



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St. Joseph's News

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

## A Prayer

Loving God, we pray to you as Jesus did.

We thank you for sending your Son Jesus to show us how to live.

May your love be in us and help us to live together in peace and unity with all people.

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	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Y6 Transition Day	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	SCHOOL CLOSED for Teacher Training Day	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Y3, Y4 & Y5 trip to Warwick Castle	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 End of Year trip – details to follow	
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception, Y1 & Y2 trip to Attwell Farm Park	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes for Summer 6-week Holidays	1:30pm

## 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



## Half-Term

We break up for our two week May half-term holiday TODAY! The children return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 8.40am.



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*If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the safeguarding team;*

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## School Mass

The next School Mass will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm, led by Year 6. 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.

## Online Safety Video

Our new Online Safety video is now available to view online. The June video has the theme 'Online Scams & Digital Footprints' and can be viewed on the ['Online Safety Videos'](#) page of our school website.

## Online Safety Newsletters

The monthly Online Safety newsletter for June can be viewed on the [Online Safety Newsletter – June 2026](#) page on the schools website.

## 2026/27 Term Dates

Please note that the 2026/27 term dates have now been published on the school website and can be viewed by following this link ([Term dates - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School](#)). Please ensure you have looked at these before booking any holidays for next year. It is also worth noting that all of the next academic year's school holidays align with Birmingham City Council dates.

## Children's Commissioner Year 6 Survey

The Children's Commissioner for England is asking all year six students to reflect on their time at primary school and share their hopes and ideas for the future in their own words via an online survey called 'The Big Future'. This can be accessed by clicking on the following link – [The Big Future](#).



## School SMS Text Messages

The school may occasionally communicate with you via SMS text message, please be aware that the school are not able to receive any replies to text messages so please refrain from sending these. If you need to communicate with the school, please do this via the main office phone number (0121 464 8140) or via email ([enquiry@stjosb7.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stjosb7.bham.sch.uk))



## 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.

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## 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.

## 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>

## 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

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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:

Reception – Efrata    Y1 – Gelila    Y3 – Maidah    Y6 - Kezia

## Attendance – week ending 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

Well done to Y4 who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous 99.2%!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 96.1%	Year One: 96.5%	Year Two: 96.0%	Year Three: 96.5%
Year Four: 99.2%	Year Five: 95.4%	Year Six: 97.8%	

This gives a whole school attendance of %

## This Week's Menu

Please [click here](#) to see details of the school's three-week rotating dinner menu, week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026 children will be offered the Week 1 menu.



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

Reception	Derin	Excellent reading in Phonics 😊
Year One	Sherice	For excellent knowledge in Science this week 😊
Year 2	Bitanya	For great focus and super aiming skills in PE.
Year 3	Kimi	For being enthusiastic when presenting his persuasive speech.
Year 4	Rafael	For his amazing writing in English this week! Keep it up Rafael 😊
Year 5	Abigail	Super problem solving and reasoning in Maths. 😊
Year 6	Emanuele	For working with growing independence in maths lessons. 😊

## This Week's News

This week Year 3 have been studying the artist, Anthony Caro. The children worked in small groups to apply their knowledge of sculptures when working with 3D shapes.



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