



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 24th November 2023



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

God of all, you sent your Son to show us how to live. Help us to listen to the truth and follow Jesus's example in our lives. Christ our King, help us to be like you, to listen to your truth and to see that all people are important, no matter who they are or where they come from. Amen.



Dates for your Diary

Friday 1 st December	Non-uniform Day – wear blue – <i>bring pre-packaged cakes for our Christmas Bazaar</i>	
Friday 1st December 2023	First Holy Communion Parents Meeting	3:20pm
Sunday 3 rd December	First Holy Communion Commitment Mass	9.45am
Friday 8 th December	School closes at 1.45pm	1.45pm
	School & Parish Christmas Bazaar	2.00pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 13 th December	Sacrament of Reconciliation for Y4, 5 & 6 in school	

🌿 Christmas Dates for your Diary 🌿

Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day	
Monday 18 th December	Reception, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly Parents	1.45pm
Tuesday 19 th December	Y3 & Y4 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly	1.45pm
Wednesday 20 th December	Y5 & Y6 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly	1.45pm
Thursday 21 st December	Christmas Carol Concert for Parents	1:45pm
Friday 22 nd December	School closes at 1pm for Christmas holidays	1.00pm
Monday 8th January	Teacher Training Day – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS	
Tuesday 9 th January	Return to school	8.55am

Teacher Training Day – Monday 8th January

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

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 8th January Monday 22nd July <i>3 tba</i> Monday 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 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.

Christ the King/Advent

This Sunday is the feast day of Christ the King. Christ the King Sunday celebrates Jesus as King, Lord and Messiah. It reminds us that Jesus is a King, yet a servant to all. The Feast of Christ the King is also celebrated as National Youth Sunday. It is the last Sunday in the church's liturgical year, and the new church year starts on the following Sunday (3rd December), with the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is the traditional season of spiritual preparation for Christmas. The Christ the King Mass takes place on Sunday at 9.45am in St. Joseph's Church.



First Holy Communion Commitment Mass and Meeting

Next **Sunday 3rd December 2023 at 9.45am** is our First Holy Communion Commitment Mass at St Joseph's Church for parents of children preparing to receive their communion next summer. On FRIDAY 1st December (next Friday) there is also a meeting for all First Holy Communion parents. This will take place at 3.20pm and it is important that all families attend.

Parents Collective Worship Newsletter

Our monthly Collective Worship newsletter is now available for November. You can view this at www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/

'Relationships, Health and Sex Education' (RHSE) and collective worship

This is a link to what we teach for our 'Relationships, Health and Sex Education' (RHSE) and collective worship. <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

You will need a password to log into this site. This will be in the email that your newsletter is attached to.

New Pastoral Support Lead

We have some good news to announce! We have appointed Mrs Gowen, who will be our new Pastoral Family Support Lead replacing Mrs Pattinson. She will be on the gate with Mrs Ashley from next Monday 27th November all week to meet the parents. I am sure you will give her a warm welcome.

Free Online Children's Emotional Health Resources for Parents and Carers

As part of our school's commitment to supporting mental health for your children, we are part of an emotional health resources hub. Parents and Carers can access a range of online support to better understand children's emotional health, brain development and wellbeing. You can find these resources at www.inourplace.co.uk

Family Support Service - Father Hudson's Care

Father Hudson's Family Support Worker Zoe works to provide a service to our school. Just a few of the services provided are as follows: individual work with children, supporting parents and carers, Home visits, parenting support, building children's confidence and self-esteem, bereavement and separation support, help to access debt relief and welfare benefits, assistance with specialist services, such as housing, domestic violence, drug and alcohol, health and social care, help with food bank referrals and much more. To find out about their services you can speak with Zoe who has a drop-in session in the library on Thursday mornings.

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, Mrs Gowen and Mrs West*



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

'Wear Blue' Non-uniform Day - NEXT Friday 1st December

Next Friday 1st December is going to be 'Wear Blue' Non-uniform day in school. Please come to school dressed in blue. Please bring a donation of **pre-packaged** cakes (not cooked at home) for our Christmas Bazaar.



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!

St. Joseph's School & Parish Christmas Bazaar

Our Christmas Bazaar will 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!

Christmas Performances

Our Christmas Performances take place on the following dates:-

Monday 18 th December at 1.45pm	Rec Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly	1.45pm
Tuesday 19 th December at 1.45pm	KS2 Christmas Assembly for Y3 & Y4 Parents	1:45pm
Wednesday 20 th 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 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.**

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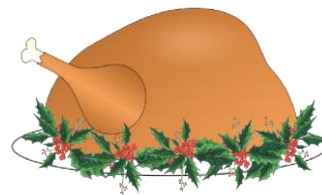
Christmas Dinner – Thursday 14th December

Our School Christmas Dinner will take place on Thursday 14th 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 8th December.



Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day – Thursday 14th December

Thursday 14th 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!!!

Christmas @ The Exchange

Christmas @ The Exchange (Centenary Square, Birmingham) is a festive, family event taking place on **Saturday 16 December** from **10:00-16:00**. The aim of the event is to bring families from disadvantaged backgrounds a range of free activities which are usually out of reach. There will be sensory music classes, storytelling workshops, a festive cinema experience and drop-in craft activities as well as University music students playing your Christmas favourites over lunch time. Lunch will be provided for both adults and children, and children will receive a gift bag of goodies from Father Christmas. The flyer attached to your newsletter gives further information.

Winter Warmer Pyjama Day – Advance Warning

On Thursday 18th 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!

The Big Ambition - National Survey

The Children's Commissioner for England Dame Rachel de Souza has launched **The Big Ambition**, a national survey of children and young people across England. The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England. The Big Ambition survey will be open until Friday 15th December. Children or parents can complete the survey here www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition. Further resources are available at <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-ambition/>

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This Week's News

St. Joseph's have held our annual 'Super Science Day'. All year groups have been focusing on various elements of the Creation story.

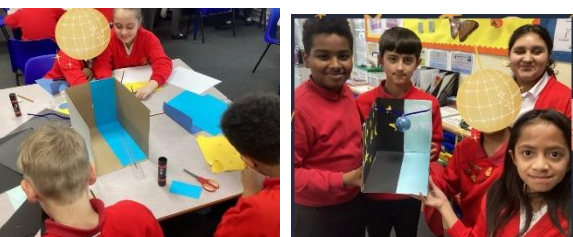
Year Three were learning all about volcanoes and we even made our own, using an old plastic bottle, strips of newspaper and glue.



Reception were very enthusiastic about Super science Day. We learnt about variation, by finding out about how birds differ from each other. We then had fun making pinecone bird feeders for the birds who visit our playground. We learnt about variation, by finding out about how birds differ from each other. We then had fun making pinecone bird feeders for the birds who visit our school grounds



Year One really enjoyed Super Science Day! They learnt all about the human body N "we have the same things inside, but we are all different" S "our brains send messages for our bodies to move"



Year 6 have been learning about time - day and night. We have created our own 3D versions of how day and night come to be.

Attendance – week ending 24th November 2023

Well done to **Reception Class** who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous 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%

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

Reception	Nahom M.	Super progress in reading
Year 1	Mercy	Excellent subtraction work in Maths this week!!! :)
Year 2	Abigail	Trying her best in all lessons
Year 3	Didan	Her super effort in maths this week.
Year 4	Daejarn & Eliab	Representing the school at the Sports Hall Athletics competitions.
Year 5	Esther	Focusing and doing well in lessons – especially English! Well done!
Year 6	Noel	Fantastic knowledge during Science & Geography lessons this week!

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