



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 9th June 2023



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 11 th June	First Holy Communion Mass at St. Joseph's Church	12.00pm
Friday 16 th June	Father's Day INSPIRE	
Friday 16 th June	BALANCE OF WESTON TRIP MONEY TO BE PAID	
Tuesday 18 th July	Y6 Leavers' Production/assembly	2.00pm
Wednesday 19 th July	Y6 Leavers' Mass	2.00pm
Friday 21 st July	End of school year – school closes at 1.00pm	1.00pm



Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, bless the children coming forward to receive Holy Communion for the first time. May this day be the step toward a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship. May their hands, extended in anticipation of your body and blood, inspire all of us to cherish this sacred Sacrament.

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.

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion – Sunday 12.00pm

As you may already know, some of our pupils are making their First Holy Communion on Sunday in St. Joseph's Church. First Holy Communion is a very special event in the Catholic faith, and marks the third major step on the children's journey of faith. At First Holy Communion, the children will receive the sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time.

First Holy Communion is a very happy and joyful event. Just like for any celebration, the children share their special day with their family and friends. The children have been preparing to receive their First Holy Communion for a long time, and have been learning all about the Catholic faith and teachings of Jesus, so that they may be ready to become full members of the church. The Celebration Mass for our children's First Holy Communion takes place at 12.00pm on Sunday. Everybody is more than welcome and encouraged to attend and it would be lovely to see lots of people to welcome the children into our faith community



Please keep the children in your prayers over the coming weeks.

Weston-Super-Mare Trip

A reminder that **final balances for your seats must be paid by NEXT Friday 16th June.** Any seats not paid for in full by that date may be reallocated.



Father's Day INSPIRE Workshop

Our Father's Day INSPIRE workshops take place in school next Friday. If you haven't already returned your letters, please ensure that they are back in school on Tuesday morning. **If you have not returned your slip by Tuesday, you will not be able to attend.** There is a choice of two sessions, either morning from 9.0am until 11.00am, or afternoon from 1.15pm – 3.00pm. We will try our best to accommodate you in the session you prefer, however numbers will be limited. Children will only be allowed to take part with a male adult from their own household/family over the age of 18.

Please bring a water bottle for yourself and ensure that your child has theirs in school with them on the day. Please also make sure that you are here at least five minutes before the start of your session. Because of the way that the sessions will be organised into groups, **latecomers will NOT BE ADMITTED.**

Uniform

It has come to our attention that our uniform suppliers Gogna have been providing sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts with printed logos instead of embroidered logos as we usually have. The quality of these logos has not proved to be good as the badges are fading with washing and we do not feel that these are good value for money. We have contacted the supplier to say that we would like them to revert to embroidered logos, however have had no response to this.

I would like to make you aware that you can also purchase our uniform for an online supplier called My Uniform. These jumpers, cardigans and polo shirts are provided with an embroidered logo and are the same price as our current supplier. You can also buy our school bags and PE bags from there along with other items of uniform. You can buy them by visiting <https://myclothing.com/collections/st-josephs-catholic-primary-school-pupil-28658>

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child has their water bottle in school with them every day. It is very warm at the moment, especially in the school building, and we do not have cups in the classrooms for them to use.

Also can I please remind you that ONLY plain water is allowed in bottles. Your child should not have any squash or flavoured water in school.



You may send your child with a sun hat to wear outside while it is warm and you should apply sun cream to them before they come to school. Please do not send them with bottles of sun cream. Thank you!

News from Eco Club

As you know our wonderful Eco Committee have been working very hard to make our school more ecologically friendly and raise awareness of important environmental issues amongst our school family. We are very proud to announce that all of their wonderful efforts and hard work have resulted in us being awarded an Eco-Schools Green Flag Award!

Some of the excellent achievements that the committee giving the award noted were:

- We loved reading about how your Year 5 and 6 Eco-Committee members have taken responsibility for keeping minutes. This shows how you are empowering and supporting your young people to develop brilliant communication skills and fostering a sense of ownership of their work.
- We love the variety of activities that you and your Eco-Committee have included in the Action Plan. This will no doubt support multi-disciplinary skills and shows how integrated environmentalism is in your school. It's brilliant to see that

*This half-term's virtues are: Intentional & Prophetic
If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact one of the safeguarding team;
Mrs Ashley, Mrs Pattinson, Mr Caffrey and Mrs West*

your actions, such as each class looking after a plant and your litter pick, are designed to engage as many pupils across the school as possible.

- You have provided practical and fun curriculum examples, which impressively build on the projects you have worked on in your Action Plan. This is a great way to add context to your Eco-Schools work and means that young people at your school are given the opportunity to learn about important environmental issues and then the chance to work on these issues – a great dual approach.
- Your Eco-Committee have used a wide variety of methods to inform their school community about their work including newsletters, social media, posters and letters to parents, teachers and prominent members of the community, such as your local councillor and MP. This shows they take pride in their achievements and are working hard to involve and educate all around them.
- Your acrostic Eco-Code is an accurate reflection of the ethos your Eco-Committee has created, and you are a wonderful ambassador for the Eco-Schools programme.”



We are so proud of the children for all of their hard work with this and hope that this will continue as we take our Eco-Club into the next academic year.

West Midlands Police

Attached with your newsletter today is a letter from our new Police Sergeant in Nechells, along with some information about a text messaging service where you can communicate directly with them.

Online Safety Newsletter

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

Online Application - Grammar School Entry September 2024 (Y5 children)

Applications are now open online for those children wishing to apply for Grammar School Entry in September 2024. In order to apply for a place at a Grammar School, your child must sit an exam. It is one test which covers all 8 Grammar Schools in Birmingham (For Boys: Bishop Vesey, King Edward VI Aston, King Edward VI Camp Hill, King Edward VI Five Ways and Handsworth Grammar. For Girls: King Edward VI Camp Hill, King Edward VI Five Ways, King Edward VI Handsworth and Sutton Coldfield Grammar). If you are interested in applying for your child to take the test, you must register online by 4pm on Friday 30th June 2023. The test will take place on Saturday 16th September 2023. You can get more information and apply online at <http://www.westmidlandsgrammarschools.co.uk/>

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

Every week, the class with the highest attendance are 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!



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Attendance – week ending 9th June 2023

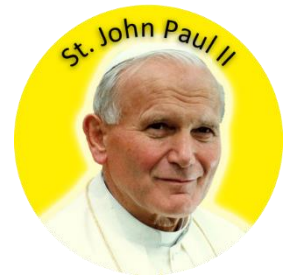
Well done to **Year Six** who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous 99%!! The full attendance figures are as follows:

Rec	96%	Year One	97%	Year Two	98%	Year Three	98%
Year Four	89%	Year Five	97%	Year Six	99%		

This gives a whole school attendance of 96%

House Champions

Well done to St John Paul II who were our House point Champions this week!



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

Reception	Mariam	Trying really hard in her maths work
Year 1	Ariam	Trying extra hard with everything this week
Year 2	Blue Group	Some fantastic English work this week
Year 3	Osazuwa	His excellent effort in maths this week, well done!
Year 4	Amanuel	A beautiful, detailed narrative in Exciting Writing
Year 5	Amera	Excellent understanding of angles
Year 6	Makda	Great participation in class discussions

School Term Dates 2022 -2023

Summer Term 2023
Monday 24 th April 2023 to Friday 26 th May 2023
HALF TERM
Monday 5 th June 2023 to Friday 21 st July 2023
END OF YEAR

Teacher Days – Monday 24 th July Tuesday 25 th July
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Rec Room

Rec Room is available across different platforms and is free to play. It can be played with or without a VR headset. Rec room consists of player created rooms, in which players can play games and interact with others.

Rec Room is rated as 9+ by the App store. For players under 13 years of age, they are assigned a junior account. When creating a junior account, you can also add your own email address, which will allow you to manage your child's password and other settings such as in app purchases. Users with a junior account will not be able to message each other.

You should be aware of the following if your child is playing Rec Room:

- In app purchases: make sure your bank account details are not linked to the device your child is playing on.
- Chat: if your child does not have a junior account then there is a chat facility within Rec Room so there is a risk that your child could communicate with strangers.
- Inappropriate content: your child may come across themes or content that is not appropriate for your child.

Rec Room does have reporting facilities so if your child is playing Rec Room, then please ensure they know how to use them and to talk to a trusted adult if they see anything that concerns them.

You can find out more about Rec Room here:

<https://recroom.com/parents-guide>

Social Media Influencers

What is an Influencer?

An influencer is somebody prominent on a social media platform such as YouTube and Instagram, who have a high number of followers. Influencers share their opinions/ideas and may be paid to advertise/promote products through their account. Whilst there are some great influencers, there are some that choose to share their own opinions, which could be misogynistic or racist for example. These opinions can be expressed or interpreted as fact. It is important to talk to your child about the spread of misinformation online and how we should fact check and critically analyse what we see and hear online.

What we see on social media platforms is influenced by algorithms, which predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with. Whilst there are benefits of algorithms, it can mean that once we start looking at certain content, our social media feed can become more aligned with that opinion, so we don't see a balanced picture. You can find out more here: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/algorithms/>

Further information

The NSPCC have created an article detailing what you need to know about online influencers. You can read it here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-05-16-the-influence-of-influencers/>



Omegle

Omegle have updated their terms and conditions. You must be 18+ to use Omegle. Omegle is a social networking/chat website that **connects two strangers** together for either a text or a video chat. Chats are anonymous unless a user provides this information.



Omegle should not be accessed by children due to the potential imagery shared and language used which can be explicit.

What should I be aware of?

- No registration is required to access Omegle (therefore no age verification) and there are no reporting facilities.
- Users are given an option to save the chat's log and share the link. It is also possible for other users to take screenshots of text and video chats.

You can find out more information from Internet Matters, including imitation apps that you should also be aware of:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/>

JusTalk

Users can use this app to video chat, call and text. There are two versions – JusTalk and JusTalk Kids with both versions having the option to unlock further functions via a premium subscription. **JusTalk is rated as 12+ and JusTalk Kids is rated as 4+ on the App store.** Even though the apps may be rated as age appropriate for your child, there are still risks in using either version, such as in app purchases.

The Ineqe Safeguarding Group provide an overview of JusTalk, including the risks you need to be aware of: <https://ineqe.com/2023/02/08/what-is-the-justalk-app/>

Free Webinar

London Grid for Learning (LgFL) are working with the Early Years Alliance to deliver a 1-hour webinar on Thursday 8th June 10-11am to parents of children aged 0-5 years, about simple steps to take to keep children safe when using online devices. You can find out more at the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-connect-screens-in-the-early-years-tickets-633434709267>

Money Savvy Online



Have you been scammed online?

As scammers become more sophisticated, it's important that we learn about the different approaches that they might use and what to look out for so we can protect ourselves. Barclays have listed some of the most common scams on their website:

<https://www.barclays.co.uk/fraud-and-scams/scams-protection/>

MoneySense from NatWest

NatWest have an area on their website full of useful articles and guidance to support your child and enhance your understanding. Articles include avoiding fraud and online scams, information on digital game currency, the dangers of fraud and do you know what a money mule is?

The site also includes activities to complete with your child to enhance their understanding of money including a 'savings challenge' for ages 5 – 8 and 'money and your mental health' aimed at young adults. You can find this information and lots more here:

<https://natwest.mymoneysense.com/parents/>

What is artificial intelligence (AI)?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity is increasing due to the likes of ChatGPT and more recently, My AI from Snapchat. Internet Matters have created a guide about using AI with your child and lists some popular AI tools that you should be aware of: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/>

In addition, Childnet have produced this blog about Snapchat's My AI: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/snapchats-new-ai-chatbot-and-its-impact-on-young-people/>



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Our Reference:

Date: May 2023

Dear Resident,

I wanted to introduce myself as the new Police Sergeant for the Nechells area. I have always believed it is important that the Police make every effort to communicate with the members of the community they Police, and my time here will be no different. Naturally, I am unable to speak with you all (as much as I would like to) but I hope this letter goes some way in demonstrating my desire for me and my team to provide the best possible service for you.

Although I am new to the area on patrol I have already met some wonderful and public-spirited members of the community. But I know as you read this letter the necessary tasks involved in daily life are calling but I also know we all want a safe and prosperous place to live and work.

It is with this in mind, I have one ask of you...

West Midlands Police have a scheme called WMNOW. In short, WMNOW is a free messaging service that allows me, as your local Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant, to communicate with you more regularly. This may include messaging about the crime trends in certain parts of Nechells or updates on police activity. The great thing with this service is, as a member, you are able to respond to these messages with information or just to speak with us about any concerns you may have.

The more people we are able to encourage to use this service the better! So please share and use the QR code below to sign up.

Kindest Regards,

Police Sergeant Walters.

