



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St. Joseph's News

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

## A Prayer

God our Father, you guide and direct us on our journey through life.  
Be with us as we through our Lenten journey of faith and love.  
Help us grow closer to you during this special holy season.  
Help us to do your will each day during Lent.  
Amen.



## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>NO SCHOOL MASS – SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2.15PM</b> Parents' Evening 2.30pm – 5.30pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Sacrament of Reconciliation prayer service 1.15pm for First Holy Communion children School Mass – led by Y3 2.00pm
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Class group &amp; Y6 Leavers school photographs</b>
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Y3 & Y4 Maundy Thursday Liturgy (pm)
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Y5 & Y6 Stations of the cross Liturgy (pm)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	School closes for <b>ONE WEEK</b> Easter holiday <b>1.00pm</b>

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> July  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July



Parents' Evening – NEXT Wednesday 11th March– school closing at 2.15pm  
Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 11th March 2:30-5:30pm. Appointment times have been sent out.  
**Please note that school will close at 2:15pm on Wednesday - all children must be collected at this time by an adult on their contact list.**



*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.*

Please do not arrive any earlier than ten minutes before your appointment time. During the time that you are in your appointment, your child can go into our Creche facility (**only for children who attend our school**) but please only bring children along if they cannot stay at home with another adult.

## School Mass – every Wednesday

**There will be no school mass next Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 due to parents evening.** The next school mass will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 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.

## 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

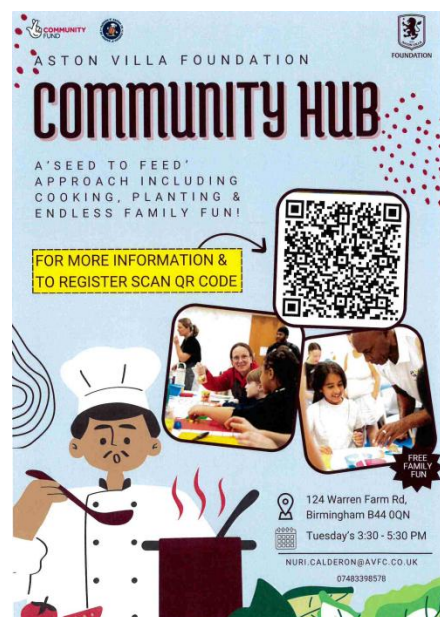
Please note that product recall alerts have been issued for the following Hobbycraft sand-based craft products:

- [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](#).

## 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.



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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) and a nature walk which is taking place at St Joseph’s Church on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March from 10.00am to 12.00noon. All are welcome.



## 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](https://twitter.com/stjosb7)) 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](https://www.google.com/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).

## St Raphael the Archangel CMAT Board Members – Christ-centred Pilgrims of hope

The Birmingham Archdiocese are looking for Board members for St Raphael the Archangel CMAT. This is a unique opportunity to make a real impact on Catholic education. We are looking for passionate and skilled individuals to join the Board of Directors and help guide the strategic direction of the CMAT. Please see <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/faqs/board-members-st-raphael-the-archangel-cmat> for further details or contact Mark O’Connell: [academies@bdes.org.uk](mailto:academies@bdes.org.uk) Location is not a barrier, as meetings can take place virtually.

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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 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 2.30pm.

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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://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>.

# 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:handinhandbirmingham@gmail.com)

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enjoy 10% off your next order\*

\*This offer excludes bundles, events hoodies and clearance items. Valid until 31.03.2026  
[www.myclothing.com](http://www.myclothing.com)

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## 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:

Ivy – Reception                      Pareesa – Y1                      Milka – Y3                      Ariam – Y5

## This Week's Menu

Please see details of the school's three week rotating dinner menu, week commencing Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 children will be offered the Week 3 menu:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>WEEK 1</b>	Pasta Bolognese, Cheese and Onion Paste (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
<b>WEEK 2</b>	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 Baked 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
<b>WEEK 3</b>	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.

## Attendance – week ending 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Well done to **Y5 & Y6** who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous 99.4%!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 96.1%                      Year One: 97.8%                      Year Two: 96.3%                      Year Three: 98.8%  
 Year Four: 98.9%                      Year Five: 99.4%                      Year Six: 99.4%

This gives a whole school attendance of 98.2%

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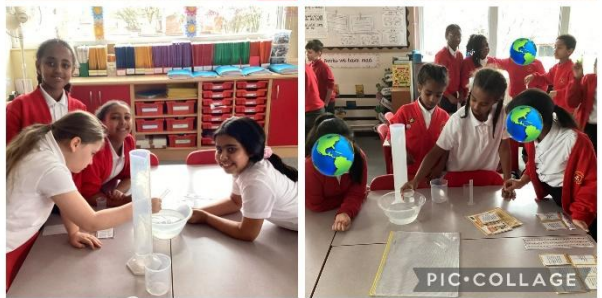
Congratulations to the following children who have shone in school over the last week;

Reception	Kieshorwn	For excellent work in maths this week.
Year 1	Betselot	For excellent work in maths this week 😊
Year 2	Ruth	Using excellent manners in the morning and showing care to how others are feeling.
Year 3	Kimi	For his good behaviour in and outside the classroom.
Year 4	Abigail	For always demonstrating excellent behaviour.
Year 5	Bethel	For being consistently cheerful and helpful :)
Year 6	Bersaba	For always giving her best effort in everything she does 😊
LFR	Adriel	For good behaviour and good listening.

## This Week's News

This week the children have taken part in a Severn Trent assembly and workshops. They have learnt all about how to look after our planet and how to be water savers and not water wasters.

The children (and staff) impressed us with their fantastic World Book Day costumes. Here is a picture of Year Four where we had a Matilda, Willy Wonka, Funny Bones, Ms Trunchball and a variety of adjectives!



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