



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St. Joseph's News

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus,  
You returned to the Father in heaven,  
but you stay with us in Spirit.  
Draw near to us when we need you,  
and guide us to follow your paths.  
Amen.



## Dates for your Diary

<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>School closes for TWO WEEKS holiday</b>	<b>3.20pm</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	School reopens	8.40am
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Holy Communion at St Joseph's Church	12:30pm
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	KS1 Sports Day at School KS2 Sports Day at Nechells Wellbeing Centre Y6 Transition Day	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	SCHOOL CLOSED for Teacher Training Day	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Y3, Y4 & Y5 trip to Warwick Castle	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 End of Year trip – details to follow	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception, Y1 & Y2 trip to Attwell Farm Park	
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes for Summer 6-week Holidays	1:30pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July		

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



## School Mass

There is no school mass next week. School masses will resume after the half term break.



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## New Intake - Reception Class 2026

Our Open Day for all families who have been allocated a place for their child to start in school in September 2026 takes place on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July**. Please remember to bring with you all relevant forms and documentation, as detailed on the letters that have been sent out. This will also confirm arrangements for the day such as times. We are looking forward to meeting you all on the day.



## Term-Time Holidays and Attendance Update

We would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of full attendance in school and the impact that time away from lessons can have on a child's education. Since September 2025, a total of 35 penalty fines have been issued for unauthorised leave taken during term time. Of these, 4 cases have progressed to court action, highlighting the seriousness with which attendance is monitored and enforced. Taking holidays during term time can significantly disrupt your child's learning, causing them to miss important teaching, fall behind in their work, and affect their overall progress and confidence in school. We respectfully reiterate that holidays should not be taken during term time. Leave of absence will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances, in line with national guidance.

We appreciate your continued support in ensuring that your child attends school regularly and benefits fully from their education.



## Grammar School Entrance Test – Year 5 Parents

Registration is now open for parents of current Year 5 pupils who would like their child to sit the entrance test for a place at any of the grammar schools in Birmingham/West Midlands (entry to Year 7 in September 2027). Registration can be made online by visiting the website ([www.westmidlandsgrammarschools.co.uk](http://www.westmidlandsgrammarschools.co.uk)). The closing date for registering is 4pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026. The test will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

## Ward End Fire Station Open Day

Ward End Fire Station (Washwood Heath Road, Ward End, B8 2HF) will be holding a free to attend Station Open Day on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2026 between 11:00am to 3:00pm. Please click on the [link](#) to view more information on the Open Day.

## Free Manage Your Diabetes Programme – Nechells POD

Nechells POD will be running a Manage Your Diabetes programme taking place from Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June for seven weeks. For more information, please click on the following [link](#).

## National Book Tokens – Help us win £1,000 for our Library

National Book Tokens are giving schools the chance to be one of five winning schools to **receive £1,000 in National Book Tokens** to fill their library's shelves with new, inspiring books. Please help our chances of winning by nominating St Joseph's! Everyone who votes will also enter a prize draw to win themselves a £100 gift card. Please visit the [Win £1,000 / €1,000 for your school's library! | National Book Tokens](#) link to complete the nomination.

## MyClothing Uniform Discount Code

Parents and carers can enjoy 10% off school uniform at [www.myclothing.com](http://www.myclothing.com). Simply use code **SSPEND10** at checkout. Valid until 31 July 2026.

## School Disabled Toilet

Please be aware that **ONLY** toilet paper should be placed down this toilet (or any toilet on the school premises), anything other than toilet paper that is flushed away blocks the system and causes damage with a significant financial impact to the school. The disabled toilet uses a shredding-type mechanism and items such as wipes and sanitary products break this. A bin is provided in the toilet for other items. Please be mindful and also speak to your children about using the toilets at school in the correct way. Thank you for your co-operation.

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## Water Safety

Did you know that an average of 82 UK citizens drown each year whilst abroad? Whether holidaying abroad, or at home in the UK and Ireland, the link below has advice and information from the NHS to help you to ensure that your family stays safe whilst having fun in, on or around water.

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/safety-on-holiday>



## Aston Villa Free Courses

**Coaching Academy:** The Coaching Academy is a FREE 6 week course that combines obtaining industry-recognised qualifications with opportunities, experiences, and employability skills, allowing local people to start a coaching journey. For more information please [click here](#).

**Catering Club:** This popular course has entered into its 6th year of delivery. The FREE 10 week course helps unemployed adults gain catering and hospitality qualifications, which real-life experiences and opportunities for entry-level jobs within the sector. For more information please [click here](#).

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Different Upcoming School Holidays

Just a reminder that we have different holidays to other Birmingham schools this year. As we had just one week holiday at Easter, we will be having TWO WEEKS in 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. 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).

## 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:

Alazar – Reception    Amina – Y4    Michael – Y5    Buruk – Y6

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## Attendance – week ending 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

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

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 94.3%

Year One: 96.5%

Year Two: 97.3%

Year Three: 98.0%

Year Four: 97.9%

Year Five: 99.4%

Year Six: **100%**

This gives a whole school attendance of 97.8%

## This Week's Menu

Please [click here](#) to see details of the school's three-week rotating dinner menu, week commencing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026 children will be offered the Week 3 menu.



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

Reception	Alazar	For always being a fantastic role model 😊
Year One	Daniel	For excellent effort in all his work this week 😊
Year 2	Ayra	For super effort when writing about a 1950s school child.
Year 3	Maidah	For achieving 100% on her Spanish assessment. Muy bien!
Year 4	Esmae-Grace	For her enthusiastic participation in Science! 😊
Year 5	Khasim	For trying very hard to improve his handwriting 😊
Year 6	All of Year 6	For excellent effort and determination to complete their SATs week 😊

## This Week's News

Year 3 had fun dissecting plants to see the different parts.



Year 4 have been making their own bug hotels from recycled resources to end their unit on Habitats!



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