



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 9th February 2024



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

Dear God,

Please help us to be kind, patient and helpful to each other as we prepare to enter the season of Lent. Please help us to use our Lenten journey to grow closer to you.

Amen.



Dates for your Diary

Friday 9th February	School finishes for half-term	3.15pm
Monday 19th February	School closed – Teacher Training Day	
Tuesday 20th February	School re-opens	8.45am
Wednesday 21 st February 2024	First Reconciliation for Holy Communion for Children & Parents at St Joseph's School	1:30pm
Friday 23 rd February	PTA Coffee Morning	9.15am
Thursday 29 th February	Home Start workshop	9.15am
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day Dressing up Day (more info to follow)	
Tuesday 19 th March	Y3 & Y4 trip to Cadbury World	
Wednesday 20 th March	Parents' Evening	2.30pm – 5.30pm
Sunday 9 th 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 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	Tuesday 20 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

Teacher Days –
Monday 22nd July
3 tba
Friday 19th February – MAC training day

Bank Holidays –
Friday 29th March 2024
Monday 6th May 2024



SCHOOL FINISHES FOR HALF TERM TODAY

Just a reminder that school finishes for half term TODAY (Friday 9th February). School will return on Tuesday 20th February at 8:45 am as Monday 19th is a MAC teacher training day.

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 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	Holy Communion at St Joseph's Church

Lent videos - email

We have purchased a series of videos for the season of Lent, for the children to watch on certain days during the season. Some of these days fall during the holidays and so we are sending out the link by email each day for your children to watch at home. You will receive an email on Wednesday 14th (Ash Wednesday) Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February. Each email will contain a different YouTube link for the children to watch on that day. The children do know about these videos, so please encourage them to share and watch them each day.



Happy New Year!

We would like to wish all of our Chinese families a very happy new year! 2024 is the year of the Dragon!

£20 Grocery vouchers

The £20 grocery vouchers that have been provided by the Birmingham City Council Household Support Fund were sent out on Wednesday. They have been sent to the email addresses that you provided on the reply slip of the letter that went out. If your letter was returned later than Wednesday, or if you did not return your letter, the email will have gone to the email address that is held on file for you.

The email with the link for you to redeem your voucher will come from **Sodexo Engage**. If you cannot see this in your inbox, please check your spam and junk folders. It is lovely to see that so many parents have redeemed them already! Please ensure that you do this before 11th March, as you will not be able to redeem them after this date.

After-school Clubs – Spring 2

If your child has been attending either Multiskills for Y3/4 or Art for Y2 over this half-term they will continue to attend after half-term holiday. Clubs will run from Tuesday 20th February until the week ending 22nd March (the week BEFORE we break up). This is a total of 5 weeks/sessions for each club. **Just a reminder you that you will need to pay for the second half term (up until Easter) during the first week back if you have not already done so.** The cost is £15 for both Art and Multiskills. Many thanks!

Also, 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-terms virtues are: Compassionate and Loving

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



Year Three and Year Four Cadbury World Trip

Year Three and Year Four are going on a visit to Cadbury World on Tuesday 19th March. Letters went out about this a few weeks ago – many thanks to all who have already paid for this. Just a reminder that the trip needs to be paid for by Tuesday 11th March.

PTA Meeting and Home Start workshop

You will have received a letter today about a PTA meeting that is taking place on Friday 23rd February and also a Home Start workshop on Thursday 29th February. If you would like to attend either of these events, please complete the slips on the letter and return them to school.

Summer Term trips

We are currently in the process of arranging some end of year trips to take place for **all children** in the second half of the summer term. At present we are looking at Twycross Zoo, and trips are likely to take place during the first two weeks of June. The cost will be around £18 per child - this is being substantially subsidised by school. Letters will go out about this and bookings will open after Easter, however, we wanted to give you as much notice as possible so that you can budget for this. You will be able to pay towards this weekly if you would like to.

ADVANCE WARNING - Book Week/Dressing Up Day- Thursday 7th March

World Book Day takes place in school on 7th March and to celebrate this we are holding a 'Book Week' in school. Children will be encouraged to talk about their favourite authors and books (and maybe bring them into school to share) and will take part in activities and lessons based around books. It is going to be a very exciting week in school, which we are all looking forward to.

Thursday 7th March will also be 'Book Character' dressing up day, where children (and staff!) can come into school dressed as their favourite book character. You will receive a letter about this after the holiday, but remember costumes don't have to cost a lot of money. Why not think about making your own costume? Or using items of clothing you may already have to make a costume.



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.

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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

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 Gowen, Mrs West, Mrs Koumi, and Miss Crane.

This Week's News



This week, Year 6 got stuck into cooking. They measured out their ingredients and made tacos to celebrate the end of their History topic on the Maya civilisation. Gordon Ramsay eat your heart out!!

Reception have been learning about what it is like to be a refugee. We thought about being kind and welcoming to new people in our community.



Year One and Two enjoyed a fabulous trip to RAF Cosford this week learning about flight through the ages...

P "the first plane wasn't very safe, they built the new ones better"

E "lots of different planes were used for things, one plane was for injured people"

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Lunch-time Award

Mrs Gowen has started a new weekly lunchtime reward system in school. The award is open to all children, to earn a reward certificate for good behaviour during lunchtimes. Children 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:

Leonardo – Year Three

Mikael – Year Three

Michelle – Year One

Elizabeth – Reception



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 9th February 2024

Well done to **Year Six** who had the best attendance once again this week with a fabulous 98.1%! The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 95.5% Year One: 98% Year Two 92.7% Year Three: 97.2%
Year Four: 95.4% Year Five: 97.5% Year Six: 98.1%



This gives a whole school attendance of **96.3%**



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

Reception	Bitanya	Always doing her best, with a positive attitude.
Year 1	Davis	Excellent participation in music lessons!
Year 2	Whole Class	Being stars on their Cosford trip!
Year 3	Richard	Sharing his amazing knowledge of the scriptures in the bible
Year 4	Deon	Showing improvement in his sentences
Year 5	Natan	Excellent improvement in maths – well done and keep it up!
Year 6	Divora	Making brilliant progress in Maths this half term! 😊

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