



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 14th November 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

Prayer for our World

God of all,

Open our eyes to see the needs of our brothers and sisters.

Open our ears to hear your words of hope and compassion.

Open our mouths to speak up when people are suffering.

Open our hearts, to reach out in love. Amen.

Dates for your Diary

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Mon 17 th – Fri 21 st | Anti-Bullying Week | |
| Wednesday 19 th November | School Mass led by Y5 | 2.00pm |
| Thursday 20 th November | Y3 & Y4 trip to Lickey Hills | |
| Friday 21 st November | Wear Odd Socks Day for anti-bullying | |
| Mon 24 th – Weds 26 th | Y6 Whitemoor Lakes Residential Trip | |
| Friday 28 th November | Non-uniform day – wear blue | |

Christmas Dates for your Diary

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Thursday 4 th December | Whole school Pantomime | |
| Thursday 11 th December | Christmas Dinner Day | |
| Friday 12 th December | Christmas Jumper Day - £1 per child | |
| Friday 12 th December | MAC Carol Concert (live streamed) | |
| Monday 15 th December | Reception, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly | 2.30pm |
| Tuesday 16 th December | Y3 & Y4 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly | 2.30pm |
| Wednesday 17 th December | Y5 & Y6 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly | 2.30pm |
| Thursday 18 th December | Christmas Carol Concert for Parents | 2.30pm |
| Friday 19 th December | School closes at 1pm for Christmas holidays | 1.00pm |
| Monday 5 th January | Return to school | 8.40am |

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 |
| 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 |

Teacher Days

Monday 1st September 2025
Monday 13th October
TBC
Monday 20th July 2026
Tuesday 21st July 2026

Friday 13th February
(MAC teacher day)

Bank Holidays

Friday 3rd April 2026
Monday 4th May 2026

School Mass – every Wednesday

The next School Mass will be on Wednesday 19th November 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.

Parents Evening

Thank you to the parents who filled in our Parental Questionnaire, we received 61 responses. We have now collated the results and over the next few newsletters we will publish the results.

The results from the first few questions are below:

1. ***My child enjoys school.***

64% strongly agreed, 26% agreed and 10% neither agreed nor disagreed

So overall, all of the responses were positive regarding whether their child enjoys school.

2. ***My child feels safe at school.***

61% strongly agreed, 36% agreed, 2% neither agreed nor disagreed and 2% (1 person) strongly disagreed

So overall, 98% of the responses were positive regarding how safe their child feels in school.

3. ***The school understands my child's needs and responds to them.***

38% strongly agreed, 59% agreed and 3% neither agreed nor disagreed

So overall, all of the responses were positive regarding whether the school understands the needs of the children.

4. ***Behaviour is of a good standard at school.***

46% strongly agreed, 49% agreed and 5% neither agreed nor disagreed

So overall, all of the responses were positive regarding the standard of behaviour in the school.

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.



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.



School Job Vacancies

The school currently has vacancies for two lunchtime supervisors. 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](#)). There will be a support session available if you need help to complete the application forms on Monday 24th November from 9.30am – 12pm

‘Odd Socks’ Day – NEXT Friday 21st November

Next Friday 21st November, our Wellbeing Champions have arranged a ‘Wear Odd Socks’ day in school as part of our Anti-Bullying week. **Please come to school dressed in your usual uniform but wear odd socks for the day!** This will be free.



This half-term virtues are: Learned & Wise

*If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the safeguarding team;
Mrs Gowen, Mrs Ashley, Mr Caffrey, Mrs Boxwell and Mrs West.*

New Best Start in Life Website

The UK Government have released a new Best Start in Life website (<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>) which brings together trusted advice, support and guidance for parents to help increase awareness of the importance of early years in a child's development and the role of early years education. There is also a video available on YouTube which celebrates the journey of early childhood, highlighting the vital role that parents play in their child's lives and support available. (['The Story of You'](#) video).



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:

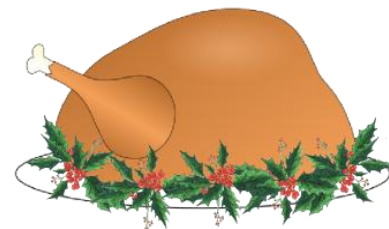
1. Shop at one of the above Tesco stores
2. Collect a blue token at checkout
3. Pop it into the Nechells POD Food Pantry slot

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.

Christmas Dinner – Thursday 11th December

Our School Christmas Dinner will take place on Thursday 11th December. The menu is:

- ★ Roast Turkey/ Chicken / Quorn/ Tempura Fish
- ★ Yorkshire Pudding, Stuffing balls & Gravy
- ★ Creamed Potatoes / Seasoned Roast potatoes
- ★ Sprouts / Carrot / Sweetcorn
- ★ Christmas Ice Cream Tub / Christmas Cherry Cracknell /Mince Pie & Cream



Children who have dinners normally in school will get Christmas dinner anyway, but

if your child usually has a packed lunch and you would like your child to have a dinner on this day, please send in the payment of £2.70 in an envelope with your child's name and class on it by Friday 5th December.

Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day – Friday 12th December

Friday 12th December is 'Wear Your Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day' in school. The cost of this will be £1 per child, and you should come to school dressed in your *craziest* Christmas jumpers!!!



Christmas Performances

Our Christmas Performances take place on the following dates:-

| | |
|--|--|
| Monday 15 th December 2.30pm | Rec Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly |
| Tuesday 16 th December 2.30pm | KS2 Christmas Assembly for Y3 & Y4 Parents |
| Wednesday 17 th December 2.30pm | KS2 Christmas Assembly for Y5 & Y6 Parents |



The children are working very hard to prepare for these already and would be delighted to see their parents and carers in school to watch them perform. Please come along; it makes such a difference to the children when their efforts are well supported.

We will not be able to admit latecomers, this is because of the way the hall is set up, as entering the hall will involve you walking through the stage area. For health and safety reasons, once the performance has begun this will not be possible. **Also, there will be no staff in the office area to admit people once the plays have started, so please bear this in mind and allow enough time to get to school.**

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Mrs Gowen, Mrs Ashley, Mr Caffrey, Mrs Boxwell and Mrs West.*

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.

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.



NHS Pharmacy First Service

Community Pharmacists can offer free and confidential advice for minor illnesses and if appropriate, they can provide treatment* without a prescription for seven common conditions:

- Urinary tract infection (*women aged 16-64*)
- Sinusitis (*adults and children aged 12+*)
- Sore throat (*adults and children aged 5+*)
- Earache (*children and young adults aged 1-17*)
- Infected insect bite (*adults and children aged 1+*)
- Impetigo (*adults and children aged 1+*)
- Shingles (*adults aged 18+*).

This service can help parents, staff and students avoid GP wait times, feel better and return to school sooner. For more information, visit [Think Pharmacy First: NHS Birmingham and Solihull](#) or watch the [Pharmacy First video](#).

**usual prescription charge rules apply.*

School Aged Immunisation Service - leaflet for parents and young people

The School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) have created a leaflet for parents/carers and young people with frequent questions and answers about immunisations. The leaflet is available in different languages including English, Arabic, Bengali, Gujarati, Punjabi (Gurmukhi), and Urdu. Please take your time to read the leaflet and if you have any more questions, get in touch with the service by telephone on 0121 466 3410.

You can access the leaflet [in English here](#) or in [multiple languages here](#).

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 – week ending 14th November 2025

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

The full attendance figures are as follows:

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Reception: 97.4% | Year One: 100% | Year Two: 93.9% | Year Three: 99.2% |
| Year Four: 96.8% | Year Five: 96.6% | Year Six: 96.8% | |

This gives a whole school attendance of 97.1%

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

| | | |
|------------|--------|--|
| Reception | Elim | Excellent understanding and answers in RE this week. 😊 |
| Year One | Kiolet | Excellent effort with her presentation 😊 |
| Year Two | Ayo | For always being kind and well-mannered and doing well in all his lessons. 😊 |
| Year Three | Farah | For her thoughtful prayer about forgiveness. |
| Year Four | Ezekai | For his excellent presentation in all his books. Keep it up Ezekai! 😊 |
| Year Five | N'Taya | Super poetry work, in our English lessons. 😊 |
| Year Six | Kezia | For fabulous poetry writing this week 😊 |

This Week's News

Thank you to our school community for your generosity in donating to support families affected by Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica



Year Five have been creating installation art, inspired by artist Cai Guo-Qiang.

We are very lucky to have our very own chapel at St Joseph's. As part of Year One's RE learning, they have been exploring different things they see in Mass including learning the word Tabernacle.



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