



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 30th January 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Prayer

God of mercy and truth,
 Open our hearts to the truth of the good news taught to us by your Son, Jesus.
 Open our eyes to see that all people are special and
 Strengthen our faith so that we may serve you better,
 As we try to make a difference to the lives of others.
 This we pray in Jesus' name,
 Amen.



Dates for your Diary

| | | |
|--|---|---------------|
| 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

Term starts: Monday 1 September 2025
 Half-term: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025
 Term ends: Friday 19 December 2025

Spring Term 2026

Term starts: Monday 5 January 2026
 Half-term: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026
 Term ends: Thursday 2 April 2026

Summer Term 2026

Term starts: Monday 13 April 2026
 Half-term: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 5 June 2026
 Term ends: Tuesday 21 July 2026

Teacher Days

Monday 1st September
 Monday 13th October
 Friday 13th February
 Monday 20th July
 Tuesday 21st July



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School Mass – every Wednesday

The next school mass will be on Wednesday 4th February at 2pm and will be led by Year 6. 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.

School's X (formerly Twitter Page)

The school does have an account on X (formerly Twitter) which is regularly updated with what the classes have been doing each week in school. Please visit our page ([St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, B7 \(@stjosb7\) / X](#)) to see what your children have been doing. You will need an account on X to be able to view any updates.

Hosanna Cantata - Performance at St Chad's Cathedral

Please see the poster for further information about the performance at St Chad's Cathedral taking place on Saturday 7th March 2026 at 2.30pm.

Google Translate

If you would like to translate the newsletter into your home language, this can be done through Google Translate. Please follow the link ([Google Translate](#)) where you can 'drag and drop' the newsletter and this will automatically translate the content into the language you choose.



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.

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

HOSANNA!



By Anne Ward

A Cantata in Song and Mime

Performed by an inclusive cast of people with disabilities and diverse needs and friends,

Led by Hand in Hand

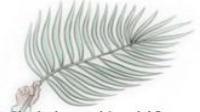
Saturday 7th March 2026

2.30pm

**St Chad's Cathedral
3540 St Chad's Queensway
Birmingham
B4 6EU**

**Come and relive the events of Holy Week
From the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the
devastating crucifixion on Good Friday, with a hint of what
happened next**

Free to attend



'Hand in Hand' are adults with and without learning disabilities, based in Birmingham and Arundel & Brighton Dioceses, who meet to socialise and to pray using drama, music and sign language

For more information email handinhandbirmingham@gmail.com

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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)

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 for urgent, non-life-threatening medical advice 24 / 7
- 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.birminghamsohull.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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This Week's Menu

Please see below for details of the school's three week rotating dinner menu, week commencing Monday 2nd February 2026 children will be offered the Week 2 menu:

| CITY SERVE | | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | | | |
|------------------|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| WEEK 1 | Pasta Bolognese Cheese and Onion Pastry (V) Broccoli(V) Carrots (V) New Potatoes (V) Shortbread and Custard | Chicken Meatballs in a Tomato Sauce Vegetable Meatballs (V) Spicy Wedges (V) Carrot and Swede (V) Green Beans (V) Apple Crumble and Custard | Roast Chicken or Quorn Roast Dinner with Trimming(V) Roast Potatoes(V) Carrots and Cauliflower(V) Fruity Jelly | Chicken and Chickpea Curry Sweet Potato and Spinach Curry (V) Boiled Rice and Naan (V) Broccoli (V) Fruit Sponge and Custard | Homemade Margherita Pizza(V) Crumbed Cod Fish Cake Chunky Chips(V) Spaghetti Hoops (V) Garden Peas(V) Ice Cream Tub | Fresh Salad Bar and Bread | Jacket Potato and Fillings | Fresh Fruit and Yoghurts | |
| | WEEK 2 | Crispy Turkey Burger Quorn Burger(V) Green Beans(V) Baked Beans(V) Spicy Wedges(V) Flap Jack and Custard | Cottage Pie Vegetable Lasagne (V) Baby Carrots (V) Broccoli (V) Herby Diced Potato(V) Chocolate Crunch and Custard | Sausages, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy Quorn Sausages (V) Roast Potatoes(V) Carrot & Swede Batons (V) Peas (V) Fruit Jelly | Chilli Con Carne Cheese and Potato Pie. Boiled Rice & Garlic Bread Broccoli (V) Marbled Sponge and | Homemade Margherita Pizza(V) Breaded Pollock Chunky Chips (V) Baked Beans(V) Sweetcorn (V) Ice Cream Tub | Fresh Salad Bar and Bread | Jacket Potato and Fillings | Fresh Fruit and Yoghurts |
| | | WEEK 3 | Macaroni Cheese(V) Fish Fingers(V) Spicy Wedges(V) Garden Peas(V) Carrots(V) Lemon Drizzle Cake and Custard | Hot Dog with Onions Quorn Hot Dog & Onions(V) Herby Diced Potatoes(V) Sweetcorn (V) Broccoli (V) Chocolate Cracknell and Custard | Roast Gammon Dinner with all the Trimmings Cheese and Onion Lattice Finger(V) Roast Potatoes(V) Carrots and Green Beans Fruit Jelly | Cajun Chicken Wrap with Fried Onions and Peppers (V) Italian Pasta Bake Homemade Coleslaw (V) Spicy Wedges(V) Baked Cookie | Homemade Margherita Pizza(V) Bubble Crumb Fish Fillet Chunky Chips(V) Baked Beans (V) Sweetcorn(V) Ice Cream Tub | Fresh Salad Bar and Bread | Jacket Potato and Fillings |

Vegetarian options available daily.
For any allergen or special dietary requirements please speak to a member of the catering team.

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:

Yolyana – Rec Daniel – Year 1 Ezekai – Year 4 Eliab – Year 6

Attendance – week ending 30th January 2026

Well done to **Y6** who had the best attendance this week with an incredible **100%** Well done Y6!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Reception: 98.2% | Year One: 99.4% | Year Two: 94.8% | Year Three: 96.9% |
| Year Four: 95.7% | Year Five: 99.1% | Year Six: 100% | |

This gives a whole school attendance of 97.8%

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

| | | |
|-----------|----------|--|
| Reception | Senay | Excellent work in maths this week! |
| Year 1 | Lucas | Lovely contributions in RE this week |
| Year 2 | Seb | Excellent independent work in Maths and English |
| Year 3 | Amen | For spelling one of the longest words!! (45 letters) |
| Year 4 | Daniella | For her amazing knowledge and participation in RE! |
| Year 5 | Richard | Amazing work in computing 😊 |
| Year 6 | Kayla | For always being a great example to others 😊 |

This Week's News



Year 4 had a lovely morning at Singers Hill Synagogue. Big thank you to Geoff who gave a fantastic tour!

Reception have been busy completing the RSPB bird watch this week! The children identified and count some of the birds on their list and had great fun doing it.



Some updates from Year Six, so far this half-term they have been working on their balancing and jumping in PE, learning about ancient Maya civilisations during an interactive workshop and had a wonderful visit to the Islamic Exhibition Centre in Birmingham!



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