



St. Joseph's News

Friday 10th January 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

Prayer for the beginning of a new school term

Lord, as we prepare for the coming of a new term, make us ready, attentive and available to hear you. Thank You for the gift of being able to rise each day with the assurance that You walk through it with us. Thank You for the gifts of creativity and uniqueness, and the energy to put them to good use. Amen.

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back. The staff and I would like to send our sincere thanks to you for all your cards, good wishes and gifts which we received during the Christmas period. The staff and I were most touched by your kind words and generosity. May the coming year be a good one for you all, filled with the peace and joy that Christ alone brings.



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 15 th January	School Mass led by Y3	2.00pm
Wednesday 22 nd January	Confirmation Mass at St. Joseph's Church	6.00pm
Monday 27 th January	Y4 visit to Singers Hill Synagogue	
Tuesday 28 th January	Y3 visit to the Sikh Gurdwara	
Wednesday 29 th January	Y6 visit to the Islamic Exhibition Centre	
	Rec & Y1 visit to St Joseph's Church	
Thursday 30 th January	Y2 visit to St Joseph's Church	
Friday 7 th February	St Josephine Bakhita house group children ONLY - own clothes day	
Thursday 13 th February	School closes for half term	3.20pm
Friday 14th February	SCHOOL CLOSED – MAC TRAINING DAY	
Monday 24 th February	School reopens	8.40am
Wednesday 26 th February	First holy Communion Parents' meeting	3.00pm
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day dressing up day	
Sunday 9 th March	First Holy Communion commitment mass	9.45am
Wednesday 12 th March	Parents' Evening 2.30pm – 5.30pm	
Tuesday 15 th April	Y3 & Y4 Maundy Thursday Liturgy (pm)	
Wednesday 16 th April	Y5 & Y6 Stations of the cross Liturgy (pm)	
Thursday 17 th April	School closes for ONE WEEK Easter holiday	1.00pm

School Term Dates 2024 -2025

Spring Term 2025	Summer Term 2025
Monday 6 th January 2025 to Thursday 13 th February 2025	Monday 28 th April 2025 to Friday 23 rd May 2025
HALF TERM	HALF TERM
Monday 24 th February 2025 to Thursday 17 th April 2025	Monday 9 th June 2025 to Monday 21 st July 2025
END OF TERM	END OF YEAR

Teacher Days –

Friday 25th October 2024
Friday 14th February 2025 -
MAC Teacher Day
Monday 21st July 2025

Bank Holidays –

Friday 18th April 2025
Monday 5th May 2025

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.

School Mass – every Wednesday

Our next School Mass will take place on Wednesday 15th January at 2pm and will be led by Year 3. The children lead the Liturgy and they work hard to prepare their readings each week. If you have never been to one of our Masses why not come along? You are all welcome to attend and you do not have to be Catholic to come to Mass.

Welcome!

This week we have welcomed Mr Stanley and Mrs Boxwell (we now have two Mrs Boxwells!!!) to school who will be working across the school as teachers in different classes. We hope that they will be very happy here with us at St Joseph's!

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.



After School Club

We still have some places available for our Mini Trampolining After School Club which runs on a Tuesday from 3.20pm to 4.20pm for **Year 1 and Year 2 classes only**. It is based on a first come first served basis and will cost £18, this must be paid in full before your child can start the club. All clubs finish at 4.20pm and children must be collected on time. Clubs are run by outside agencies and their staff leave at this time.

Starting School - Reception 2025 – applications close NEXT Wednesday 15th

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 **15th 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



This half-term's virtues are: Compassionate & Loving

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

Confirmations



As you may know, some of our children in Y5 and Y6 have been preparing to make their Confirmation over the last term. The Mass of Confirmation takes place at 6.00pm on Wednesday 22nd January in St. Joseph's Church. Everybody is more than welcome and encouraged to attend. It would be lovely to see lots of people there to support and welcome the children as they become fully initiated into the faith of the Catholic Church. Please come along and celebrate with your friends in this very special event in their lives.

Snow!

In the event of any heavy snow over the coming weeks or extreme weather which causes significant disruption, we will send a text message if we feel it is not safe to open school. If you do not receive a message, then school is OPEN! Please ensure that you keep us up-to-date with any changes of contact numbers. Thank you!



Different Upcoming School Holidays

Just a reminder that we have different holidays to other Birmingham schools this year. We will be having ONE week holiday at Easter and TWO WEEKS at May. Please bear this in mind when making any travel arrangements for the holidays. Dates are on the first page of this newsletter and have been on since September.

Medical absences either side of school holidays will require evidence of illness for them to be authorised. Once you have had 5 unauthorised days absence you can be fined. These days do have to be all at the same time/ consecutively and can be over a period of different terms.

Any days of absences that are unauthorised (this also includes 'late after registration' marks where a child arrives after 9.15am) 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).

Vacancy – School Cleaner

We currently have a vacancy for a School Cleaner. Please visit

<https://www.stjosb7.bham.sch.uk/vacancy/vacancy-for-a-school-cleaner-2/>

for more information or to apply.

Communication and Autism Team - Parent Workshop / Drop In Session

Come along and meet Dawn, Wendy and Jo from the Communication and Autism Team (CAT). This is an opportunity for you to meet other parent carers with autistic children, or children who are on the neurodevelopmental pathway for assessment.

The session will be held at Lakeside Children's Centre B23 7UH on Friday 7th February from 9.30-11.30am (Please note there are no childcare facilities at the venue.) If you have any questions, please contact the email below: Joanne.clifford@birmingham.gov.uk Just turn up on the day – there is no need to book.

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Eco Committee update

Eco Committee have been learning about how we can help garden birds during this cold winter weather. We have produced some posters with advice, so that we can all do our bit for nature! Please take a look at the posters on the last page of the newsletter.



AVFC Foundation – Free taster football session

Aston villa Foundation are offering children a free football taster session to promote their training clubs. Sessions take place in Aston or Sutton Coldfield. If you would like further information, or to book a place please use the QR code opposite or visit

[1x FREE FOOTBALL SESSION | Aston Villa Foundation](#)

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:

Ferida Adila Christianna Kebba



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 10th January 2024

Well done to **Year 4** class who had the best attendance this week with **94%**!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 88%	Year One: 92%	Year Two: 93%	Year Three: 89%
Year Four: 94%	Year Five: 87%	Year Six: 89%	

This gives a whole school attendance of **90.3%**



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

Reception	Sherice	Being very brave during our animal man visit!
Year 1	Flourish	Excellent answers in all her work this week 😊
Year 2	Zekari	Excellent work in English
Year 3	Jasmine	Excellent work in maths this week: multiplying by 10
Year 4	Didan	Trying her best in Maths and English this week.
Year 5	Emanuele	Excellent effort with his multiplication work!
Year 6	Taliyah	Continuing to make excellent progress in arithmetic and maths.

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BEE A BRAVE BIRD

You can help birds in the winter by food in your outdoor spaces.

1. Clean your bird feeders daily!
2. Wear gloves to keep you from touching it.

The birds don't want to Freeze!
We want to be warm

Place the bird-feeder in a balcony or backyard

BEE A BRAVE BIRD

We need food and water

We don't want to Freeze

WE ARE IMPORTANT

Look at birds

B I R D

Look at birds

B I R D

Look at birds

B I R D

Keep Birds Clean

You can help birds in the winter by providing food in your outdoor space. Kitchen scraps like mild grated cheese, bruised fruit etc is healthy for them.

Give birds Peace!

Birds need fresh water for drinking and bathing all year round. When the big freeze hits, try and keep the bird bath ice-free and topped up with fresh clean water!

Birds are Cool Creatures

SAVE A BIRD, SAVE A LIFE, PROTECT A BIRD, PROTECT A LIFE

Bee a Brave Bird

Birds' lives Matter!

- 1 Birds need clean water!
- 2 Keep your bird feeders clean!
- 3 When the cold days come, give them clean water
- 4 Wear gloves at all times

SAVE THE BIRDS

You can help birds in the winter by providing food in outdoor space. Kitchen scraps like mild grated cheese, bruised fruit, cooked rice, unsalted bits of hard fat, roast potatoes and dry porridge.

B I R D

Keep Birds Safe

Birds need food and fresh water to survive.

You can give them kitchen scraps such as cheese, bruised fruit and cooked rice.

This is a Nestbox. The record number of birds found in one box is 63 wrens.