



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 10th October 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Prayer

Heavenly Father,
We thank you for the life of your servant, John Henry Newman.
He faithfully bore witness to the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith.
By his holy example, may the Holy Spirit inspire and awaken virtue.
Amen.



Dates for your Diary

Monday 13th October	SCHOOL CLOSED – INSET Day	
Thursday 16 th October	Y5 & Y6 Whittington barracks trip	
Friday 24 th October	St John Paul II house group own clothes day 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	Teacher Days Monday 1 st September 2025 Monday 13 th October TBC Monday 20 th July 2026 Tuesday 21 st July 2026 Friday 13 th February (MAC teacher day)
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	
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

Teacher Day – Monday 13th October 2025

Please note that school is closed to all students on Monday 13th October 2025 for a teacher day. School will re-open for all students on Tuesday 14th October 2025.

October Half Term

Just a reminder that school will break up for half term on Friday 24th October at 3.20pm. Children will return to school on Monday 3rd November.

School Mass – every Wednesday

There will be no school mass next week (Wednesday 15th October). The next School Mass will be on Wednesday 22nd October at 2pm, 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.

Birthday Celebrations / Party Bags

It is always lovely to see children wanting to share birthday treats with their class. Please can we ask that if you are sending in any sweets or chocolates to share, that you check they do not contain any nuts. Sweets such as Celebrations, Quality Street and Roses often have sweets that have nuts inside, and bars such as Snickers which contain peanuts. We have some children with severe nut allergies, and this can be very dangerous for them. If your child does bring home birthday sweets, please check that the contents are suitable for their diet before allowing them to eat them. Many thanks for your understanding with this.

Starting School - Reception 2026

If you have a child that was born between 01-09-2021 and 31-08-2022, online applications are now open 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 **15th 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 31st 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](#).

Parking

Over recent weeks it has been noted that a number of parents are stopping/parking on the zig-zag line markings on the road (outside school). **The zig-zags mean that you cannot stop or park there for any length of time, even to drop off children and it is also an offence.** The road markings are there for the protection of your families, so please be mindful of this.

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

*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.*

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.

National Burn Awareness Day 2025

National Burn Awareness Day is taking place on 15th 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.

SHINE@Nechells POD – Tesco Stronger Starts

SHINE@Nechells POD has been shortlisted for the Tesco Stronger Starts vote. This means that from October 2025 to January 2026, the community can help the POD to secure up to £1500 in funding by voting in local Tesco stores (Erdington Six Way Express, B23 7NR and Aston Lane Superstore, B6 6QR). How to vote:

1. Shop at one of the above Tesco stores
2. Collect a blue token at checkout
3. Pop it into the Nechells POD Food Pantry slot

Every token makes a difference and will help the POD to be able to continue supporting the community to provide affordable, quality groceries for families in the B7 area.

MyClothing Discount Code

MyClothing are currently offering a 10% discount to parents who purchase uniform via their website. The discount code is **10%myc2025** and is valid until 31st December 2025 ([My Clothing](#)).



Cineworld – October Half Term Activity

Cineworld are offering £2 cinema tickets to watch The Bad Guys 2 at cinemas this October half term. Whether it's your first time watching The Bad Guys 2 or you're ready for another screening, this fun-filled animated adventure is the ideal way to create lasting family memories this half term.



Collective Worship and Online Safety Newsletter

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

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.

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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. 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:



Attendance – week ending 10th October 2025

Well done to Y4 who had the best attendance this week with an incredible **100%**!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 95.6%	Year One: 98.8%	Year Two: 99.6%	Year Three: 99.2%
Year Four: 100%	Year Five: 96.9 %	Year Six: 94.8%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 97.7%

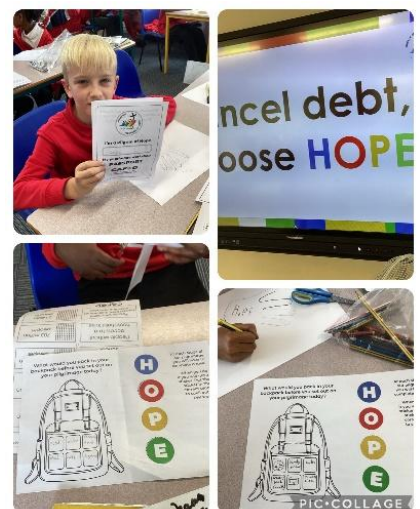


Congratulations to the following children who have shone in school over the last week:

Reception	Hanibal	For excellent listening and answering of questions.
Year One	Evie	Excellent effort in all her learning this week.
Year Two	Lulya	For always being kind and showing great respect to all 😊
Year Three	N'zaria	Being a positive role model to her peers.
Year Four	Trai'von	For always being an excellent role model for his peers 😊
Year Five	Janelle	Super work in English 😊
Year Six	Hallelujah	For her great English work this week! 😊

This Week's News

Year Five were pleased to welcome Sister Eleanor from CAFOD this week. They made passports to help them on their Pilgrimage of Hope.



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A huge well done to Amina in Y4 who has produced this fabulous artwork today! What amazing artistic talent!

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