



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 5th September 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Student's Prayer for a New School Year

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.

Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.

Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!

Amen

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 10 th September	School Mass led by Y6	2.00pm
Friday 3 rd October	Reception Welcome Service (details to follow)	2.30pm
Friday 24 th October	School closes for half-term	3.20pm
Monday 3 rd November	Return to school	8.50am
Wednesday 12 th 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 st September 2025 to Friday 24 th October 2025	Monday 5 th January 2026 to Friday 13 th February 2026	Monday 13 th April 2026 to Friday 22 nd May 2026	Teacher Days Monday 1 st September 2025 TBC TBC Monday 20 th July 2026 Tuesday 21 st July 2026 Friday 13 th February (MAC teacher day)
HALF TERM - one week holiday	HALF TERM - one week holiday	HALF TERM - two weeks holiday	
Monday 3 rd November 2025 to Friday 19 th December 2025	Monday 23 rd February 2026 to Thursday 2 nd April 2026	Monday 8 th June 2026 to Tuesday 21 st July 2026	
END OF TERM – two week holiday	END OF TERM – one week holiday	END OF YEAR – 6 weeks holiday	Bank Holidays Friday 3 rd April 2026 Monday 4 th May 2026

Welcome Back!

I hope that you have all had a good holiday and summer. It is lovely to see everyone looking so well! I would like to welcome you all back and give a special welcome to the new children who have started and also a very big welcome to our new staff! I am sure that you will be very happy at St. Joseph's.

The staff and I would also like to thank you for all the gifts and cards we received at the end of last term, we were all touched by your generosity and thoughtfulness. Thank you!

School Mass – every Wednesday

The next School Mass will be on Wednesday 10th September at 2pm, led by Year 6. 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.

Swimming

Swimming this term will be for Year Four and will start next Friday 12th September. You should have received a letter regarding this.



After-School Clubs

We will be running a number of after-school clubs this half-term starting week commencing Monday 8th September:

- Years 1 and 2 – Multi-skills every Tuesday – Charge £21.00
- Years 3 and 4 – Football every Monday – Charge £21.00
- Years 5 and 6 – Orienteering every Thursday

All clubs will run from 3:20pm to 4:20pm and will finish week commencing the 20th October. Letters have been sent home and 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.



Dinner Money

Dinner money is £13.50 a week and should be paid to the office every Monday. If any families' circumstances have changed over the holiday regarding free school meal entitlement, please let us know as soon as possible. Also, just a reminder that current Government legislation means that all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 now get free school meals regardless of entitlement.

Children from Y3 upwards have to pay for their meals unless you are entitled to free meals. If you think that you may be entitled to free school meals and are not currently receiving them, please come in to the school office. Please note that if you receive ANY Working Tax Credit, you are not entitled to receive free school meals and you will need to pay for your child's meals. **If you receive Universal Credit you are only entitled to free school meals if your earnings are LESS THAN £7,400 per year.**

Y6 Secondary Transfer Applications for September 2026

Online applications for Year 7 and 14-19 admissions 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 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.

Uniform

It is wonderful to see all of the children looking so smart in their uniforms! I would just like to remind you of a few of our policies regarding uniform in school:

- Please ensure that your child's name is clearly written or sewn into each item of uniform as this will make it much easier to find it if it gets lost.
- Also as it clearly states in our prospectus; "The school does not permit children to have 'extreme' hairstyles that could serve as a distraction to others. Shaved patterns, lines and colours are not allowed. Hair should be all one length and not 'stepped' or shaved at different levels."
- For health and safety reasons, we do not allow children to wear any jewellery in school. The only exception to this is small gold studs, which should not be worn on days when your child has P.E. or swimming. Members of staff are not allowed to remove earrings, and no responsibility will be taken for any child who removes their own earrings. Hoop or Creole earrings, necklaces, bracelets and rings are not allowed in school.
- Shoes should be black formal school shoes, **NOT trainers** or pumps.
- PE kit is a white or red t-shirt with black plain shorts or black jogging bottoms when cold.



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.*

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club starts again on Monday. All children who have attended Breakfast Club regularly last term will need to complete new registration forms if you haven't already. Please note that the cost of Breakfast Club is £1.50 per day. All places are allocated and must be applied for.

Nationwide Emergency Alert Test – Sunday 7 September, 3pm

Please be aware that a **nationwide emergency alert test** will take place at **3pm on Sunday 7 September**. This will trigger a loud siren-like sound and vibration on mobile phones, even if they are on silent. While this is just a test, it's important to be mindful that it may cause distress, particularly for individuals experiencing domestic abuse who may have hidden phones for their safety. If you or someone you know may be affected, consider turning off hidden devices ahead of time or seeking support from trusted services.

We encourage schools to share this information with families and wider networks to help ensure everyone is prepared and supported. Thank you for helping us keep our community informed and safe. For more information please visit: [National Emergency Alert test to be held on 7th September - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nationwide-emergency-alert-test-to-be-held-on-7th-september).

Collective Worship and Online Safety Newsletter

Also attached to your newsletter today is the Collective Worship Parents and Online Safety newsletter.

Ten Ten Resources

During the children's PSHE lessons, teachers will be using Ten Ten resources which is a provider of resources for Catholic schools. If parents wish to view these resources online they can do this via the parent portal (<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>) You can get log in details from the school office.

Online Safety Act

Enforcement of the Online Safety Act's Children's Codes came into effect on 25th July and tech companies will now have to design their platforms with children's safety front of mind. More information on the changes is available on Ofcom's [parents explainer page](#)

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.

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.

Prime Minister's letter to parents and carers on Best Start in Life

To mark this week's childcare expansion milestone, Prime Minister Keir Starmer has written to parents reaffirming his Plan for Change promise to give children the best possible start with 75% of five-year-olds reaching a good level of development by 2028.

Visit the [Education Hub](#) to read the Prime Minister's letter to parents.

Pastoral Team

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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.



Attendance – whole school year

Well done to last year's Year Four who had the best attendance for the **whole of the last school year** with 97.1%!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 95.4%	Year One: 95%	Year Two: 96%	Year Three: 96.7%
Year Four: 97.1%	Year Five: 95.5%	Year Six: 96.6%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 96.1% for the full school year.

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