



St. Joseph's News

Friday 16th January 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Prayer

God of light, you sent the Spirit down upon your Son so that others might know who he was. Send your Spirit on us, so that we might spread your message of love and peace to others.

Amen



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 21 st January	School Mass – led by Y4	2.00pm
	FHC Parents' Meeting	3.00pm
	Y5 visit to Birmingham Buddhist Centre	
Thursday 22 nd January	Y6 visit to the Islamic Exhibition Centre	
Sunday 25 th January	First Holy Communion Commitment Mass	9.45am
	At St Joseph's Church	
Monday 26 th January	Y4 visit to Singers Hill Synagogue	
Wednesday 28 th January	Rec & Y1 visit to St Joseph's Church	
Wednesday 4 th February	Y2 visit to St Joseph's Church	
Friday 6 th February	Y3 visit to Gurdwara	
Friday 6 th February	St Josephine Bakhita house group children ONLY - own clothes day	
Thursday 12 th February	School closes for half term	3.20pm
Friday 13th February	SCHOOL CLOSED – MAC TRAINING DAY	
Monday 23 rd February	School reopens	8.40am
Thursday 26 th February	International Dress Up Day	
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day dressing up day	
Wednesday 11 th March	Parents' Evening 2.30pm – 5.30pm	
Tuesday 31 st March	Y3 & Y4 Maundy Thursday Liturgy (pm)	
Wednesday 1 st April	Y5 & Y6 Stations of the cross Liturgy (pm)	
Thursday 2 nd April	School closes for ONE WEEK Easter holiday	1.00pm

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 1 st September 2025 Monday 13 th October TBC Monday 20 th July 2026 Tuesday 21 st July 2026 Friday 13 th February (MAC teacher day)

Bank Holidays
Friday 3 rd April 2026 Monday 4 th May 2026

*This half-term virtues are: Learned & Wise
If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the safeguarding team;
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School Mass – every Wednesday

The next school mass will be on Wednesday 21st January at 2pm and will be led by Year 4. 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.

After School Clubs

There are still some spaces remaining on after-school clubs which started this week. Laser Tag for Years 4 to 6 will run on Mondays starting on Monday 12th January for five weeks. Laser Tag for Years 1 to 3 will run on Tuesdays starting on Tuesday 13th January for five weeks. Places are on a first come first served basis and will cost £15, this must be paid in full at the school office before your child can start the club. All clubs finish at 4.15pm and children must be collected on time.

First Holy Communion

As you may know, some of our children in Y3 are preparing to make their First Holy Communion. The first commitment mass will take place in St. Joseph's Church on Sunday 25th January 2026 at 09:45am. Everybody is more than welcome and encouraged to attend. It would be lovely to see lots of people there to support the children. There will be a meeting for all parents of children making their First Holy Communion this year next Wednesday 21st January at 3.00pm



Snow!

In the event of any heavy snow over the coming weeks or extreme weather which causes significant disruption, we will send a text message if we feel it is not safe to open school. If you do not receive a message, then school is OPEN! Please ensure that you keep us up-to date with any changes of contact numbers. Thank you!

School Pictures – Aperture Portraits

Aperture Portraits have notified the school that the children's school photographs which were taken back in October 2025 are available to purchase online again and will be available to order until Tuesday 31st March 2026.

Different Upcoming School Holidays

Just a reminder that we have different holidays to other Birmingham schools this year. We will be having ONE week holiday at Easter and TWO WEEKS at May. Please bear this in mind when making any travel arrangements for the holidays. Dates are on the first page of this newsletter and have been on since September. Medical absences either side of school holidays will require evidence of illness for them to be authorised. Once you have had 5 unauthorised days absence you can be fined. These days do not have to be all at the same time/ consecutively and can be over a period of different terms. Any days of absences that are unauthorised (this also includes 'late after registration' marks where a child arrives after 9.15am) now count towards number of absences. Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days, or less days if you have had previous unauthorised absence in the 10 weeks prior to the holiday. The fine for unauthorised holiday is now £160 for each parent (reduced to £80 if paid within 28 days) for each child that was absent. For example, if you have 3 children absent for term time leave, this would result in each parent receiving a fine of £480 (reduced to £240 if paid within 28 days)



Congratulations!

Huge congratulations to Mrs Boxwell (Y6) who is expecting a baby in the summer term! Please keep her and her family in your prayers as she prepares to welcome her baby.

School Job Vacancies – Lunchtime Supervisors

The school currently has vacancies for two lunchtime supervisors. If you, or anyone you may know would be interested in applying, details and application forms can be found on the school website ([Vacancies - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School](#)). The closing date is Wednesday 28th January at 12pm.

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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.

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.

MyClothing Discount Code

MyClothing have provided parents with a 10% off discount code for any uniform orders placed on the MyClothing website. 'MYCQ11' needs to be entered at checkout and is valid until 31st March 2026.



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](https://www.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>.

NCMD Update on Baby Sleep Pillows

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) recently issued a [product safety alert](#) concerning baby sleep pillows. You can read OPSS' recommendations in full on the [gov.uk website](#), but in particular OPSS have advised that pillows should not be used for babies under 12 months old and should not be placed in cribs or cots.

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.



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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:

Evie – Year One Yukang – Year Two Aron – Year Three Trai'von – Year Four



Attendance – week ending 16th January 2026

Well done to Y3 who had the best attendance this week with 98.5%

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 91.1%	Year One: 96.7%	Year Two: 95.7%	Year Three: 98.5%
Year Four: 96.1%	Year Five: 95.6%	Year Six: 97.7%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 96%



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

Reception	Ivy	Fantastic answers in RE this week! 😊
Year 1	Lucas	For outstanding behaviour and effort this week! 😊
Year 2	Yukang	Great effort in Maths this week
Year 3	Matiwos	Fantastic answers in guided reading.
Year 4	Jasmine	Excellent independent work in Maths and English
Year 5	Jin	Fantastic effort in Maths 😊
Year 6	Nahom	For showing a good attitude to his learning this week 😊
Little Flower Room	Eliana	Good listening this week.



This Week's News

Year Five have had a great week learning about a variety of topics – they have started to make pop-up books in DT and have taken part in the first of five Climate Action workshops, learning all about climate change.

Year Three and Four had a fantastic day out at Cadbury World learning about the Victorians and chocolate.



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