



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 10th July 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Prayer

Heavenly Father,
As we approach the end of this term,
We give thanks for the gift of this school year.
We are grateful for the knowledge we have gained,
Friendships made and challenges overcome.
We ask for your blessing upon our children as they prepare for their holiday,
And for our teachers and staff as they rest and rejuvenate.
Amen.



Dates for your Diary

Monday 13 th July	Y6 End of Year trip to Star City	
Tuesday 14 th July	Reception, Y1 & Y2 trip to Attwell Farm Park	
Wednesday 15 th July	Mrs Peplow retirement assembly	9.15am
	Y6 Leavers' Mass/Production	2:00pm (arrive by 1.50pm)
Thursday 16 th July	Y6 Leavers' Production/Assembly	2.15pm (arrive by 2pm)
Friday 17 th July	School closes for Summer 6-week Holidays	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 6th July
Monday 20th July
Tuesday 21st July



End of School Year

We break up for the summer holidays at 1.00pm NEXT Friday 17th July. Please ensure that a responsible adult from your child's contact list is here on time to collect your child on this day.

*This half-term virtues are: Grateful and Generous
If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the safeguarding team;
Mrs Gowen, Mrs Ashley, Mr Caffrey, Mrs Boxwell and Mrs West.*

Goodbye!

Sadly, at the end of this term, we shall be saying goodbye to Mrs Holmes, Mr Stanley, Mrs Peplow and Mrs Bailey. Mrs Holmes has been with us since 2022 and is our current Year 5 teacher, and Mr Stanley has been one of our cover teachers since 2025. Mrs Bailey and Mrs Peplow work as our teaching assistants. We will miss them all very much and wish them well in their future endeavours. Particularly Mrs Peplow who has been at St Joseph's for 23 years and is looking forward to a restful retirement. We will say goodbye and a very big special thank you to Mrs Peplow during an assembly on Wednesday 15th July at 09.15am, all parents are invited and welcome to attend.



Hello!

In September we will be welcoming Miss Godfrey, Miss Hutchin and Mrs Waterhouse to St. Joseph's, who will be teaching our Year Two, Year Four and Year Five classes. We hope that they will be very happy here with us!

Parent Online Safety Booklet

Please follow the link to view the most recent [Parent Online Safety booklet](#).

Birmingham City Council – End of Term Safety Message

Based on patterns seen in previous years, Birmingham City Centre can experience an increase in the number of young people travelling into the city on the last day of term. While many young people gather responsibly to celebrate the end of the academic year, larger groups can sometimes result in increased anti-social behaviour, safeguarding concerns, and pressure on public spaces and transport networks.

Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss end-of-term plans with their children and to consider whether travel into Birmingham City Centre is necessary. Knowing where young people are, who they are spending time with, and how they intend to travel home can help keep them safe and reduce the risk of them becoming vulnerable.

Our collective aim is to ensure that all young people can enjoy the end of the school year safely and return home without incident. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep Birmingham's children and young people safe.

Sampad Summer Activities

Please click on the links to view more information about the upcoming Sampad (South Asian Arts & Heritage) [summer school](#) and [workshop](#).

Teachers for September

On Wednesday, as part of Transition Day the children all spent some time in their new classes with their new teachers. The class teachers for next year are as follows:

Reception – Mrs Boxwell

Year 1 – Mrs Pullen

Year 2 – Miss Godfrey

Year 3 – Mr Tobias

Year 4 – Miss Hutchin

Year 5 – Miss Waterhouse

Year 6 – Miss Downing



Children's School Reports

School reports have been sent home today. Once you have read the report, if you wish to speak to your child's class teacher regarding it please contact the school office and they will arrange a telephone call with the teacher for you. Your child's report will inform you about the progress your child has made across this academic year and what their attendance has been like this school year.

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Y6 Leavers' Events

As Y6 come to the end of their time here at St. Joseph's, there will be a number of Leavers' events during the last week of term.

On Wednesday 15th July we will have a Leavers' Mass starting at 2.00pm, followed by our Leavers' Assembly on Thursday 16th July at 2.15pm. Parents, carers and family are very welcome and encouraged to come along for these special events. Please note that the times given are the times that they will start at, so please arrive by **1.50pm** for mass and 2.00pm for the Leavers' Assembly both events so that we can get everyone in and seated. Due to the way that the hall will be set up, **if you arrive late we will not be able to allow you to come in**, so please ensure that you are here on time to avoid disappointment.

West Midlands Police Update – Hollie Guard

What is Hollie Guard?

Hollie Guard is a free personal safety app that can be downloaded onto your smartphone and provides enhanced levels of protection. If you feel threatened, you can send an alert by simply shaking your phone or pressing the tile icon button. Android users have the additional option to use the volume-up key to trigger a Hollie Guard alert. Once the alert is activated, your location and video and audio evidence are automatically sent to your nominated emergency contacts. Victims of domestic abuse and stalking often use Hollie Guard to help them feel safe and report incidents. The app has many other features which also makes it suitable for general use such as travelling to and from locations, blind dating, recording incidents and more. For further information please click on the following link [Hollie Guard - WMnow](#).

Online Safety Newsletter & Online Safety Video

Please follow the link to access [July's Online Safety Newsletter](#) and the monthly [online safety video for July](#) which focuses on staying safe during the school holidays.

Birmingham's SEND Local Offer

Birmingham's SEND Local Offer is a dedicated website bringing together clear, accessible information about the support, services and activities available for children and young people with SEND across the city. It's a really valuable resource for families, helping them understand what's available locally and how to access the right support, all in one place – with translation options available to support a wide range of communities. Families can access the Local Offer by visiting the [website](#) and can also follow the Local Offer on social media for regular updates on local support and activities. Further information is on the school's [SEND webpage](#).

Warm Weather Reminders!

- Please ensure that your child has their water bottle in school with them **every day**. It is very warm at the moment, especially in the school building, and we do not have cups in the classrooms for them to use. Also, can I please remind you that **ONLY** plain water is allowed in bottles. Your child should not have any squash or flavoured water in school.
- You may send your child with a sun hat to wear outside (no sun glasses please!) while it is warm and you should apply sun cream to them before they come to school. **Please do not send them with bottles of sun cream or sun glasses for health and safety reasons.**
- If your child suffers with Hayfever, please give them medication in the morning before they come to school, as we have noticed a lot of children have been struggling with symptoms this week.



Heatwave Alert – How to keep your children safe

With further heatwaves expected, more young people are heading to water to cool off. Tragically, this brings a sharp rise in drownings. During May half-term alone, 19 people lost their lives – including 14 teenagers. Anyone can drown. No one should. Please remember the Water Safety Code:

- Stop and think.
- Stay together with a friend or family member.

This half-term virtues are: Attentive & Discerning

*If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the safeguarding team;
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- If you're in trouble in the water, Float to Live.
- Call 999 or 112 if you see someone else in trouble in the water.

RNLI are encouraging families to choose safer supervised water locations like lifeguarded beaches, swimming pools or lidos. More information can be accessed by visiting the [RNLI website](#).

Summer Savings for Families

The Government led Great British Summer Savings scheme is running from 25 June to 1 September 2026, helping families feel a bit less squeezed this summer. The new scheme includes reduced VAT on days out, including tickets at attractions like soft play, adventure centres and theme parks, children's tickets for theatres and cinemas, and children's meals in restaurants. Children aged 5 to 15 in England will also be able to travel free on local bus services throughout August.

For further information about the scheme visit [Summer Savings](#). This is in addition to further support available to families, with more information available at [Cost of Living Help](#).

Child Safety over the Summer Period

As we move towards the Summer months, please be mindful of keeping your children safe, particularly around water. Please access the following resources which provide practical safety advice:

- [Child Safety Advice | Practical tips and free resources](#)
- [Child Safety Videos | Child Accident Prevention Trust](#)
- [RNLI launches its Float to Live campaign for 2026 | RNLI](#)
- [The Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK\)](#)

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.

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 19th July 2026 between 11:00am to 3:00pm. Please click on the [link](#) to view more information on the Open Day.

MyClothing Uniform Discount Code

Parents and carers can enjoy 10% off school uniform at www.myclothing.com. Simply use code **SSPEND10** at checkout. Valid until 31 July 2026.

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.

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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.

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:

Melody – Year One Skyla – Year Three Trai'von – Year Four Daejarn – Year Six

Attendance – week ending 10th July 2026

Well done to Year 1 & Year 4 who had the best attendance this week with an incredible **100%**!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 97.4%	Year One: 100%	Year Two: 94.8%	Year Three: 98.7%
Year Four: 100%	Year Five: 97.3%	Year Six: 97.1%	

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 10th July 2026 children will be offered the Week 3 menu.



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

Reception	Eben	For an improvement in his organisation this week.
Year One	Mana	Excellent work in all her lessons this week
Year 2	Nahom B	For always trying to do his best in all his work.
Year 3	Milka	For her hard work learning about statistics and drawing bar charts.
Year 4	Trai'von	For always being ready to learn and giving 100% in all he does.
Year 5	Bsrat	Super presentation in all her books 😊
Year 6	Hallelujah	Always being a wonderful example to all throughout all aspects of primary school life! 😊

This half-term virtues are: Attentive & Discerning

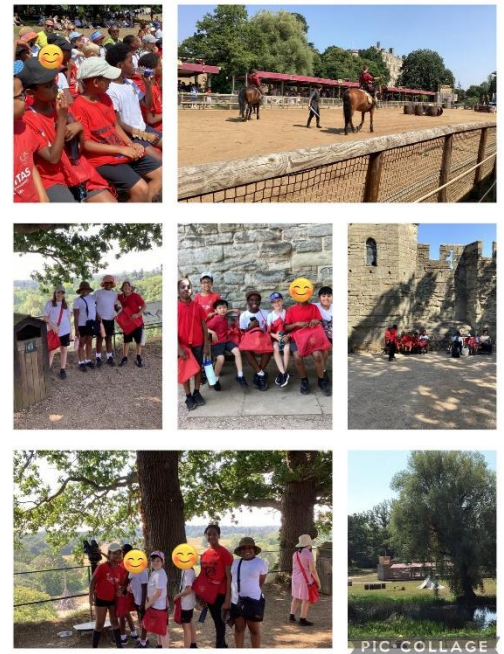
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This Week's News



Years Three, Four and Five all had a fantastic day at Warwick Castle and a highlight for all the children was the Viking and Birds of Prey show – we hope all the children had a memorable day and we look forward to the Key Stage One trip next week.

Meanwhile, back in school Year One have spent time reflecting about what Jesus means to them. Lovely work Year One!



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