



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 13th March 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Prayer

Dear God, during this Lenten season open my heart to the needs of others. May we reflect your love and compassion in our actions, serving those who are suffering or in need. Amen.



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 18 th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation prayer service for First Holy Communion children	1.15pm
	School Mass – led by Y3	2.00pm
Wednesday 25 th March	Class group & Y6 Leavers school photographs	
Tuesday 31 st March	Y3 & Y4 Maundy Thursday Liturgy (pm)	
Wednesday 1 st April	Mrs Smith's Retirement Assembly	9.10am
	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
Monday 6th July



School Mass – every Wednesday

The next school mass will be on Wednesday 18th March at 2pm and will be led by Year 3. 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.

*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.*

Book Fair

The Book Fair will be in school from Monday 16th until Wednesday 18th March and will be open to parents from 3.30pm. **Please can we ask where possible payments are made by card?** Many thanks.

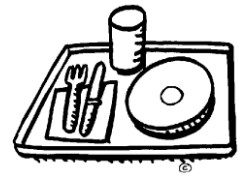


Goodbye!

Sadly, we will soon be saying goodbye to Mrs Smith who has been a Teaching Assistant with us for almost 20 years. Mrs Smith has been away from school more recently but is still a huge part of the St Joseph's community. Mrs Smith's father was the caretaker at St Joseph's for around 25 years and then Mrs Smith started her own career at the school. Mrs Smith has always gone above and beyond for our children and families, and she will be greatly missed. There will be an assembly in school to celebrate her retirement on **Wednesday 1st April 2026 at 9.10am** and all parents are welcome to attend to wish her well.

School Meals price increase

The price of school meals will be increasing from after Easter by 25p per week. This means that the costs will be £2.75 per day or £13.75 per week. Unfortunately, this is due to rising costs through our catering company and the costs of food increasing.



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 total cost is £15 and must be paid in full before your child starts the club.

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](#).

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.



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Nature Activities in Nechells

Please see the poster for nature activities taking place in Eliot Street Park on Friday afternoons (3.15pm – 4.30pm).



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.

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.

Mother's Day

We would like to wish you all a very happy Mother's Day on Sunday and a happy day with your families. We especially think of all expectant mothers and pray that they and their unborn child are kept safe from all harm. We also remember at this time mothers who have lost children, mothers who are no longer with us and those who have lost their mothers, as Mother's Day is also a time of celebrating the happy memories that we have shared. You are very much in our thoughts and prayers at this time.



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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.

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>.

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.



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:

Betselot – Y1 Asiyah – Y2 Salem – Y4 Natan – Y6

Attendance – week ending 13th March 2026

Well done to **Y3** who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous 99.6%!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 99%	Year One: 98.1%	Year Two: 97.5%	Year Three: 99.6%
Year Four: 97.8%	Year Five: 98.8%	Year Six: 99%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 98.6%

This Week's Menu

Please see details of the school's three week rotating dinner menu, week commencing Monday 16th March 2026 children will be offered the Week 1 menu:

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CITY SERVE LUNCH 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	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	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	Fresh Fruit and Yoghurts	

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



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

Reception	Abigail	Excellent threading skills in DT this week 😊
Year 1	Melody	Excellent group work in Maths 😊
Year 2	Ayo	For his excellent sentence writing in English.
Year 3	Farah	For improvement in her handwriting and presentation in her books.
Year 4	Rahma	For her incredible writing in English this week 😊
Year 5	Matthew	Super effort in Maths 😊
Year 6	Jay	For his great effort in Maths and English this week 😊

This Week's News

This week Year Four have been looking at and reflecting on the different aspects of Our Father during their RE lesson – fantastic work Year Four!



We are very proud of our Year Four and Five girls that represented the school at the St Paul's football tournament.



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