Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Prayer

God of life, you gave your Son Jesus strength in the desert.
Give us the strength to do what we know is right and to stand up for what we believe in, even when it is difficult.
Amen.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 5th March	World Book Day dressing up day	
Wednesday 11th March	Parents' Evening 2.30pm – 5.30pm	
Wednesday 25th March	Class group school photographs	
Tuesday 31st March	Y3 & Y4 Maundy Thursday Liturgy (pm)	
Wednesday 1st April	Y5 & Y6 Stations of the cross Liturgy (pm)	
Thursday 2nd 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

School Mass – every Wednesday

The next school mass will be on Wednesday 4th March at 2pm and will be 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.

After School Clubs

There are still places available for the Archery after school clubs running this half term. The club for Years 4, 5 and 6 runs on a Monday and the club for Years 1, 2 and 3 runs on a Tuesday from 3.20pm to 4.15pm. The cost is £15 and must be paid in full before your child starts the club.

This half-term virtues are: Curious & Active
If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the safeguarding team;
Mrs Gowen, Mrs Ashley, Mr Caffrey, Mrs Boxwell and Mrs West.

World Book Day – Dressing Up day - NEXT Thursday 5th March

World Book Day is on 5th March and to celebrate this the children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character or an adjective. An adjective is a describing word for example, stripy, sparkly, sporty. We hope that you will agree that this makes the dressing up day a little easier and avoids the need to buy/make specific costumes. It is easier to come up with something based with what you already have at home. However, if children still wish to dress as a book character, they are most welcome! There is no charge for this, and we are really looking forward to seeing your creativity!!

Fasting

We have been made aware that some of the children in school have been changing their meal choices at lunchtime because they are fasting. Please be advised that the only way school can cater for fasting is if **parents/carers provide a packed lunch for their child everyday up until Easter.** If your child is not given a packed lunch, then a normal school dinner will be provided. We are unable to accommodate children opting out of eating during school hours or changing their eating option for just two days a week. **If you would like your child to bring a packed lunch into school every day up until Easter (rather than having their usual school dinner) please return the completed consent form to school**.

Product Recalls – Hobbycraft sand-based products

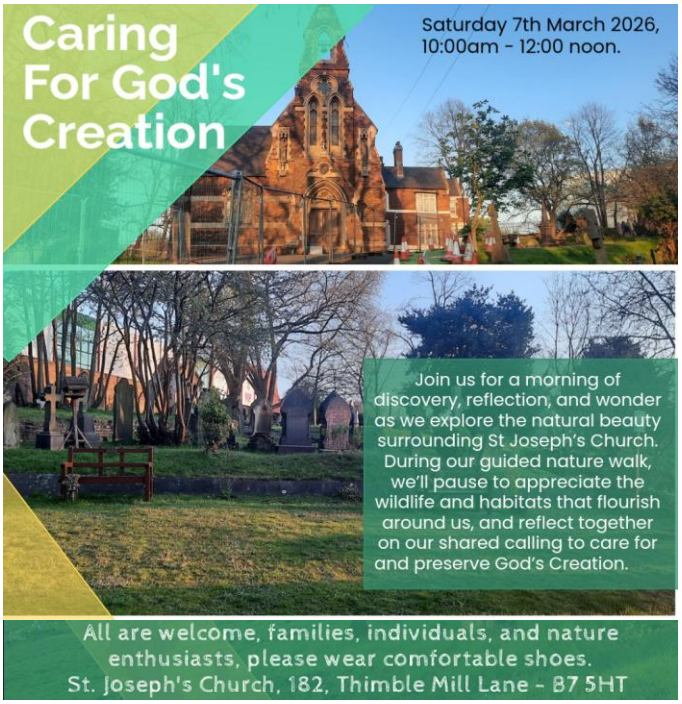
Please note that product recall alerts have been issued for the following Hobbycraft sand-based craft products:

- Sand & Pom Pom Art Kit
- Easter Bumper Craft Kit
- Box of Craft

If you have any of these products at home, you should stop using them immediately and follow the advice given in the Hobbycraft product recall notice and the Office for Product Safety Standards product recall.

Nature Activities in Nechells

Please see the poster for nature activities taking place in Eliot Street Park on Friday afternoons (3.15pm – 4.30pm) and a nature walk which is taking place at St Joseph's Church on Saturday 7th March from 10.00am to 12.00noon. All are welcome.



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Aston Villa Foundation Community Hub

Please see the poster for more information on the Aston Villa Foundation Community Hub sessions. To register and for more information you can also scan the QR code.

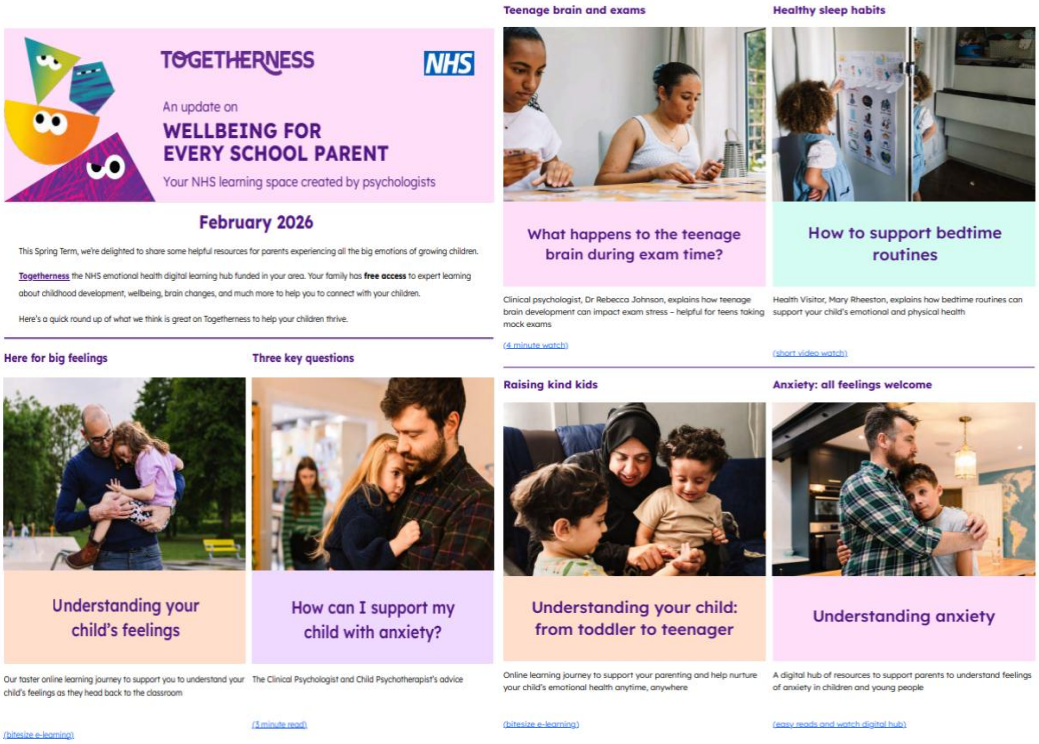
School's X (formerly Twitter Page)

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.

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.

Togetherness – An Update on Wellbeing for Every School Parent



Please see the posters on how you can access Togetherness, which is the NHS emotional health digital learning hub. The online learning can be accessed by clicking on the following link PDF February 2026 parent wellbeing newsletter.

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.

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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.

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).

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.

This half-term virtues are: Intentional & Prophetic

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

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.birminghamsolihull.icb.nhs.uk/health-information/choose-well.

St Joseph's Parish

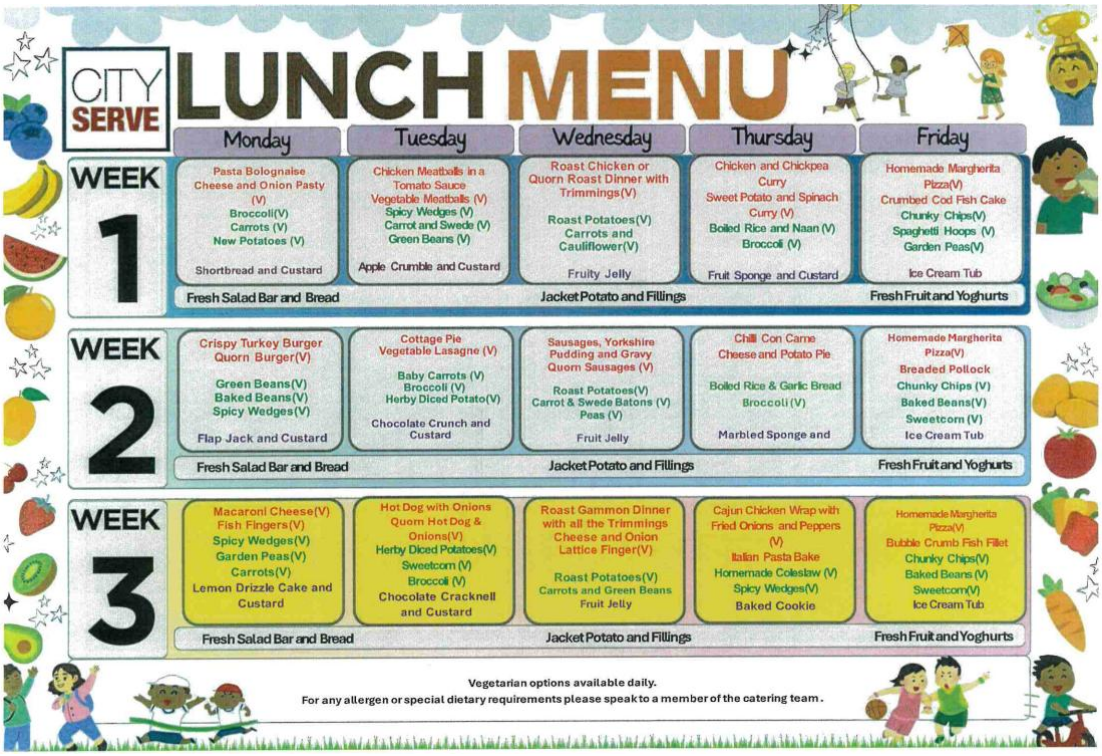
Mass at St Joseph's Church takes place every **Sunday morning at 9:45am.** Please do try to attend Mass as often as you can. A coffee morning also takes place **every Friday morning at 10:30am** at St Joseph's Church, all are welcome. Please scan the QR code to view St Joseph's Instagram page.

SAINTJOSEPHSCHURCH_NECHELLS

SCAN QR CODE

This Week's Menu

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



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:

Leo – Reception Ferida – Y2 Livia – Y3 Yostina – Y6

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Attendance – week ending 27th February 2026

Well done to **Y2** who had the best attendance this week with an incredible **100%!**

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 99.1**%**	Year One: 96.7**%**	Year Two: 100%	Year Three: 97.7%
Year Four: 99.3**%**	Year Five: 99.1%	Year Six: 96.5%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 98.3%

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

Reception	Ezana	For excellent work on animals this week.
Year 1	Mana	Excellent independent writing this week.
Year 2	Nahom B	Excellent participation in R.E this week.
Year 3	Praise	For his thoughtful answers in all lessons.
Year 4	Ashleigh	For her fantastic presentation in all her work! 🌟
Year 5	Didan	Excellent progress in Maths 😊
Year 6	Jahid	For excellent control and balance skill during our P.E. lesson this week.

This Week's News

On Monday Year 4 made their own cars in DT. The children tried testing their first prototypes and will be looking at how to improve and make their designs even better!

Y6 thoroughly enjoyed their first tennis lesson with coach Mark this week. The focus was to practise balancing and controlling the tennis ball on the racket using both back hand and forehand positioning.

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