



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 1st December 2023



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,



This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. The word 'advent' comes from the Latin word 'adventus', which means "arrival". It is the traditional time of spiritual preparation and waiting for the arrival of the coming of Jesus to earth when he was born as a baby at Bethlehem about two thousand years ago.

What is Advent?

Advent is the beginning of the Church's Year and starts four Sundays before Christmas Day (25 December). It is a time of preparation during which we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is also a time when we concentrate on our belief that Christ will come again and how we should prepare ourselves for this. Thus we reflect upon how we live our lives and we seek forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation which enables us to start afresh. Purple is the colour used during this season and the priest's vestments are of this colour.

There are many traditions that form part of Advent and preparation for Christmas. One of these, which we use in school, is the Advent Wreath. The wreath is made of a circle of evergreen branches, which symbolise eternal life, as the circle has no beginning or end. The wreath holds three purple candles and one pink candle, to represent the four Sundays of Advent, and a white candle in the centre. A purple candle is lit on the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent. On the third Sunday we light the pink candle to remind us that we are getting near to Christmas. Purple is a colour that represents waiting and penitence, and is also a 'royal' colour. The white candle (which represents Christ) is lit on Christmas Day.

In school, we have an Advent wreath in each classroom; the candles will be lit each day at prayer time.

Dates for your Diary

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	
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 CLOSURES AT 1.45PM NEXT FRIDAY FOR OUR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Please ensure an adult is here to collect your children on time, as all staff will be going into the bazaar and will not be available to supervise children that have been left past this time.

St. Joseph's School & Parish Christmas Bazaar – NEXT FRIDAY



Our Christmas Bazaar will take place NEXT 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 Needed!

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 – please bring them into school before Wednesday. Thank you!

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 – THIS SUNDAY

This coming **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. All families wishing for their child to receive communion for the first time next June must attend this Mass. Other families are also very welcome and encouraged to come along and share this special day with the children.

Welcome Mrs Gowen

I am sure that you have all had a chance to say hello to Mrs Gowen on the gate this week. She is settling in very well and looking forward to meeting you all properly. On behalf of everyone at St Joseph's I would like to welcome her to our school family and we hope that she will be very happy here.

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.



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*

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.**

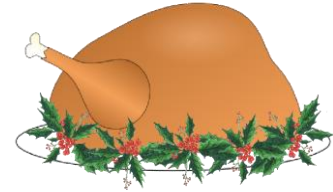
Christmas Dinner – Thursday 14th December

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!!!

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!



New school website

We are currently having a new school website built through the MAC. This is estimated to be going live on 18th December, but we will keep you up to date with developments on this.

Y6 SATS – May 2023

It may seem a long way away but just an advance warning that the Year 6 SATs tests will be taking place next May from Monday 13th May until Friday 17th May. It is important that your child is in school every day of this week for the tests.

Online Safety Newsletter

Attached to your newsletter today is our monthly Online Safety newsletter.

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*

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.



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

This Week’s News

This week, Year Two have been busy designing and creating chairs for Baby Bear in DT. We worked out our design criteria and then got busy creating our chairs. Which one do you like?



Year 1 & Year 2 have been learning all about the local area in geography this half term. To aid our learning we joined Year 1 on a walk around our local area. We were looking out for any features, human or physical, we could see!

Attendance – week ending 1st December 2023

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

Reception	99%	Year One	90%	Year Two	99%	Year Three	98%
Year Four	98%	Year Five	95%	Year Six	96%		

This gives a whole school attendance of 96.5%

This half-terms 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*



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

Reception	Ayo	Showing great enthusiasm for every area of the curriculum.
Year 1	Vida	Fantastic answers in Geography this week :)
Year 2	Maria	Trying really hard in all her lessons!
Year 3	Eliana	Excellent effort in maths this week and always being cheerful.
Year 4	Kayla	Reading beautifully and clearly during Mass
Year 5	Nicola	Brilliant work in maths – especially fractions! Well done!
Year 6	Neveah	Excellent effort in writing this week!

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	Tuesday 9 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	Tuesday 19 th February 2024 to Thursday 28 th March 2024	Monday 3 rd June 2024 to Friday 19 th 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>
--

<p>Bank Holidays – Friday 29th March 2024 Monday 6th May 2024</p>
--

This half-terms 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*