



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St. Joseph's News

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, our King  
 Help us to be kind,  
 Help us to forgive,  
 Help us to love,  
 And help us to help others.  
 Be the King of our hearts and make our lives good and joyful.  
 Amen



## 🌿 Christmas Dates for your Diary 🌿

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Reception, Y1 and Y2 Film Night	2.30pm – 4.15pm
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	School Mass led by Y3	2.00pm
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 Film Night	2.30pm – 4.30pm
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school Pantomime	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	MAC Carol Concert (live streamed)	
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day	
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day - £1 per child	
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly	2.30pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Y3 & Y4 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly	2.30pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Y5 & Y6 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly	2.30pm
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Carol Concert for Parents	2.30pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>School closes at 1pm for Christmas holidays</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Return to school	8.40am

## School Term Dates 2025 -2026

Autumn Term 2025	Spring Term 2026	Summer Term 2026
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025 to Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 to Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
<b>HALF TERM - one week holiday</b>	<b>HALF TERM - one week holiday</b>	<b>HALF TERM - two weeks holiday</b>
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025 to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026 to Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 to Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2026
<b>END OF TERM – two week holiday</b>	<b>END OF TERM – one week holiday</b>	<b>END OF YEAR – 6 weeks holiday</b>

Teacher Days
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October TBC
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2026
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February (MAC teacher day)

Bank Holidays
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2026
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026

## School Mass – every Wednesday

The next School Mass will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 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.

## 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 next few questions are below:

9. ***The school communicates with me effectively about how to support my child's learning.***

43% strongly agreed, 47% agreed, 8% neither agreed nor disagreed and 2% disagreed (1 person).

So overall, 98% of the responses were positive regarding whether the school communicates effectively with parents/carers on how to support their child's learning.

10. ***The school communicates with me effectively about school events and activities.***

52% strongly agreed, 43% agreed, 3% neither agreed nor disagreed and 2% disagreed (1 person).

So overall, 98% of the responses were positive regarding whether the school communicates effectively with parents/carers about school events and activities.

11. ***I think the school is well led and managed.***

48% strongly agreed, 44% agreed, 6% neither agreed nor disagreed and 2% disagreed (1 person).

So overall, 98% of the responses were positive regarding whether they feel the school is well led and managed.

12. ***I would recommend the school to other families.***

46% strongly agreed, 48% agreed and 6% neither agreed nor disagreed.

So overall, all of the responses were positive regarding whether parents/carers would recommend the school to other families.

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025**. All parents are encouraged to share their views.



## Collective Worship and Online Safety Newsletter

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

## 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 **15<sup>th</sup> 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.



For more information, scan the QR code

## Film Night - £2 per child

We will be holding our Advent fund-raising Christmas Film Nights once again this year. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2's Film Night will be on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December until 4.15pm, and Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6's Film Night will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December until 4.30pm (they will start at 2.30pm). The cost of this will be £2 per child and this will include crisps or popcorn and a drink. Letters have been sent out for this so if your child would like to attend, please return £2 in an envelope with the correct money to book their place.



We will release the children from the KS2 playground, so please be on time to pick your child/ren up as it will be getting dark. ***Please note that if your child has not paid to take part, they will need to be collected at the usual pick-up time of 3.20pm.***

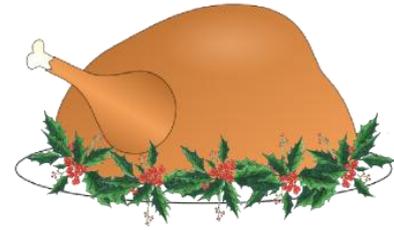
*This half-term virtues are: Learned & Wise*

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

## Christmas Dinner – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Our School Christmas Dinner will take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> December.

## Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm	Rec Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm	KS2 Christmas Assembly for Y3 & Y4 Parents
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> 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.**

## 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.

## 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).



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## MyClothing Discount Code

MyClothing are offering a 15% off discount code this weekend. The code 'SAVE15' needs to be added at checkout and is valid on orders placed until midnight on 1 December 2025.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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:

Kimberly – Reception

Elilta – Year One

Matiwos – Year Three



## Attendance – week ending 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

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

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 99.1%

Year One: 94.4%

Year Two: 93%

Year Three: 88.8%

Year Four: 98.6%

Year Five: 95.6%

Year Six: 94.2%

This gives a whole school attendance of 94.9%

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

Reception	Efrata	Trying her best in Phonics this week 😊
Year One	Kali	Excellent effort in all her work this week
Year Two	Asiyah	Shown a massive improvement in her behaviour and has shown a positive attitude towards her learning. Well-done! 😊
Year Three	Zekari	For doing well on his spelling test.
Year Four	Damilola	For consistently excelling in everything she does! 😊
Year Five	Yeabsera	For great effort in her writing! 😊
Year Six	Buruk	For being very helpful and supportive of his friends whilst on residential! 😊

## This Week's News

Year Six had a fabulous time on their residential. They took part in lots of varied activities and made memories to last a lifetime!



Meanwhile back in school, some of the children in school were sorting objects into the materials they are made from and did a great job!



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