



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 24th October 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Prayer

At the end of this half-term, we thank you God for...

Every prayer we have prayed,

Every song we have sung,

All the things we have learned,

All the laughter and fun.

Thank you for all the joy you bring

And our wonderful times together.

May we walk with you as each new day begins

This moment and forever

Amen



Dates for your Diary

Friday 24th October

St John Paul II house group own clothes day

School closes for half-term

3.20pm

Monday 3rd November

Return to school

8.50am

Wednesday 5th November

Reception 2026 Open Day

9.15am – 10.30am

Wednesday 12th November

Parents' Evening

2.30pm – 5.30pm

(school finishes at 2.15pm)

School Term Dates 2025 -2026

Autumn Term 2025	Spring Term 2026	Summer Term 2026	Teacher Days
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	Monday 1 st September 2025 Monday 13 th October TBC Monday 20 th July 2026 Tuesday 21 st July 2026
HALF TERM - one week holiday	HALF TERM - one week holiday	HALF TERM - two weeks holiday	Friday 13 th February (MAC teacher day)
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 **TODAY at 3.20pm**. Children will return to school on Monday 3rd November at 8.50am.

School Mass – every Wednesday

The next School Mass will be on Wednesday 5th November 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.

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.



Y6 Secondary Transfer Applications for September 2026

Online applications for Year 7 in September 2026 must be submitted

via [the Birmingham City Council website](#) by the deadline of **NEXT FRIDAY 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. Please ensure that you have applied for places by 31st October, as late applications are less likely to get the school of their choice.



For more
information,
scan the
QR code

Starting School - Reception 2026 – apply now!

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. There is a flyer attached with this newsletter giving more information.



There are more than 40,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests every year in the UK, but less than 1 in 10 people survive.

Every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces the chance of survival by up to 10%.

That's why we've registered our defib and regularly update its status on The Circuit, the national defibrillator network. This means the ambulance service can find it and trust it's ready to use in an emergency.

If a defib is not registered the ambulance service won't know it exists, and the opportunity to help save a life could be missed.



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.*

Congratulations!

Huge congratulations to Miss Young, who will be getting married over the half-term break. When the children return to school Miss Young will be known as Mrs Pullen! We wish Mr & Mrs Pullen every happiness and blessing as they begin their married life together.



Goodbye!

Sadly, today we are saying goodbye to Mrs Price who has been with us for 13 years as a Lunchtime Supervisor, she will be missed but we wish her all the best for her well-deserved retirement! We also say goodbye to Miss Ricketts another valued member of our Lunchtime Supervisor team. We will miss her very much and wish her all the best in her future endeavours!

Parents Evening

Letters have been sent home this week regarding the next parent/carer evening which will take place on Wednesday 12th November 2025. **School will finish at 2.15pm** on this day and your children must be collected at this time. Appointments will be offered from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. Please complete the slip on the letter and return to school as soon as possible. School will try to accommodate all parents in their requested time slot, where possible.

Poppy Sale

Poppies will be available for sale in school after the half term holiday.



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.

Measles (MMR) and Winter Immunisations Reminder

The October half term is the perfect time to ensure your child is protected against measles through the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) immunisation. Measles is a highly infectious disease, which can be very serious. There have been recent cases of measles in Birmingham and most of these cases are in young children who have not had their MMR

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immunisation. You need two doses of the MMR immunisation to get the best protection against measles, children should have their first dose at 1 year old, and their second dose before starting school.

The MMR immunisation is safe for every faith. There is a type of MMR immunisation that does not contain pork gelatine, so it can be used for people who avoid pork products. This immunisation is available at every GP practice, and it is free. If you or your child are not up to date with your MMR immunisations, please contact your GP practice to book an appointment.

Ahead of winter and the festive season, it is also important to protect against illnesses like flu and Covid-19. Free immunisations are available for those most at risk of becoming unwell. Check the NHS website to see if you're eligible and book your appointment.

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.

Transfer of Bloomsbury Library to Nechells POD

You may be aware that Bloomsbury Library has now been transferred from Birmingham City Council ownership to the Nechells POD. The library has moved from the POD's reception area into a bigger room with a self-service kiosk installed. If you plan to visit the library you will need to take your Birmingham City Council library card and know your four-digit pin in order to access and borrow books from the library. Libraries are a valuable local resource, and we encourage all our families to visit and make use of the resources and facilities!



THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME
The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over **3 million young people** on the dangers of the railways.

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

DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC

"I implore you to listen to Harrison's story"
Simon Frazer, Principal, Gullisborough Academy

According to the **ORR Report**, April 21 - March 26 on UK railways:
12 people died in accidents while trespassing
58% were struck by a train or trolley
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

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.

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.

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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.

Birmingham Local Offer: Explore What's Happening Near You!

District mapping is now available on Birmingham's Local Offer website ([Home - Local Offer Birmingham](#)). This new feature makes it easier than ever to find information, services, and support available in your local area helping children, young people, families, and professionals see what's happening nearby.

With the new district maps, you can:

- Find local SEND services and activities in your community
- See which organisations are active in your area
- Access contact details and resources tailored to your area

There's also so much to see and do in Birmingham for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families. Whether you're looking for fun days out, relaxed play sessions, creative workshops, or quiet places to explore, there's something for everyone. Use the maps on the Local Offer to discover inclusive activities, clubs, events, and attractions near you.

- Click here to view the district mapping directory - [Directory - Local Offer Birmingham](#)
- Click here to view the Things to do In Birmingham - [Things to Do - Local Offer Birmingham](#)

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:

Eyoal – Year One

Maidah – Year Three

Jasmine – Year Four

Dina – Year Six



Laudato Si' Retreat - St Joseph's Church

Everyone is invited to attend the Laudatio Si' Retreat led by Sister Eleanor which is taking place at St Joseph's Church on Saturday 8th November 2025 from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Please see the flyer for further information.



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.



Laudato Si' Retreat: Caring for God's Creation - Led by Sister Eleanor

Join us for a soul-refreshing morning of reflection, prayer, and connection with creation. Rooted in the spirit of 'Laudato Si', this retreat invites us to rediscover our sacred responsibility to care for our common home.

Venue: St. Joseph's Church (Lady Chapel)
182 Thimble Mill Lane, Nechells, Birmingham B7 5HT

Date: Saturday, 8th November 2025

Time: 10 AM TO 1:00 PM

Special Feature: A guided "Nature Walk" led by "Chris Millward" from "Team4Nature", inviting us to encounter God through the beauty of the natural world.

Refreshments provided

All are welcome.

For more information:
Landline: 0121 359 3305
Mobile: 07791 231 458

Let us gather as stewards of creation, to listen, to learn, and to walk gently upon the earth.

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience." – Pope Francis, Laudato Si

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Attendance – week ending 24th October 2025

Well done to Reception class who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous 99.1%

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 99.1%	Year One: 96.1%	Year Two: 97%	Year Three: 96.4%
Year Four: 93.9%	Year Five: 96.5%	Year Six: 83%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 94.2%



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

Reception	Nasra	For excellent number work this week
Year One	Noah	For great effort in Maths with his number
Year Two	Camari	For showing great improvement in his writing and phonics. 😊
Year Three	Milka	For always displaying positive behaviour in class.
Year Four	Adonay	For his fantastic work in Maths!
Year Five	Bsrat	Fantastic effort in every subject. 😊
Year Six	Nahor	For offering his help to do the jobs of absent pupils every day this week 😊

This Week's News



Thank you to all our families for the harvest donations. Your incredible generosity meant that just over 186kg of items were donated to the Aston and Nechells Foodbank. ❤️



Year Four enjoyed exploring the school grounds and recording which animals and plants they could find.

Year Five enjoyed their last orienteering challenge of this half-term and learnt about the importance of working as a team!



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