



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St. Joseph's News

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

*“They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning  
We will remember them.”*

Laurence Binyon



LEST WE FORGET  
REMEMBRANCE DAY  
11 NOVEMBER

## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	NO MASS	
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening	2.30 – 5.30pm
	<b>(school finishes at 2.15pm)</b>	
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Non-uniform day – wear red	
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	Anti-Bullying Week	
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Wear Odd Socks Day for anti-bullying	
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Non-uniform day – wear blue	

## Christmas Dates for your Diary

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school Pantomime	1.30 – 2.50pm
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day	
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day - £1 per child	
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	MAC Carol Concert	
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly	pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Y3 & Y4 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly	pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Y5 & Y6 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly	pm
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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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.



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 **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.

## Parents Evening

Our Parents' Evening will take place NEXT Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2.30-5.30pm. Letters with appointment times have been sent out this week so please check your child's bag. During the time that you are in your appointment, your child can go into our Creche facility (**only for children who attend our school**) but please only bring children along if they cannot stay at home with another adult.

**Please note that school will close at 2.15pm NEXT Wednesday 12th. All children must be collected at this time by an adult on their contact list.**

## Wear Red non-uniform day- NEXT Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November

Thank you for your support with Wear Green Day today and your donations which will be sent to Jamaica. Next Friday will be a 'Wear Red' themed non-uniform day. The cost of this will be 50p per child or £1 per family.

## Remembrance Day

This Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November is Remembrance Sunday. We remember at this time all who have suffered or lost their lives as a result of war and all who gave their lives for their country.

*Father of all, look with love on all your people, living and departed. On this day we especially ask that you would hold for ever all who have suffered during wars, those who returned scarred by warfare, those who waited anxiously at home, and those who returned wounded, and disillusioned and those who mourned. Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion, those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades, and those who in the aftermath of war, worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world. And as you remember them, remember us, O Lord; grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language, race, and nation will be brought into the unity of Christ's kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## Harvest Festival Donations – Thank you!

We have been contacted by the Aston and Nechells Foodbank who have extended a huge thank you to St Joseph's children and parents/carers for the harvest donations they received which weighed in at a huge 182.62kg! In due course all donations will be given out to families and individuals in crisis.

*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.*

## Attendance Reminder – Early Closures

We'd like to remind parents and carers that children are still expected to attend school even when it closes early for any reason. Attendance is recorded twice daily (even when school closes after lunch)—once in the morning and once in the afternoon. If your child is absent on a half day this still counts as missing two sessions. Please note more than ten unauthorised absent sessions (5 days), even if not consecutive, may result in a fine. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring regular attendance.

## 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 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.

## 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!

## Online Safety and Collective Workshop Newsletters – November 2025

Please find attached this month's (November 2025) online safety and collective workshop newsletters, for your 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.



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## 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.

## Bonfire Night Celebrations

Ahead of Bonfire Night celebrations at the weekend, we're writing to remind parents and guardians of the importance of keeping children safe around fireworks and in public areas. While organised and safe bonfire events can be fun for the whole family, there have sadly been unacceptable scenes with fireworks in Birmingham city centre recently. Pockets of disorder involving young people saw several fireworks released in a dangerous manner, as members of the public and police officers faced attack. These incidents are currently subject to ongoing police investigations, and a number of individuals were arrested.

West Midlands Police message to you is firstly - they are not tolerating this appalling action. Everything is being done in their power to keep the city safe, including for young people attending school here. It is very clear that anyone who is involved in this kind of behaviour faces serious consequences, and risks being arrested. In addition to existing powers, a Section 60 order will be in place in Birmingham in response to this disorder. The powers from this allow the police to stop and search people without the need to have reasonable grounds. This power is exercised to safeguard the community from dangerous behaviour. As always, the focus is on keeping everyone safe, which is why we are asking parents and guardians to:

- Speak to your children about the dangers of handling and misusing fireworks
- Know where your children are, and who they are with, especially during the darker evenings
- Encourage them to attend organised firework displays rather than unsupervised gatherings
- Report any concerns about antisocial behaviour and firework safety directly to the police.

You can read more safety advice on the West Midlands Police website, where you can also find details of how to share information with them - including how to do so anonymously.

## Healthcare Leaders Issue Back-to-School Health Advice

As children across Birmingham, Black Country and Solihull head back to school, healthcare leaders are reminding parents and carers to make sure their children are protected from serious illnesses ahead of winter. Seasonal illnesses such as flu, COVID-19 and norovirus are expected to circulate more widely during colder months leading to missed school days, and there are simple steps that young people and their families can do to increase their protection.

Parents are encouraged to make sure their children are up to date with vaccinations, including the free flu nasal spray for those aged two to 16, and both flu and COVID-19 vaccines for children in clinical risk groups. It's also important to check that children have received both doses of the MMR vaccine, which protects against measles.

Good hygiene remains a simple and effective defence: regular handwashing with soap and warm water, using tissues to catch coughs and sneezes, and staying home when unwell all help to stop the spread of infection. Families are also encouraged to stay active, eat well, and manage minor illnesses at home with advice from the NHS website or local pharmacists.

A [sing-along video](#) by local NHS workers shows children the best technique for washing their hands. For self-care advice, please visit the [NHS Black Country ICB website](#) or [NHS Birmingham and Solihull](#).

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## SEND Lived Experience Surveys Now Open on Birmingham's Local Offer

Birmingham City Council want to hear from young people and parent carers of children with SEND. Two new Lived Experience Surveys are now open on Birmingham's Local Offer, one for young people with SEND and one for parent carers of children and young people with SEND.

**For young people:** We want to know what life is like for them in Birmingham, at school, at home, or in their community to get a sense of how they're feeling and what matters most to them.

**For parent carers:** We want to hear about their experiences of support and services for their child or young person. Their insight helps us understand what families are experiencing and how things could be better.

- [Lived Experience Survey for Young People](#)
- [Lived Experience Survey for Parent Carers](#)

The surveys are multiple-choice and hopefully won't take up too much time, but the feedback will make a big difference to improving services for children, young people, and families across Birmingham.

If anyone has questions or needs support completing a survey, they can contact [localoffer@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@birmingham.gov.uk) Thank you for your support.

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

## Attendance – week ending 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Well done to **Y5** class who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous 99.1%

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 92.5%	Year One: 96.7%	Year Two: 94.8%	Year Three: 93.6%
Year Four: 98.6%	Year Five: 99.1%	Year Six: 93.9%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 95.7%

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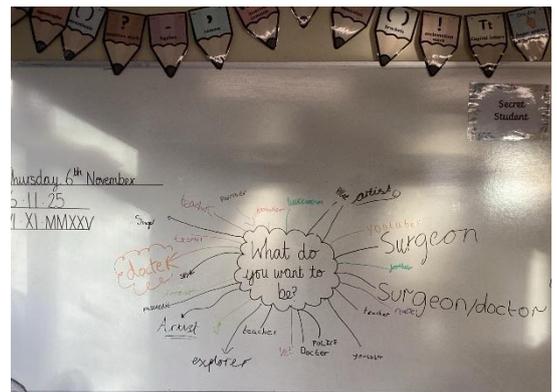
Congratulations to the following children who have shone in school over the last week:

Reception	Rufael	Excellent junk modelling in DT this week 😊
Year One	Aiden	Excellent effort with handwriting
Year Two	Seb	Being more involved and showing improvement in Maths. 😊
Year Three	Zephaniah	For displaying excellent behaviour in class.
Year Four	Eyole	For his outstanding effort this week 😊
Year Five	Yeabsera	Great effort in every subject. 😊
Year Six	Hewan	For her great use of grammar terminology in English this week 😊
Little Flower Room	Ariel	For great work during art.

### This Week's News



It has been a busy first week back from half-term. On Thursday Year Four celebrated their skills and talents with a career day and considered 'who is God calling me to be?'. Children dressed as doctors, teachers, footballers, artists, nurses and policemen to name a few.



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