Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 12th December 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

This Sunday (14th December) is the Third Sunday of Advent. This third week focuses our intention on joy. Joy is a very real and deep happiness that is rooted in faith and trust. In this third week of Advent, we pause and reflect on the first half of the season, as well as look ahead to the last weeks. The joy that we have and will experience during this season magnifies as we continue to prepare for the coming of Christ, who is full of joy.

Advent Wreath Prayer for Third Week of Advent - As we draw near to you, Lord God, keep us aware of your presence in all we do. Come with power to enlighten us by your grace, that we may live in praise and joy all our days.

Christmas Dates for your Diary

Monday 15th December	Reception, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly	2.30pm
Tuesday 16th December	Y3 & Y4 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly	2.30pm
Wednesday 17th December	Y5 & Y6 Parents – KS2 Christmas Assembly	**9.15am**
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Carol Concert for Parents	2.30pm
Friday 19th December	**School closes at 1pm for Christmas holidays**	**1.00pm**
Monday 5th January	Return to school	8.40am

School Term Dates 2025 -2026

Autumn Term 2025	Spring Term 2026	Summer Term 2026
Monday 1st September 2025 to Friday 24th October 2025	Monday 5th January 2026 to Friday 13th February 2026	Monday 13th April 2026 to Friday 22nd May 2026
HALF TERM - one week holiday	**HALF TERM - one week holiday**	**HALF TERM - two weeks holiday**
Monday 3rd November 2025 to Friday 19th December 2025	Monday 23rd February 2026 to Thursday 2nd April 2026	Monday 8th June 2026 to Tuesday 21st 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

Reminder - Last Day of Term – next Friday

Next FRIDAY 19th we break up for our Christmas holidays at **1.00pm**. **It is very important that someone is here to collect your child promptly, as staff will be leaving the site at this time also.** Thank you for your support with this.

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.

After-school Clubs

All after school clubs have now finished until after the Christmas holiday. Sessions for after the holiday will be confirmed next week.

School Mass – every Wednesday

There will be no School Mass next week. The next school mass will be on Wednesday 7th January at 2pm. 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.

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.

For more information, scan the QR code

Christmas Performances

Our Christmas Performances take place on the following dates:-

Monday 15th December 2.30pm	Rec Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly
Tuesday 16th December 2.30pm	KS2 Christmas Assembly for Y3 & Y4 Parents
Wednesday 17th December 9.15am	KS2 Christmas Assembly for Y5 & Y6 Parents

The Y5 and Y6 Christmas assembly has been moved to the earlier time of **9.15am** on Wednesday 17th December due to Mrs Sutton's funeral taking place which some of the staff will be attending. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your understanding.

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.**

School Christmas Carol Concert

We are having a special end of term Christmas Carol Service NEXT Thursday 18th December. The service will start at **2.30pm** in school and will be led by children from different classes. The children have been working really hard at learning their carols and are looking forward to singing for you. All families are welcome to attend this event. It will be a lovely way to start your family Christmas, so please come along and share in this special celebration with us.

Pastoral Safeguarding Mobile Phone

We now have a pastoral safeguarding phone number. If you need any support please text **07594 658524** and include your name/child's name. A member of the school leadership team will contact you in return.

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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.

West Birmingham Early Help Family Newsletter

The December 2025 issue of the West Birmingham Early Help newsletter is attached to this week's newsletter.

Beezee Families in Birmingham – Healthy Lifestyle Programme

Beezee Families Birmingham is a FREE healthy lifestyle programme designed for the whole family – available in-person or online.

- Your family gets a dedicated nutritionist
- Fun weekly sessions with games and activities
- Learn easy, nutritious meals and snacks to cook together
- Connect with other families and get expert support from coaches and nutritionists

This programme is perfect for families with children aged 5-12 years who are above their ideal weight (based on the NHS BMI centile chart). Checking is quick – use the NHS BMI calculator or let the Beezee team help you.
Don't miss out – sign up today and start your family's journey to healthier living! Find out more and register here: https://bhx.maximusuk.co.uk/beezeefamilies/

Birmingham SEND is now on Instagram!

Birmingham SEND has officially launched its Instagram account and growing our social media presence. Our goal is to create a space where children, young people, parent carers, professionals, and the wider community can stay connected and informed. On Instagram, just like we do on our Facebook page we'll be sharing updates on SEND services and support, helpful resources and guidance, upcoming events and workshops, stories, achievements, and community highlights and tips for navigating the Local Offer.
By joining us on social media, you'll have easier access to timely information and a more engaging way to stay involved with our work. Follow us today and help us build a supportive online community:

Instagram - @LocalOfferBirmingham -https://www.instagram.com/localofferbirmingham/
Facebook - www.facebook.com/SENDBirmingham

Ofsted Grading

Ofsted have made available a video for parents/carers explaining the new Ofsted inspection report cards, please click the link below to access:
Understanding Ofsted report cards and grades - GOV.UK

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.

Managing seasonal illness – key information for schools and parents

As we move further into the term, DfE wants to remind all settings of the key guidance available to help manage seasonal illnesses and keep pupils and staff well.

Education Hub Blog: Reducing the spread of illness this winter: Seven steps to healthier schools and higher school attendance.

NHS Guidance for Parents: Is my child too ill for school? – a useful resource to help parents decide when children should stay at home.

Public Health Information

Due to extreme pressures across emergency departments, please only attend the A&E if you're experiencing a life-threatening emergency. For help with minor healthcare needs, try these alternative options:

- Urgent Treatment Centres (UTCs): visit UTCs for support with common injuries and illnesses
- Pharmacy First: visit your local pharmacy for advice, guidance, and medication for common conditions
- NHS 111: call 111 or visit 111.nhs.uk for urgent, non-life-threatening medical advice 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- GP practice: call or book an appointment with your GP

To find out more about how to choose the right service for your healthcare needs, visit https://www.birminghamsolihull.icb.nhs.uk/health-information/choose-well.

Potty Training Guide

Across the country, 1 in 4 children are not toilet trained when they start Reception. The free Potty Training Guide has been developed by the early years sector and offers clear, research-based guidance around when and how to potty train. Please follow the link for more information The Potty Training Guide - Starting Reception.

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.

SAINTJOSEPHSCHURCH_NECHELLS

SCAN QR CODE

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:

Divine – Reception Kali – Year One Naode - Year Three Yostina – Year Six

Attendance – week ending 12th December 2025

Well done to Year Five who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous 99.7%

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 94.2**%**	Year One: 90.7**%**	Year Two: 89.9%	Year Three: 96.6%
Year Four: 95.2 **%**	Year Five: 99.7%	Year Six: 95.3%	

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This gives a whole school attendance of 95%

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

Reception	Abigail	For trying hard with her writing and numbers.
Year One	Gelila	For trying her best with her independent writing.
Year Two	Elizabeth	For always being helpful and polite showing how learned and wise she is. ☺
Year Three	Matiwos	For writing a detailed setting description about the beach.
Year Four	Iman	For her fantastic story writing in English! ☺
Year Five	Roumissa	For a great improvement in writing. ☺
Year Six	Jack	For super progress in your Maths! ☺

This Week's News

Well done to our basketball and handball team who achieved silver medals in the annual MAC tournament – a fantastic achievement!

Year Three have been learning about seasonal foods and have been practicing their cutting skills.

The children all thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas dinner on Thursday – big thanks to our hard-working kitchen staff!

13
sleeps until
Christmas!

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