



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 7th February 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

Prayer for the inroads of faith

Heavenly Father,
 May the prayers I offer be pleasing to You,
 And my actions reflect Your love.
 While the world is filled with conflict,
 May I be a source of peace.
 When a problem's solution seems beyond reach,
 Please take my faith to new heights.
 If I have overlooked an opportunity to serve You,
 Help me to be less distracted.
 When it would be easier to go along my way,
 Show me the inroads of faith You want me to take.
 Amen.



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 12 th February	School Mass – led by Year 3	2.00pm
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 25 th October 2024 Friday 14 th February 2025 - MAC Teacher Day Monday 21 st July 2025
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Bank Holidays – Friday 18 th April 2025 Monday 5 th 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 12th February 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.



Advance warning – half term break

We close **NEXT THURSDAY 13th** February at 3.20pm for our half-term break as Friday 14th February is a MAC Teacher Training Day. The children return to school on Monday 24th February at 8.40am

Different Upcoming School Holidays

Just a reminder that we have different holidays to other Birmingham schools this year. We will be having a ONE week holiday at Easter and a TWO WEEK holiday in 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 not 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).

Childs Name on School Uniform

Just a reminder, please ensure that you put your child's name on all their uniform (including coats) so that if it gets lost we can easily identify it. **If your child has no name on their uniform and it gets lost unfortunately there is nothing we can do.** Most children within the class will have the same size clothes and it is impossible to tell them apart without them being labelled. Please be aware that we are unable to replace lost uniform.

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.

Online Safety Newsletter – Safer Internet Day

Attached with your newsletter today is an additional Online Safety newsletter focusing on Safer Internet Day

*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.*

Communication and Autism Team - Parent carer Advice Sessions online

The CAT team would like to invite parent carers of children with a diagnosis of autism or children who are on the neurodevelopmental pathway for assessment to a one-to-one advice session. The sessions will take place online via Microsoft TEAMS and will last for 25 minutes. Sessions are available between 9am – 12pm on 10th February, 11th February 2025 and 12th February 2025.

Due to limited places, the sessions will be offered to the first families to contact us. To reserve a place please email: wendy.p.bantock@birmingham.gov.uk or joanne.clifford@birmingham.gov.uk

Please include in your email / booking that it is for the SPRING 2025 – CAT Parent carer Advice Sessions and the following information:

- Your name – Parent carer
- Your Child's name
- Your Child's school
- Preferred email address for the TEAM's invite to be sent to
- A brief description of the things you would like to talk about in the session, so that the CAT can prepare and make sure the advice is relevant to your child.

You will receive an email response to confirm your booking including the date and time of your session or to tell you that the sessions are full for this term. (We will be delivering more sessions online next term for parent carers.)

Birmingham Children's Trust – Baby Group

Birmingham Children's Trust are pleased to be offering a 'Triple P for Baby' group for new and expectant parents, the group is open to parents citywide. Triple P for Baby is 8 sessions - four group sessions and then a weekly individual telephone call for the following four weeks to support parents.



The group will take place at Ladywood Children's Centre, 9 Plough and Harrow Rd, Birmingham B16 8UR 12.30-2.30pm from 24/02/2025. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please scan the QR code on the left.

Beezee Families – Portion Size Webinar

Beezee by Maximus are running a webinar for parents and carers about portion size and healthy eating. Do you want to make healthier choices for you and your family? Do you have a child or look after a child aged 5-12? Join us on **Monday 10th February at 6pm** and learn more about making healthy food choices for your child.

In the session, we'll cover:

- What is the Eatwell Guide?
- Energy balance and why it is important
- How portion sizes can help your child grow up strong and energised.

Whether you are looking for practical tips or a deeper understanding of nutrition, this session will give you the tools you need to confidently support your child's health.

To register for this webinar, follow this link: [Beezee Families – Portion Size Webinar](#).

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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:



Nahom B – Y1

Shumyla – Y2

Yostina – Y5

Sofoniyas – Y6

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 7th February 2025

Well done to **Year 4** class who had the best attendance this week with an incredible **100%**!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 95%	Year One: 92%	Year Two: 96%	Year Three: 99%
Year Four: 100%	Year Five: 95%	Year Six: 95%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 96.3%



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

Reception	Evie	Super progress in phonics – Evie can recall all of our phase 3 sounds!
Year 1	Ania	Trying really hard with her handwriting this week
Year 2	Elora	Giving 100% in everything she does!
Year 3	Adila	Giving 100% effort in everything she does!
Year 4	Khakalaiia	His high score on the reading assessment. Well done!
Year 5	Jahid	Writing a lovely Psalm prayer to God.
Year 6	Mekseb	Always trying your best in everything you do! 😊

This Week's News

The Y5 children have been working hard learning all about fractions during their Maths lessons.



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