



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St. Joseph's News

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

## Prayer

God of love,  
you bless those people who are poor, who are sad,  
who are hungry and thirsty  
and who are hurt because they stand up for what they believe in.  
Help us to follow in your way.  
Amen.



## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	School Mass	2.00pm
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Y1 & Y2 trip to Cosford	
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>School finishes for half-term</b>	<b>3.15pm</b>
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>School closed – Teacher Training Day</b>	
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	School re-opens	8.45am
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2024	First Reconciliation for Holy Communion for Children & Parents at St Joseph's School	1:30pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 & Y4 trip to Cadbury World	
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Holy Communion at St Joseph's Church	12:20pm

## School Term Dates 2023 -2024

Autumn Term 2023	Spring Term 2024	Summer Term 2024
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 to Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 to Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 to Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 to Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024 to Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024
<b>END OF TERM</b>	<b>END OF TERM</b>	<b>END OF YEAR</b>

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

## First Holy Communion Reconciliation Mass

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024      1:30pm      First Reconciliation for Holy Communion for Children & Parents at St Joseph's School

## Measles Update

The measles outbreak in Birmingham is now getting closer with outbreaks locally. A large proportion of cases are children under the age of 10 and 50% of cases in Birmingham have had to be hospitalised. As we informed you last week **unvaccinated individuals who live in the same household or who come into close contact with a measles case will not be allowed to go to school or work for 21 days**. It is vital that your children are vaccinated for their health, the health of the community and the good of their education.

Follow this link for a description of measles symptoms including pictures

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Please note, individuals who have received one of the two MMR injections can go to school or work even if they are a close contact. However, one injection is only effective in 95% of cases, whereas two doses gives immunity for life. If you or your child is unvaccinated or has only had one MMR injection it's important that you contact your GP and book an appointment.

## Chickenpox

We have a case of Chickenpox in our Y5 class this week. Chickenpox is very contagious and can be dangerous for people who have lowered immunity or are pregnant. Chickenpox spots are very itchy. They look like small blisters and may be quite red in appearance. They may also be filled with a liquid that looks like milky water.

The incubation period for chickenpox is generally around 3 weeks. This means that your child can have the virus in their bodies for 3 weeks before any spots appear. Just before spots come out, they may have a temperature, feel especially tired, have a headache or stomach ache that lasts for one or two days. If you child has any symptoms like this, please be extra vigilant. Some children only get one or two spots.

Please can you check for any rash or spots that your child may develop and if they have any spots, please do not send them into school! Please also bear in mind that even if your child has already had chickenpox, they can still carry the virus and so any younger siblings in other classes will also need to be checked.

## £20 Grocery Vouchers

You should have received a letter this week regarding grocery vouchers that will be given to ALL CHILDREN in school before half term. These will be sent out by email, so it is important that we have an up-to-date email address for you. Please ensure that all completed forms are returned by Wednesday of next week. If we do not have an email address for you, or you have not updated an old one that we hold for you, the voucher will automatically go to whichever address we currently have for you. Once they have been sent it is not possible to resend or reissue them.

We will let you know when we have more information as to when the vouchers will be sent out.

## After-school Clubs

Just a reminder that if your child attends an after-school club you **MUST** ensure that you are here in time to collect them at **4.15pm**. More than two occasions of a child being collected late will mean that your child will not be allowed to attend any more.

*This half-term's virtues are: Compassionate and Loving*

*If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact one of the safeguarding team;  
Mrs Ashley, Mr Caffrey Mrs Gowan, Miss Teague and Mrs West*

## RSPB Garden Birdwatch

The Eco-Committee would like to encourage as many families as possible to take part in the RSPB Garden Birdwatch this weekend. For more information, go to:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

You don't need a garden. Surveys can be undertaken on a balcony or in the local park. It's a good idea to put out some bird food in advance!



### Snow!

In the event of any heavy snow over the coming weeks or extreme weather which causes significant disruption, any school closures will be listed on local radio stations, as follows: Free Radio 96.4, Heart FM 100.7 and Radio WM 95.6. If you do not hear our school name or any mention of 'blanket closures', then school is open!! Remember that there are several St Joseph's schools and you must listen out for ours. We will also send a text message out so please ensure that you keep us up-to-date with any changes of contact numbers. Thank you!

## 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.



**FOOD PANTRY**  
FRIDAY'S  
10AM - 11:30AM

**£3 for up to £20 worth of shopping**

Open to all residents of B7 and regular participants of Nechells POD (I.D is required on your first visit)

Accessible twice a month per household

Nechells POD  
Bringing the Community Together

## The POD Food Pantry

The POD now have a 'Food Pantry' up and running. You can join the Food Pantry scheme and visit twice monthly, where you will be able to purchase £20 worth of food for £3 per visit. It is open to all who live within the B7 postcode or use the POD currently, and you will need to bring ID with you on your first visit. You must register to attend. For more information contact the POD on 0121 681 2173.

## Pastoral Team

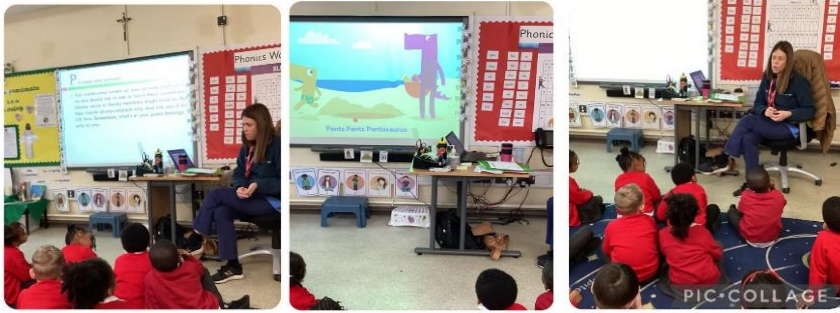
In school we have a team of safeguarding DSLs, Wellbeing staff and we also have a Pastoral Team. Our Pastoral Team is made up of myself (Mrs Ashley), Mr Caffrey, Miss Teague, Mrs West, Mrs Koumi, and Miss Crane.

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## This Week's News



**Reception Class** enjoyed meeting the School Nurse Ruth and learning about the PANTS rule.

**Year 1 and Year 2** have been busy counting birds in our local area as part of the RSPB National Birdwatching month. We spotted Magpies, Starlings, Blackbirds, Wood Pigeons and Seagulls. We will be submitting our data to help the RSPB to see how many birds are in our local area.



**Year 2** have been learning about colour mixing this week and investigated which secondary colours we could make using primary colours.



**Year 2** have been out on a texture hunt in Art. We collected objects that have different textures ready to re-create texture in our work next week using different materials to create a textured effect.



This week in **Art Club**, the children have been exploring different materials, and having so much fun.



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## Lunch-time Award

Mrs Gowan has started a new weekly lunchtime reward system in school. The award is open to all children, and children can earn a reward certificate for good behaviour during lunchtimes. One boy and one girl from each key-stage will be chosen each week and will receive their certificate in assembly and be mentioned in the newsletter.

Our lunchtime award winners for this week are:

### KS1 Award

Yosan - Reception  
Esme - Year 2

### KS2 Award

Buruk - Year 4  
Kayla - Year 4



## 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 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Well done to **Year Six** who had the best attendance once again this week with a fabulous 98.7%! The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 96.2%    Year One: 91.8%    Year Two 94.2%    Year Three: 97.2%  
Year Four: 95%    Year Five: 94.4%    Year Six: 98.7%



This gives a whole school attendance of **95.4%**



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

Reception	Harri	Trying hard with his writing.
Year 1	Kebba	Fantastic composition skills in music this week :)
Year 2	Aisha	Always being polite to everyone!
Year 3	Michael	His super effort in English this week.
Year 4	Margaret	Always being helpful and supportive.
Year 5	Nicola	Having a really positive week and trying hard in all lessons! Well done!
Year 6	YuYan	Your superb piece of writing when using features of a balanced argument!

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