



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St. Joseph's News

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,



This Sunday (15<sup>th</sup> December) is the Third Sunday of Advent. This third week focuses our intention on joy. Joy is a very real and deep happiness that is rooted in faith and trust. In this third week of Advent, we pause and reflect on the first half of the season, as well as look ahead to the last weeks. The joy that we have and will experience during this season magnifies as we continue to prepare for the coming of Christ, who is full of joy.

# JOY

Advent Wreath Prayer for Third Week of Advent - As we draw near to you, Lord God, keep us aware of your presence in all we do. Come with power to enlighten us by your grace, that we may live in praise and joy all our days.

## Christmas Dates for your Diary

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly	2.30pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Rec, Y1 & Y2 North Pole Adventure trip	
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Y3 & Y4 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly	2.30pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Y5 & Y6 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly	2.20pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Carol Concert for Parents	2.30pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>School closes at 1pm for Christmas holidays</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Return to school</b>	8.40am

## School Term Dates 2024 -2025

Autumn Term 2024	Spring Term 2025	Summer Term 2025
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2024 to Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 to Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 to Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
HALF TERM	HALF TERM	HALF TERM
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 to Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 to Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025
END OF TERM	END OF TERM	END OF YEAR

**Teacher Days –**  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 -  
MAC Teacher Day  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025

**Bank Holidays –**  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## Reminder - Last Day of Term – next Friday

Next FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> we break up for our Christmas holidays at **1.00pm**. It is **very important that someone is here to collect your child promptly, as staff will be leaving the site at this time also**. Thank you for your support with this.



## 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.

## After-school Clubs

**All after school clubs have now finished until after the Christmas holiday.** Times for after the holiday will be confirmed next week

## Christmas Performances

**If you are coming to the Christmas plays next week, please make sure you arrive in plenty of time! 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.** Our Christmas Performances take place on the following dates: -

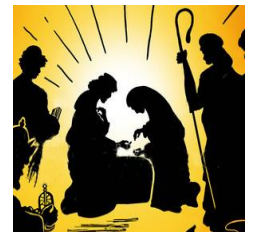


Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm	Rec Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly	2.30pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm	KS2 Christmas Assembly for Y3 & Y4 Parents	2:30pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December at 2:20pm	KS2 Christmas Assembly for Y5 & Y6 Parents	2:20pm

The children are working very hard to prepare for these already 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.

## School Christmas Carol Concert

We are having a special end of term Christmas Carol Service NEXT Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. The service will start at **2.30pm** in school, and will be led by children from different classes. The children have been working really hard at learning their carols and are looking forward to singing for you. All families are welcome to attend this event. It will be a lovely way to start your family Christmas, so please come along and share in this special celebration with us.



## Starting School - Reception 2025 – apply now!

If you have a child that was born between 01-09-2020 and 31-08-2021, online application is now open on the Birmingham City Council website for Reception school places for September 2025. Preferences for school places must be submitted to the city council by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**. Please ensure that you have applied for places by then, as late applications are less likely to get the school of their choice



## 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 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*

## Penalty Notice fines for holidays / poor attendance

Any days of absences that are unauthorised (this also includes 'late after registration' marks where a child arrives after 9.15am) will now count towards number of absences. Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days, or less days if you have had previous unauthorised absence in the 10 weeks prior to the holiday. The fine for unauthorised holiday is now £160 for each parent (reduced to £80 if paid within 28 days) for each child that was absent. For example, if you have 3 children absent for term time leave, this would result in each parent receiving a fine of £480 (reduced to £240 if paid within 28 days).



**Please bear this in mind when you are booking travel arrangements for the school holidays. Any children who are not back in school on time will be fined if they fit into the categories above. Medical absences either side of school holidays will require evidence of illness for them to be authorised.**

## Lunch-time Award

Our weekly lunchtime reward system 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:

Sherice-Maya - Reception    Ruth - Year 1    Aisha - Year 3    Esrom - Year 6

## 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 for 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 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Well done to **Year 6** class who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous **100%**!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 94.1%	Year One: 92.7%	Year Two: 98.4%	Year Three: 97.1%
Year Four: 96.6%	Year Five: 99.3%	Year Six: 100%	

This gives a whole school attendance of **97.2%**



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

Reception	Tashunoa	Trying very hard with her reading.
Year 1	Elizabeth	Excellent reading in whole school Mass 😊
Year 2	Daniel	Settling into his new school really well!
Year 3	Britanya & Zemira	For their amazing solo performances for the Nativity play. 😊
Year 4	Bsrat	For her excellent behaviour on our trip to the theatre.
Year 5	Nathan	Prayer, kindness and respect
Year 6	Esrom	For working and listening well in class!



*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*



## This Week's News

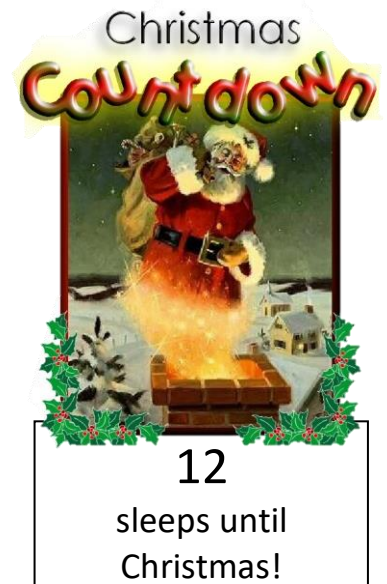


**Year One** and **Year Two** participated in the MAC carol concert, what a lovely way to come together.

**Year Three** enjoyed watching the Advent live stream and we even learnt new sign language.



**Reception** class have been learning about weight. We have been comparing heavier and lighter Christmas decorations.



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