



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 17th October 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Prayer

Dear God,
We thank you for all the gifts of ripened fruit and vegetables
you give to us at Harvest time.
For the bread and the cereals on our table every day
and for all the other good things we have to eat.
Help those who are less fortunate
and grant us all your peace this day and for evermore.
Amen.



Dates for your Diary

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 5 th November	Reception 2026 Open Day	9.15am – 10.30am
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

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

The next School Mass will be on Wednesday 22nd October at 2pm, led by Year 4. 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.

MAC Parent Survey

This term's parent survey is now live and can be completed by following the link or by scanning the QR code:

<https://forms.office.com/e/5jdEGJe8gS>

The deadline for completion is **9:00am on Friday 5th December 2025**. All parents are encouraged to share their views.

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.

Reception 2026 Open Day

The school will be holding an Open Day for parents who have children due to start in Reception in September 2026. The Open Day will take place on Wednesday 5th November 2025 from 9:15am to 10:30am, where parents will be able to see what St Joseph's can offer your child. Please feel free to attend and if you know of any families in this position, let them know. We are looking forward to meeting you all.

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.



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

— NECHELLS —
A ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA MAC SCHOOL



OPEN DAY

WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER
FROM 9.15 AM - 10.30AM

Is your child due to start
Reception in September 2026?

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a small, caring school where everyone is welcomed; where everyone is loved, respected and cared for; where everyone is helped and encouraged to achieve their very best and where Christ is at the heart of everything we do.

Come along and see what
St. Joseph's can offer your child.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
ROCKY LANE, NECHELLS, B7 5HA
0121 464 8140



*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.*

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.

Is my child too ill for school?

As winter approaches, the NHS have published [guidance](#) to help parents assess when a child may be too ill for school. Pupils shouldn't miss school on a precautionary basis and can normally attend with a mild cough or cold, unless they have a fever or diarrhoea or vomiting.



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.

Rail Safety

Please see the below poster from the Rail Safe Friendly Programme and scan the QR code to read more about vital rail safety. Every child should be equipped with this essential knowledge to keep themselves safe around the railway environment.

THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting railsafefriendly.com

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over **3 million young people** on the dangers of the railways.

DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC

According to the **ORR Report**, April 23 – March 24 on UK railways:

- 12** people died in accidents while trespassing
- 58%** were struck by a train or tram
- 42%** were electrocuted

According to **Rail Safe Friendly**, July 25:

- 120+** companies support the programme
- 11,000+** schools in the UK have engaged
- 20,000+** UK schools still need to be reached

"I implore you to listen to Harrison's story"

Simon Frazer, Principal, Gullisborough Academy

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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 its 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.



Family Support Service

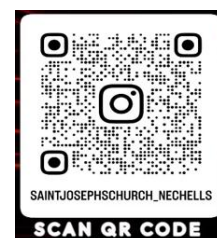
Mrs Gowen is running a new family support service in school on a Thursday morning (by appointment only) between 9:00 and 10:30am. Mrs Gowen is able to offer help, advice and signpost/refer to relevant community/charity and wellbeing services. If you would like to book an appointment, please do this via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



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Attendance – week ending 17th October 2025

Well done to Reception and Y1 who had the best attendance this week with an incredible **100%**!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 100%	Year One: 100%	Year Two: 97.8%	Year Three: 99%
Year Four: 97.8%	Year Five: 98.8%	Year Six: 88.7%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 97.1%



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

Reception	Simona	For listening and trying her best! Well done 😊
Year One	Tashunoa	Excellent effort with her handwriting this week.
Year Two	Yukang	Showing improvement in lessons and trying hard to participate. 😊
Year Three	Aron	For achieving the highest score on his Maths assessment.
Year Four	Esmee	For her amazing effort in all her lessons, especially swimming! 😊
Year Five	Eliana	Fantastic effort in reading and history 😊
Year Six	Nahor	For his great effort this week! 😊
Little Flower Room	Eliana	Playing nicely with her friends in the playground.

This Week's News

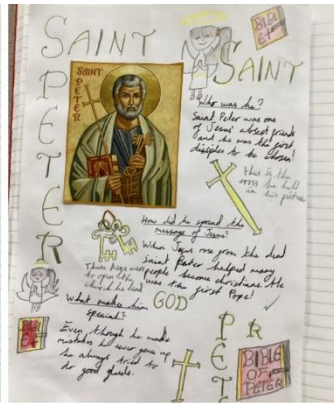
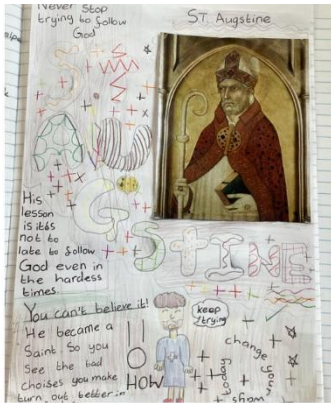
Reception enjoyed coming together for Celebration of the Word and learnt all about how Jesus fed the five thousand.



Years 5 and 6 had a fantastic day out at Whittington Barracks. We learnt lots about life in WW2, including how it felt to be in an air raid shelter during the blitz!

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Wooooow!!! Year 3 received a letter about a 'Lost Alien Egg'. We discovered it on our school ground and now we have to take care of it. How exciting!!!



Today in RE, Year 4 created posters about different Saints and their influence. We learnt how we can all do small things with great love.

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