



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St. Joseph's News

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

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

w/c Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Faith in Our City week	
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Y4 visit to Singers Hill Synagogue	
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Y3 visit to the Sikh Gurdwara	
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Y6 visit to the Islamic Exhibition Centre	
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Rec & Y1 visit to St Joseph's Church	
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Y2 visit to St Joseph's Church	
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Wear Clothes from your Culture day – no charge	
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	St Josephine Bakhita house group children <b>ONLY</b> - own clothes day	
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for half term	3.20pm
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED – MAC TRAINING DAY</b>	
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	School reopens	8.40am
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	First Holy Communion Parents' meeting	3.00pm
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day dressing up day	
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	First Holy Communion commitment mass	9.45am
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening 2.30pm – 5.30pm	
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Y3 & Y4 Maundy Thursday Liturgy (pm)	
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Y5 & Y6 Stations of the cross Liturgy (pm)	
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	School closes for <b>ONE WEEK</b> Easter holiday	<b>1.00pm</b>

## School Term Dates 2024 -2025

Spring Term 2025	Summer Term 2025
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 to Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 to Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
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
<b>END OF TERM</b>	<b>END OF YEAR</b>

<b>Teacher Days –</b> Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 - MAC Teacher Day Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025
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<b>Bank Holidays –</b> Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
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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.

## School Mass – every Wednesday

Our next School Mass will take place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm and will be led by Year 5. 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.



## Confirmations

Congratulations to our Y5 & Y6 children who were confirmed by Bishop David on Wednesday night at St. Joseph's Church. The children represented our school so well and also read wonderfully. It was a lovely special occasion for them and I'm sure they will have lots of lovely memories. Please continue to pray for the children in the weeks ahead.

## Faith in Our City visits – next week

A reminder that our Faith in Our City visits take place next week. These are curriculum trips which form an important part of the children's lessons and learning this term and so **all children are expected to attend these trips**. If your child has not yet returned their permission slip and payment, please can this be brought into school by Monday morning. The trips take place on

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|------------------------------|---|
| Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> –    | Y4 visit to Singers Hill synagogue  |
| Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> –   | Y3 visit to the Sikh Gurdwara   |
| Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> – | Y6 visit to the Islamic Exhibition Centre<br>Rec & Y1 visit to St Joseph's Church |
| Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> –  | Y2 visit to St Joseph's Church  |



## 'Wear Clothes from your Culture' day – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January

Next Friday will also be a 'Wear Clothes from your Culture' day in school as a celebration of our Faith in Our City week. The children can come to school dressed in traditional dress from their country or something that represents their heritage. There will be no charge for this.



## Advance warning – half term break

We close on THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> February for our half-term break as Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February is a MAC Teacher Training Day. The children return to school on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 8.40am

*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.*

## Vacancy – School Cleaner / Lunchtime Supervisor

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. Applications close on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> at 12pm.

We also have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor. Please visit

<https://www.stjosb7.bham.sch.uk/vacancy/vacancy-for-a-lunchtime-supervisor/>

for more information or to apply. Applications close on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30pm.

***Please note that to apply for either position, you must complete all documents listed under the 'Application Forms' section IN FULL and submit them to school. For safeguarding reasons, we cannot consider any application other than those completed in full on the correct application form. You will also need to be able to provide two references.***

## 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).

## ECO Committee Update

This week we had a special visitor in school who came to talk to us about rubbish and the importance of keeping our streets and local area clean. Attached with the newsletter today is a flyer with details of a competition that the children can take part in as a follow up to this.

Eco-Committee would also like to encourage as many families as possible to take part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch, which is taking place this weekend. Remember, you don't need a garden to be involved, you can complete the survey in a local park or even from a balcony! You can find out more information by visiting

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



## 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.

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## Childhood Head Injuries

The CDRT would like to highlight the importance of following the NHS Guidelines in relation to seeking medical advice if your child has any symptoms after a head injury. Children are incredibly active, and they have little sense of danger, so it is not surprising that they are prone to head injuries. In addition, their heads are large in proportion to their bodies and therefore more vulnerable to damage than adult heads. Head injuries may involve the scalp, the skull, the brain, or its protective membranes. Most head injuries are not serious, but you should get medical help if your child has any symptoms after a head injury. The following link gives advice on head injuries [Head injury and concussion - NHS](#)

Falls are the most common cause of accidental injury to children. While most falls aren't serious, active children often fall over and some falls can lead to death or long-term disability. So, it's important to get the message across about the simple things that parents and carers can do prevent serious falls.

- Every day, 45 children under five are admitted to hospital following a serious fall. Stumbles are to be expected, but more serious falls which lead to head injuries can have a lifelong impact.
- Falls are one of the most common causes of childhood accidents.
- Falls are also a serious risk for older children.
- Each year, around 27,000 children aged 5- 14 are admitted to hospital after a fall.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has some useful resources on preventing falls in children. [Falls | Child Accident Prevention Trust](#) and a useful factsheet that you can download [falls factsheet 2024.pdf](#)

## Pharmacy First – an NHS service being offered from pharmacies across England for children and adults

There is a new NHS service which pharmacies across England are offering for children (as well as adults) called **Pharmacy First**. Community Pharmacists offer free and confidential advice for minor illnesses such as coughs, colds, and eye infection. If appropriate, they can also provide treatment\* without a prescription for seven common conditions:

- Urinary tract infection (women aged 16-64)
- Sinusitis (adults and children aged 12+)
- Sore throat (adults and children aged 5+)
- Earache (children and young adults aged 1-17)
- Infected insect bite (adults and children aged 1+)
- Impetigo (adults and children aged 1+)
- Shingles (adults aged 18+)

The pharmacy will send an electronic message to the person's GP surgery so their health record can be updated. Should the pharmacist be unable to help, they will direct the person to their GP surgery or other health professional as appropriate. This service takes away the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment and may help ensure children get well and back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better sooner if they are unwell.

Patients that are already exempt from prescription charges, such as children, will still be exempt from charges if treatment is provided for the listed conditions, otherwise usual [NHS prescription charge rules](#) apply. For more information on how your pharmacist can help, visit [Think pharmacy first :: NHS Birmingham and Solihull](#) or watch [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQUI\\_ZOqFZg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQUI_ZOqFZg)

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Joanne.clifford@birmingham.gov.uk) Just turn up on the day – there is no need to book.

## 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:

Daniella

Sebastiao

Arsema

Benjamin

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

Well done to **Year 4** class who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous **99.3%**!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 88.2%      Year One: 90.5%      Year Two: 95.6%      Year Three: 97.0%  
Year Four: 99.3%      Year Five: 92.3%      Year Six: 98.5%

This gives a whole school attendance of **95%**



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

Reception	Lucas	Trying hard during phonics.
Year 1	Adriel	Settling into new routines well 😊
Year 2	Naod K	Excellent discussions and understanding in reading this week!
Year 3	Damilola	Excellent work on similes, well done! 😊
Year 4	Richard	Trying his best to improve his behaviour this week. Keep it up!
Year 5	Kayla	Being a good role model with her attitude to learning!
Year 6	Cassidy	Trying really hard in Maths this week 😊

*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.*

## This Week's News

This week we had a visit from Darren @wasteenforce. He took Year 3 on a local area litter pick. Can you believe that they collected 5 big bags of rubbish in 20minutes? 😬😬 He then delivered a very informative presentation on how we can reduce litter and look after our planet.



Year 2 have been learning how to create texture this week in Art after exploring textures and tools we can use to copy them.

In maths this week Year One have been learning how to order numbers greatest to smallest

E - "greatest means the biggest"

F - "I have to go last because I only have 2 cubes"



Y6 led a beautiful prayer and liturgy this week, reminding us to always be grateful and generous of everything we have 🙏✝️✨

Reception enjoyed painting to music this week. Some pieces inspired us to do lots of quick dots and dashes, slower pieces made us to long, wavy patterns. During one piece, we painted zig, zags as the music was going "up and down", another inspired "twirly" movements.



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