Thank you for all the joy you bring
 And our wonderful times together.
 May we walk with you as each new day begins
 This moment and forever
 Amen



Dates for your Diary

Friday 27 th October	School closes for half-term	3.15pm
Monday 6 th November	Return to school	8.55am
Friday 10 th November	Non-uniform Day – wear red – <i>bring sweets/chocolate for Christmas Bazaar</i>	
w/c 13 th November	Anti-bullying Week	
Friday 17 th November	Anti-bullying Week Odd Socks Day – <i>bring tins for our Christmas Bazaar</i>	
Friday 24 th November	Non-uniform Day – wear green – <i>bring bottles for our Christmas Bazaar</i>	
Sunday 3 rd December	First Holy Communion Commitment Mass	9.45am
Friday 8 th December	School closes at 1.45pm School & Parish Christmas Bazaar	1.45pm 2.00pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 13 th December	Sacrament of Reconciliation for Y4, 5 & 6 in school	
Friday 22 nd December	School closes at 1pm for Christmas holidays	1.00pm

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	Monday 8 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	Monday 19 th February 2024 to Thursday 28 th March 2024	Monday 3 rd June 2024 to Monday 22 nd July 2024
END OF TERM	END OF TERM	END OF YEAR

<p>Teacher Days – Monday 4th September Monday 22nd July <i>3 tba</i> Friday 19th February – MAC training day</p>
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<p>Bank Holidays – Friday 29th March 2024 Monday 6th 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.

After-School Clubs

The next round of Afterschool Clubs will start during the first week back after half term and will change over. Tuesday Art Club will now be for Years 5/6 and will run for 6 weeks and Thursday Multi-skills will be for Years 3/4 and will run for 5 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 will open on Monday 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	starts Tuesday 7 th November (6 sessions)	£18.00
Multiskills	Y3 & Y4	starts Thursday 9 th November (5 sessions)	£15.00

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

Goodbye!

Today we are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Pattinson, and we have come together to say a very big thank you for all of her years of dedication, hard work, and love for St. Joseph's. Mrs Pattinson has been here with us at St. Joseph's for over 21 years - some of the parents of children here today were students here themselves during the years she has been here! Twenty-one years of working in one place really is a remarkable achievement and is a testimony to Mrs Pattinson's loyalty and love for our school. During her time with us, she has gone above and beyond to ensure that our children are safe, happy and learning well in class, and that our families are supported and cared for with any need that they may have. She has not just been a 'Learning Mentor' for us, she has been a friend and support in so many different ways, to children, staff and parents and she will be very much missed by everyone. She has always been a wonderful asset to our school family and a much-loved member of staff, and she will be missed very much by staff and children alike. We would like to say a big thank you for all of the kindness and hard work that Mrs Pattinson has given to our school family and wish her all the very best in her new exciting venture!



First Holy Communion Commitment Mass



On **Sunday 3rd 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:-

This half-term's 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*

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

St. Joseph's School & Parish Christmas Bazaar

We are currently planning a Christmas Bazaar to take place on the afternoon of Friday 8th 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

We will be having three non-uniform days during November. Instead of the usual cost of 50p, the cost of taking part in these will be different each week - the first will be donations of packets of sweets or chocolate for our Christmas Bazaar. The second will be donations of tins for our tin stall at the Christmas Bazaar. The third will be donations of bottles for our bottle stall at the Christmas Bazaar (suggested donations could be perfume, shampoo, shower gel, body lotion, pop, wine, spirits, sauce, ketchup etc. Bottles must be sealed and unopened). Further details and reminders will follow closer to the date.

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!

Y6 Secondary Transfer Applications for September 2024

Secondary Transfer preferences for school places must be submitted to the City council by NEXT **Tuesday 31st October 2023**. Please ensure that you have applied for places by then, as late applications are less likely to get the school of their choice. Apply online at <https://eadmissions.birmingham.gov.uk/prefs.php>

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



Remembrance Day – Poppies

Poppies are now on sale in school. They will be available to the children during the day, priced at 50p per poppy. We have been able to get quite a large number of the ever-popular snap bands this year too! They are priced at £1.50 each, and there are also other items available priced between 50p and £1 each. Please send your child with the correct money as change cannot be given. Thank you!



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Measles (MMR) Vaccine Reminder

As half term approaches, this is an ideal time to get up to date with the measles (MMR) vaccination. 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 half-term events for you to share with your families. Coming up are:

Wed 1 st Nov	1pm-3pm	Pacific Countries of the Commonwealth event
Thu 2 nd Nov	1pm-3pm	Tree Walk
Fri 3 rd Nov	1pm-3pm	Asian Countries of the Commonwealth celebration



You can just go along to these events – no need to book!



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.

Updates from the DWP

The DWP have asked us to share the following links, which may be useful to people in receipt of benefits

Thousands of parents on Universal Credit will be supported to increase their chances of getting a job or up their work hours from Wednesday 25th October. Parents of 3 to 12-year-olds will agree with their Work Coach to spend more time in work or applying for jobs, up to a maximum of 30 hours a week. Commitments will be tailored to parents' personal circumstances, including the availability of childcare. [Employment boost for thousands of parents on Universal Credit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/employment-boost-for-thousands-of-parents-on-universal-credit)

Thousands of free and affordable events for families this half

term [[http://Thousands%20of%20free%20and%20affordable%20events%20for%20families%20this%20half%20term%20-%20GOV.UK%20\(www.gov.uk\)](http://Thousands%20of%20free%20and%20affordable%20events%20for%20families%20this%20half%20term%20-%20GOV.UK%20(www.gov.uk))][Thousands of free and affordable events for families this half term - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-free-and-affordable-events-for-families-this-half-term) An interactive map showing thousands of low and no-cost events across the country to help plan your half term activities.

Universal Credit Help to Claim – Just a reminder of the service from Birmingham CAB Help to Claim service can support you in the early stages of your Universal Credit claim, from the application, through to your first payment. [Citizens Advice Birmingham \(bcabs.org.uk\)](https://www.bcab.org.uk)

Princes Trust next Birmingham Explore Programme starts on Wednesday 15th November 2023. **16- to 30-year-olds.** It's a programme which combines **one-to-one support** and **group activities** delivered by a dedicated team from The Prince's Trust. The Explore program is all about personal development and aimed to help you achieve your goals set towards a positive outcome in Training, Education, or Employment. See Flyer and Contact Tim at tim.jaques@princes-trust.org.uk; Mobile: 07534 556859 for further information.

Warm Home Discount Scheme [Warm Home Discount Scheme: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/warm-home-discount-scheme-overview)

Customers receiving information leaflets /letters for **Universal Credit Migration**. Please see information to help support families. [Moving to Universal Credit from other benefits - Citizens Advice](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/moving-to-universal-credit-from-other-benefits) [Universal Credit if you receive a Migration Notice letter - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universal-credit-if-you-receive-a-migration-notice-letter)

Second Cost of Living payment – Help for Households- Payments are due to start [Help for Households - Get government cost of living support](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/help-for-households-get-government-cost-of-living-support)

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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.

Online safety for families and children with SEND

We have put below a website address for you to find information about online safety for families and children with SEND.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-families-children-with-send/?utm_campaign=2672173_NAHT%20News%20-%2018%20October%202023&utm_medium=email&utm_source=National%20Association%20of%20Head%20Teachers&dm_i=3OT7,1L9V1,1GAY2F,5ZZX7,1

Supporting the wellbeing of children

SSS Learning Ltd would like to assist parents and carers with the wellbeing of their children which has never been so important. To assist you in doing this, they have produced two fantastic free parental resources both informative and supportive, please see the links below.

[Child Mental Health & Wellbeing - 10 Top Tips for Parents](#)

[Parents' Mental Health & Wellbeing - 10 Top Tips for Parents](#)

This Week's News



Year Three were having fun making Egyptian scrolls as part of their history topic.



Year Three and Four had so much fun in the Art Club this week!

We were happy to welcome a visitor to our school on Tuesday. Mr Hinton from #greenupyouract. He taught us about food miles and the impact our choice of food can have on our planet. We are all now growing our own micro greens.



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Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed St. Joseph's 'Green Up Your act' day. They had the opportunity to plant pea shoot seeds using coconut husk.

Whose seeds will grow into the tastiest pea shoots?

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 27th October 2023

Well done to **Reception** who had the best attendance this week with an amazing **100%**! The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception:	100%	Year One:	90.6%	Year Two:	99.1%	Year Three:	98.4%
Year Four:	96.3%	Year Five:	98.3%	Year Six:	97%		

This gives a whole school attendance of 97.1%



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

Reception	Camari	Good listening and always being helpful.
Year 1	Matthias	Excellent work in Maths this week.
Year 2	Tega	For settling into Year 2 well!
Year 3	Jin	For his excellent test scores during assessment week.
Year 4	Yostina	For having a mature approach to learning and behaviour this term.
Year 5	Mackenzie	For having a really positive attitude towards everything he does! Well done!
Year 6	Whole Class	For their fantastic behaviour at Whittington Barracks 😊

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