



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 17th July 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Prayer for the End of the School Year

At the end of this school year we give thanks to God:

For all the teaching and learning that has taken place in our school and at home this year,
For the talents and gifts that have been shared and the challenges that have been faced;
For the burdens that have been lifted and the hurts that have been healed;
For the respect and care that has been given.

We give thanks for the friendships that have just begun and for those that have grown.

For the faith that has been lived in our daily struggles,
For the hope that has lifted our hearts on the dark days
And for the love that has kept us going.



We give thanks for the community that we are, and we ask you Lord –

Bless our children as they are out of school this summer, keep them safe and prepare them for their return to school in September.

Bless our families as we take our holidays, may our time together leave us with memories to cherish. Pour out your love on us that we may return renewed and refreshed to continue our journey together.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Dates for your Diary

Friday 17th July School closes for Summer 6-week Holidays 1:00pm

Wednesday 2nd September Return to school for Y1 – Y6 8.40am

Thursday 3rd September Reception start school 8.40am

School Term Dates 2026 -2027

School Term Dates 2026 – 2027

Autumn Term 2026	Spring Term 2027	Summer Term 2027
Tuesday 1 st September 2026 to Friday 23 rd October 2026	Monday 4 th January 2027 to Friday 12 th February 2027	Monday 12 th April 2027 to Friday 28 th May 2027
HALF TERM - one week holiday	HALF TERM - one week holiday	HALF TERM – one week holiday
Monday 2 nd November 2026 to Friday 18 th December 2026	Monday 22 nd February 2027 to Thursday 25 th March 2027	Monday 7 th June 2027 to Wednesday 21 st July 2027
END OF TERM – two week holiday	END OF TERM – two weeks holiday	END OF YEAR – 6 weeks holiday

Teacher Days

Tuesday 1st September 2026
Friday 4th December 2026
Friday 12th February 2027
TBC
TBC
Wednesday 21st July 2027



Bank Holidays

Friday 26th March 2027
Monday 3rd May 2027

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.



End of School Year

We break up for the summer holidays at **1.00pm** on 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. Friday will also

be a non-uniform day with no charge, children are welcome to come into school wearing their own clothes.

Year 6 Leavers



Today our Year 6 children will be finishing their Primary School Career with us and moving onto Secondary school. On behalf of the governors and all the staff and pupils of St. Joseph's, I would like to say goodbye to Year 6 and wish them all the best in their new schools. I hope that you will enjoy your new schools and do your very best to achieve your dreams and that you will take with you very happy memories of your time at St. Joseph's. We pray that God may bless you and keep you safe. Please do keep our Year 6 children in your prayers over the summer holidays.

Breakfast Club

All children who have attended Breakfast Club regularly this term will need to complete new registration forms at the beginning of September. Please note that the cost of Breakfast Club is £1.50 per day. All places are allocated and must be applied for. **Please note, there will be no Breakfast Club during the first week back in September.**

After School Clubs

There will be no After School Clubs during the first week back. Details of how to apply for places will be in the first newsletter when we come back.

Uniform

I would just like to remind you of a few of our policies regarding uniform in school ahead of the children coming back in September. We understand that as we have come to the end of the school year clothes have been grown out of and shoes split, however, please ensure that the correct uniform is worn when returning in September.

- Shoes should be black formal school shoes, **NOT trainers** or pumps.
- PE kit is a white or red t-shirt with black plain shorts or black jogging bottoms when cold.
- Please ensure that your child's name is clearly written or sewn into each item of uniform as this will make it much easier to find it if it gets lost.
- Also as it clearly states in our prospectus; "The school does not permit children to have 'extreme' hairstyles that could serve as a distraction to others. Shaved patterns, lines and colours are not allowed. Hair should be all one length and not 'stepped' or shaved at different levels." Please ensure that any hairstyles your child has over the summer that are not appropriate for school are grown out/corrected ready for the start of term in September.

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

Aston Villa Summer Sessions

Aston Villa will be holding a summer club for 10-16 year olds through the Summer on Wednesday's at Nechells Wellbeing Centre. Please click on the [link](#) to view further information.

Safeside Awareness Days

Safeside will be hosting four Awareness Days this summer, and everyone is welcome!

Dates

- Friday 31st July

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- Thursday 6th August
- Monday 10th August
- Friday 21st August

Bookable session times

- 10:00am
- 11:00am
- 1:00pm
- 2:00pm

Bring the whole family along and enjoy a range of interactive activities while discovering how Safeside helps people of all ages stay safe. Entry is free! While there is no charge to attend, voluntary donations in support of The Fire Fighters Charity are warmly welcomed for anyone who wishes to contribute. Places are limited, so book your preferred session and come along to see what Safeside has to offer. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Book via the link: [Safeside Awareness Days – Fill out form](#)



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.



Hello!

In September we will be welcoming Miss Godfrey, Miss Hutchin and Miss 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!

Teachers for September

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



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.

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.

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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.

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.
- 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](#).

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 \(RLSS UK\)](#)

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>

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](#).

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](#).

Sampad Summer Activities

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

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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](#).

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.

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.

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:

Rufael – Reception Noah – Year One Amen – Year Three Matthew – Year Five

Attendance – whole school year

Well done to Year Five who had the best attendance for the whole school year with 97.2%!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 96.7%	Year One: 96.7%	Year Two: 95.8%	Year Three: 97%
Year Four: 96.3%	Year Five: 97.2%	Year Six: 95.8%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 96.5% for the full school year.



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

Reception	Rufael	For trying hard with his writing this week 😊
Year One	Kali	For always doing the right thing and being really responsible on our trip to the farm.
Year 2	Ayra	For always trying to do her best in all she does. 😊

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Year 3	Michelle	For always listening and following instructions 😊
Year 4	Adila	For always being helpful and responsible 😊
Year 5	Abigail	For always showing curiosity. 😊
Year 6	All of Year 6	For trying their best in their end of year production. Good luck for the future! 😊

This Week's News



Key Stage One had a fabulous time at Attwell Farm on Tuesday learning all about the different animals and of course having plenty of fun!

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