



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St. Joseph's News

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

## A Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of our Catholic school,  
A place where we grow in faith, knowledge, and compassion.  
Bless our students as they learn and discover,  
Our teachers as they guide and inspire, and our families as they support us.  
Help us to carry your light in our hearts and actions,  
Creating a welcoming and supportive community for everyone.  
Amen.



## Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Curriculum Workshop – Year Five	2.00pm
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	School Photographs	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Harvest Festival non-uniform day	
	Reception Welcome Service (details to follow)	2.30pm
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	St John Henry Newman house group own clothes day	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	SCHOOL CLOSED – INSET Day	
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Y5 & Y6 Whittington barracks trip	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	St John Paul II house group own clothes day	
	School closes for half-term	3.20pm
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Return to school	8.50am
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening (school finishes at 2.15pm)	2.30pm – 5.30pm

## School Term Dates 2025 -2026

Autumn Term 2025	Spring Term 2026	Summer Term 2026	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025 to Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 to Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026	<p><b>Teacher Days</b></p> <p>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October TBC Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026 Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026</p> <p>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February (MAC teacher day)</p> <p><b>Bank Holidays</b></p> <p>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026 Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026</p>
<b>HALF TERM - one week holiday</b>	<b>HALF TERM - one week holiday</b>	<b>HALF TERM - two weeks holiday</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025 to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026 to Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 to Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2026	
<b>END OF TERM – two week holiday</b>	<b>END OF TERM – one week holiday</b>	<b>END OF YEAR – 6 weeks holiday</b>	

## School Mass – every Wednesday

The next School Mass will be on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 2pm, 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.

## Curriculum Workshops

The remaining Curriculum Workshop for parents/carers is taking place in school next week. These are based on the National Curriculum and designed to show you a little of what your children are learning in school, so that you can help them at home.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September

Curriculum Workshop – Year Five

2.00pm

## After-School Clubs

We still have places available for

- Years 1 and 2 – Multi-skills every Tuesday
- Years 3 and 4 – Football every Monday

All clubs run from 3:20pm to 4:20pm and will finish week commencing the 20<sup>th</sup> October. If you wish your child to attend you should go to the School Office to pay and complete a consent form. Places will be given on a first-come, first-served basis and will not be held.

## School Job Vacancies

The school currently has vacancies for two lunchtime supervisors and one Key Stage One teacher. If you, or anyone you may know would be interested in applying, details can be found on the school website ([Vacancies - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School](#)).

## Parent Online Internet Safety Workshop

Parents are invited to come into school for an Online Internet Safety Workshop which will be run by Mrs Gowen. This is taking place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 at 9:00am. Letter have been sent home this week regarding this.

## Starting School - Reception 2026

If you have a child that was born between 01-09-2021 and 31-08-2022, online application will open on 1<sup>st</sup> October on the Birmingham City Council website for Reception school places for September 2026. Preferences for school places must be submitted to the city council by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. Please ensure that you have applied for places by then, as late applications are less likely to get the school of their choice.



## Y6 Secondary Transfer Applications for September 2026

Online applications for Year 7 in September 2026 opened on 1 September 2025. Parents and carers who live in Birmingham should apply via [the Birmingham City Council website](#) by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025. Full details, including admission arrangements and guidance to help parents with making preferences, are available on our website. For additional advice and support, please contact Children's Services on 0121 303 1888.

## Year 7 admissions – September 2026 – St Paul's School for Girls

If you are applying to St Paul's School for Girls for a Year 7 place in September, you will need to apply through the Local Authority online and also complete a Supplementary Information Form. If your child is Catholic, you need to send a copy of their baptism certificate and a certificate of Catholic Practice that the Parish Priest will need to complete. All forms need to be sent directly to St Paul's School for Girls.

The Supplementary Information Form is also available on their website - [Year 7 Admissions 2026 2027](#).

## Medical Appointments

We are seeing an increasing number of children being taken out of school to attend medical and dental appointments. Please ensure that appointments are made outside of school hours where possible. If unavoidable, school should be notified in advance of any appointment your child may have in school time and any proof of the appointment brought to the School Office.

*This half-term virtues are: Eloquent & Truthful  
If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the safeguarding team;  
Mrs Gowen, Mrs Ashley, Mr Caffrey, Mrs Boxwell and Mrs West.*

## School Photographs – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

The school Photographer will be in school on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October to take the annual school photographs. Please note that photographs are only taken on this day, and no repeat sessions will be available for children who are absent, so please ensure that your child is in school on time, as photographs will commence at 9:00am.

Your child will be photographed individually and with their siblings (if they have any in school). Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform, and also may I remind you at this time of the school policy regarding haircuts. Thank you for your support with this.

## Harvest Festival – non uniform day- NEXT Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

In the coming weeks, children will be learning about harvest and the importance of this. NEXT Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October we will be holding our annual Harvest collection day, where we ask families to bring in some items that we can donate to our local foodbank. The Aston and Nechells foodbank have asked if we could especially collect:

- FRUIT JUICE OR SQUASH
- MEAT SOUPS
- TINNED FRUIT
- TINNED FISH – tuna, salmon etc
- TINNED RICE PUDDING
- UHT (LONGLIFE) MILK (not fresh milk!)
- SMALL JARS OF COFFEE
- PASTA
- BAKED BEANS
- DEODORANTS
- SHAMPOOS



Children may come in wearing their own clothes in return for a donation towards our harvest collection. Thank you for your generosity with this.

## Flu Vaccination

Forms have been sent home this week to complete for your child to have a nasal spray flu vaccination in school. **Please return this form even if you do not want your child to be vaccinated.** It is important that we hold a completed form for each child, please return these as soon as possible.

## Medical Emergencies/illnesses

To keep your child safe, it is important that we know of any medical issues that may affect them in school. We also need to make sure that we have accurate and up-to-date medical information in the event of your child becoming ill at school. Please make sure that you let us know of any changes or updates in your child's health.

Please can we also ask that if your child has had any medical emergency at home, especially those that have required hospital admission or treatment, that you let school know about this as soon as possible.

## New 24/7 Mental Health Text Service for Birmingham and Solihull

A new mental health text service is now available for people of all ages across Birmingham and Solihull. The service is free, confidential, and available 24/7 – offering support at the touch of a button.

**Text 'Space' to 85258** to connect with a trained mental health professional.

Whether you're feeling anxious, stressed, low, or overwhelmed, help is just a text away. This service is especially helpful for those who may find it difficult to talk on the phone or in person. Launched in partnership between **Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust** and **Shout**, the UK's first 24/7 text messaging support service, this initiative aims to make mental health support more accessible to everyone. In addition to immediate support, texters can be signposted to local services such as Talking Therapies, Crisis Cafés and NHS 111 Option 2.

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This new digital service offers a safe space to talk and is a valuable resource for anyone seeking early help or waiting for further support.

## Grow Family Services – SEND Community Day: 9 October 2025

[Grow Family Services](#) is a SEND support network based in Sutton Coldfield, designed for SEND parents by SEND parents. They provide a supportive and empowering space for parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to connect, learn, and grow together. Grow Family Services warmly invites parents and carers to a FREE community event where they can:

- Meet Birmingham’s SEND Services
- Chat directly with service providers
- Discover support and resources available locally

**Venue:** Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, Upper Clifton Road B73 6DA

**Date:** Thursday, 9 October 2025

**Sessions:** Morning: 09:30–11:30 and Afternoon: 12:30–14:30

Booking is essential: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/grow-family-services](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/grow-family-services)

## National Burn Awareness Day 2025

National Burn Awareness Day is taking place on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025, the aim of the day is to raise awareness of the causes of burn and scald injuries in the UK and to reduce the number occurring each year by providing the right advice on the First Aid treatment should a burn injury occur to minimise the long-term impact. The theme for this year is ‘one spill can change a child’s life’. More information can be found on the [Children's Burns Trust - Children's Burns Trust](#) website.

## MyClothing Discount Code

MyClothing are currently offering 15% discount off school uniform which is ordered on their website ([My Clothing](#)) between 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025, you will need to enter ‘SEP15’ discount code at checkout.

## Family Support Service

Mrs Gowen is running a new family support service in school on a Thursday morning (by appointment only) between 9:00 and 10:30am. Mrs Gowen is able to offer help, advice and signpost/refer to relevant community/charity and wellbeing services. If you would like to book an appointment, please do this via the School Office.

## 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, Mrs Boxwell, Mrs Gowen, Mrs West, Mrs Koumi & Miss Crane.

## 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. A coffee morning also takes place **every Friday morning at 10:30am** at St Joseph’s Church, all are welcome. Please scan the QR code to view St Joseph’s Instagram page.



## 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:



Leo – Reception

Daniel – Y1

N’Zaria – Y3

Eshaal – Y4

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## Attendance – week ending 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Well done to **Year 5** who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous 98.8%!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 92.4%	Year One: 86.7%	Year Two: 89.6%	Year Three: 97.6%
Year Four: 98.6%	Year Five: 98.8%	Year Six: 95.8%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 94.8%



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

Reception	Derin	Great attitude to all her work and always being helpful 😊
Year One	Evie	Excellent effort in all her work this week
Year Two	Nahom M	Fantastic behaviour and being a great role model in all lesson.
Year Three	Ali	For trying hard in all lessons and not giving up.
Year Four	Sarah	For her fantastic writing in English 😊
Year Five	Aryam	Super effort in all subjects. 😊
Year Six	Yostina	For her fabulous use of emotive language when writing a diary entry!
Little Flower Room	Adriel	Good listening and tidying

## This Week's News



Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a 1940's day at school, they spent the day learning how children in the 40s would. The children spent some time thinking how they would feel if they were to experience being evacuated and also enjoyed music from that period.



Year 6 have enjoyed making models and posters to demonstrate how Earth has night and day during Super Science day!



Year 2 have been learning about the story of Noah's Ark and putting their origami skills to the test to make boats.



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Reception have been joining together in prayer and loved having their parents/carers join them for their Curriculum workshop!



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