



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Thursday 12th February 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Prayer

Almighty Father, may You protect my family against harm and misfortune.
Please let them live under Your Grace.

I am more than thankful for the blessing of letting us live together and enjoy each other's company.

I thank You for letting us belong in a place we can call our very own.

We are more than happy to receive each other, please keep us safe at all times.

Thank you for my family. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.



Dates for your Diary

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



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.



Advanced Warning – half term break

We close **TODAY** 12th February at 3.20pm for our half-term break as Friday 13th February is a MAC Teacher Training Day. The children return to school on Monday 23rd February at 8.40am.

School Mass – every Wednesday

The next school mass will be on Wednesday 25th February 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.

Safeside Open Day

West Midlands Fire Service are holding a free family-friendly half-term event the SafeSide centre in Birmingham.

SafeSide Open Day – fun, interactive safety learning for all ages

Date: Monday 17th February 2026

Time: 12:00 – 4:00pm

Location: SafeSide, 101 Vauxhall Road, Birmingham, B7 4HW

Free parking available

What's on offer

- Explore our full-size indoor SafeSide Safety Village
- Virtual Reality (VR) road safety experiences
- Nursery safety boxes and giveaways
- Refreshments
- Meet our firefighters and see a fire engine*

Children can learn about everyday risks in a safe, interactive and engaging environment, while parents can pick up practical safety advice to take home.

Families can drop in at any time during the event.

*Fire engine attendance subject to operational availability.

If you would like to attend [please complete this form](#).

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:



This half-term virtues are: Learned & Wise

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The Potty Training Guide

The Potty Training Guide backed by the Government and NHS is now available in twelve additional languages. Please follow the link ([The Potty Training Guide - Starting Reception](#)) to access the guide, this will be particularly useful if you have younger children who will start school in September 2026 and should begin school toilet trained. There is also further information available on [Home - Starting Reception](#) which contains lots of information on how you can help prepare your child for school in September.

Togetherness – An Update on Wellbeing for Every School Parent

Please see the below 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](#).



February 2026

This Spring Term, we're delighted to share some helpful resources for parents experiencing all the big emotions of growing children.

Togetherness the NHS emotional health digital learning hub funded in your area. Your family has **free access** to expert learning about childhood development, wellbeing, brain changes, and much more to help you to connect with your children.

Here's a quick round up of what we think is great on Togetherness to help your children thrive.

Here for big feelings

Three key questions



Understanding your child's feelings



How can I support my child with anxiety?

Our **taster** online learning journey to support you to understand your child's feelings as they head back to the classroom

The Clinical Psychologist and Child Psychotherapist's advice

[\(bitesize e-learning\)](#)

[\(3 minute read\)](#)

Teenage brain and exams



What happens to the teenage brain during exam time?

Clinical psychologist, Dr Rebecca Johnson, explains how teenage brain development can impact exam stress – helpful for teens taking mock exams

[\(4 minute watch\)](#)

Healthy sleep habits



How to support bedtime routines

Health Visitor, Mary Rheeston, explains how bedtime routines can support your child's emotional and physical health

[\(short video watch\)](#)

Raising kind kids



Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager

Online learning journey to support your parenting and help nurture your child's emotional health anytime, anywhere

[\(bitesize e-learning\)](#)

Anxiety: all feelings welcome



Understanding anxiety

A digital hub of resources to support parents to understand feelings of anxiety in children and young people

[\(easy reads and watch digital hub\)](#)

School's X (formerly Twitter Page)

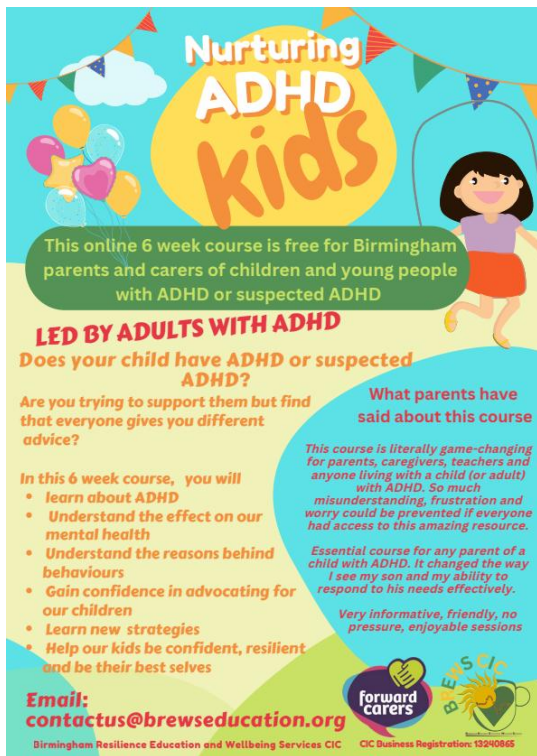
The school does have an account on X (formerly Twitter) which is regularly updated with what the classes have been doing each week in school. Please visit our page ([St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, B7 \(@stjosb7\) / X](#)) to see what your children have been doing. You will need an account on X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

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Nurturing ADHD Kids

This online 6 week course is free for Birmingham parents and carers of children and young people with ADHD or suspected ADHD

LED BY ADULTS WITH ADHD

Does your child have ADHD or suspected ADHD?
Are you trying to support them but find that everyone gives you different advice?

In this 6 week course, you will

- learn about ADHD
- Understand the effect on our mental health
- Understand the reasons behind behaviours
- Gain confidence in advocating for our children
- Learn new strategies
- Help our kids be confident, resilient and be their best selves

What parents have said about this course

This course is literally game-changing for parents, caregivers, teachers and anyone living with a child (or adult) with ADHD. So much misunderstanding, frustration and worry could be prevented if everyone had access to this amazing resource.

Essential course for any parent of a child with ADHD. It changed the way I see my son and my ability to respond to his needs effectively.

Very informative, friendly, no pressure, enjoyable sessions

Email:
contactus@brewseducation.org

Birmingham Resilience Education and Wellbeing Services CIC CIC Business Registration: 13240965

Nurturing ADHD Kids Courses

Brews CIC are offering free online courses if your child has ADHD or if you suspect they may have ADHD. Please contact Brews CIC via email on contactus@brewseducation.org for more information and availability of course dates.

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.

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).

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.

This half-term virtues are: Learned & Wise

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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

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.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.



This Week's Menu

Please see details of the school's three week rotating dinner menu, week commencing Monday 23rd February 2026 children will be offered the Week 1 menu:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 1	Pasta Bolognese Cheese and Onion Pasta (V) Broccoli(V) Carrots (V) New Potatoes (V) Shortbread and Custard Fresh Salad Bar and Bread	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 Trimmings(V) Roast Potatoes(V) Carrots and Cauliflower(V) Fruity Jelly Jacket Potato and Fillings	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 Fruit and Yoghurts
WEEK 2	Crispy Turkey Burger Quorn Burger(V) Green Beans(V) Baked Beans(V) Spicy Wedges(V) Flap Jack and Custard Fresh Salad Bar and Bread	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 Jacket Potato and Fillings	Chili 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 Fruit and Yoghurts
WEEK 3	Macaroni Cheese(V) Fish Fingers(V) Spicy Wedges(V) Garden Peas(V) Carrots(V) Lemon Drizzle Cake and Custard Fresh Salad Bar and Bread	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 Jacket Potato and Fillings	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 Fruit and Yoghurts

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

This half-term virtues are: Learned & Wise

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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:

Simona – Reception Elihu – Y2 Nova – Y4 Bethel – Y5

Attendance – week ending 12th February 2026

Well done to **Y2 and Y3** who had the best attendance this week with an incredible **100%**!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 99.4%	Year One: 99.2%	Year Two: 100%	Year Three: 100%
Year Four: 95.4%	Year Five: 99.1%	Year Six: 98.6%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 98.7%



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

Reception	Eben	For excellent work in phonics this week!
Year 1	Aiden	Good effort in phonics
Year 2	Ferida	For excellent independent writing
Year 3	Kebba	For showing resilience and trying his best in maths lessons.
Year 4	Yididiya	For always being a role model to others.
Year 5	Michael	Super progress in Maths 😊
Year 6	Dawud	For his great effort in class and for always being a good example to others.

This Week's News



Year 6 completed their PE unit on gymnastics for this half term by compiling routines based on the jumps, balances and other moves they have learnt. Fantastic work Year 6!

Year 6 have also enjoyed their DT lesson this week cooking up delicious black bean and vegetable tacos.



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