Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of our Catholic school,
A place where we grow in faith, knowledge, and compassion.
Bless our students as they learn and discover,
Our teachers as they guide and inspire, and our families as they support us.
Help us to carry your light in our hearts and actions,
Creating a welcoming and supportive community for everyone.
Amen.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 30th September	Reception Welcome Service	2.45pm
Thursday 1st October	School Photograph Day	
Friday 2nd October	Non-Uniform day – bring tins for Harvest	
Friday 2nd October	Cautious Eating workshop/coffee morning	9.10am
Friday 2nd October	Harvest Festival School Mass led by Year Three	2.00pm
Friday 9th October	St John Henry Newman house group own clothes day	
Friday 23rd October	School closes for half-term	3.20pm
Monday 2nd November	Return to school	8.50am
Wednesday 11th November	Parents' Evening (school finishes at 2.15pm)	2.30pm – 5.30pm

School Term Dates 2026 – 2027

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

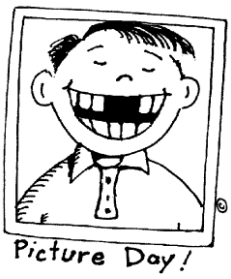
Friday 26th March 2027
Monday 3rd May 2027

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.

Cautious Eating Workshop / Coffee Morning

Next Friday 2nd October at 9.10am we are holding a workshop to help with parents/carers whose children are cautious eaters Led by Bethany Everett from the charity School Food Matters, this coffee morning aims to increase understanding of sensory experiences of food as well as providing practical, realistic strategies to build confidence in supporting your child at home. There will be guidance for parents around building positive relationships with food, opportunities for parents to share their experiences of cautious eating and helpful take-home resources. Please come along and join us for this.

School Photographs – Thursday 1st October



The school Photographer will be in school NEXT Thursday 1st October to take the annual school photographs. Please note that photographs are only taken on this day, and no repeat sessions will be available for children who are absent, so please ensure that your child is in school on time, as photographs will commence at 9:00am.

Your child will be photographed individually and with their siblings (if they have any in school). Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform, and also may I remind you at this time of the school policy regarding haircuts. Thank you for your support with this.

Harvest Festival – non uniform day- NEXT Friday 2nd October

In the coming weeks, children will be learning about harvest and the importance of this. NEXT Friday 2nd October we will be holding our annual Harvest collection day, where we ask families to bring in some items that we can donate to our local foodbank. The Aston and Nechells foodbank have asked if we could especially collect:

- FRUIT JUICE OR SQUASH
- MEAT SOUPS
- TINNED FRUIT
- TINNED FISH – tuna, salmon etc
- TINNED RICE PUDDING
- UHT (LONGLIFE) MILK (not fresh milk!)
- SMALL JARS OF COFFEE
- PASTA
- BAKED BEANS
- DEODORANTS
- SHAMPOOS

Children may come in wearing their own clothes in return for a donation towards our harvest collection. Thank you for your generosity with this.

Reception Welcome Service – NEXT Friday 2nd October

We will be holding a special service on Friday 2nd October at 2.45pm to welcome all of our new Reception children and their parents and carers. It would be lovely if all Reception parents or carers could come, as the children will be taking part in this service too. Please come along to this first special event for your child; we are looking forward to seeing you.

School Mass – every Friday

School Mass has now moved to a Friday, and the next School Mass will be on Friday 2nd October at 2pm, led by Year 3. The children lead the Liturgy and 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.

This half-term virtues are: Attentive & Discerning
If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the safeguarding team;
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Starting School - Reception 2027

If you have a child that was born between 01-09-2022 and 31-08-2023, online application will open on 1st October on the Birmingham City Council website for Reception school places for September 2027. Preferences for school places must be submitted to the city council by **15th January 2027**. Please ensure that you have applied for places by then, as late applications are less likely to get the school of their choice.

If you have any friends or family with children that are due to start school at this time, please encourage them to consider St Joseph's and recommend us to them!

Y6 Secondary Transfer Applications for September 2026

Online applications for Year 7 in September 2027 opened on 1 September 2026. Parents and carers who live in Birmingham should apply via the Birmingham City Council website by the deadline of 31 October 2026. Full details, including admission arrangements and guidance to help parents with making preferences, are available on the website. For additional advice and support, please contact Children's Services on 0121 303 1888.

Holy Trinity Catholic School Open Event for Y5/Y6 children – Wednesday 30th Sept

Holy Trinity Catholic School are holding an open evening on Wednesday 30th September from 4pm until 6pm for children in Y5/6. Holy Trinity is a Catholic school within our MAC and is a wonderful, caring community in the heart of Small Heath. All families are welcomed to go along, have a look around and see what Holy Trinity can offer your child.

Heartlands Academy Open Event for Y6 children – Saturday 26th September

Please see the information below sent to us by Heartlands Academy regarding an upcoming open day for Y6 children.

We are delighted to invite the Year 6 pupils, parents and carers at to our upcoming Year 6 Open Day at E-ACT Heartlands Academy on Saturday 26th September 2026, from 9:30am–12:30pm.

As pupils begin to think about their transition to secondary school, we would love the opportunity to welcome them and their families to Heartlands Academy, where they can explore our academy, meet our staff and students, and experience what life at Heartlands is really like.

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 (currently on maternity leave), Mrs Gowen, Mrs West, Mrs Koumi & Miss Crane.

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 has 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:

Elim – Year 1 Pareesa - Year 2 Kimi – Year 4 Jimmy - Year 6

Attendance

Well done to Reception & Y3 who had the best attendance this week with an incredible 100%!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 100**%** Year One: 91.7**%** Year Two: 90.7% Year Three: 100%
Year Four: 99.1**%** Year Five: 97.8% Year Six: 99.3**%**

This gives a whole school attendance of 97.1% for this week.

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

Reception	Aram	Being a wonderful role model in class 😊
Year One	Adam	Excellent effort in phonics
Year Two	Melody	Excellent Maths work
Year Three	Flourish	Always contributing during class and group discussions.
Year Four	Zephaniah	Making positive choices around the classroom and around the school
Year Five	Lamis	Her thoughtful and insightful contributions to Religious Education
Year Six	Eliana	Her fantastic effort in all our lessons! 😊
Little Flower Room	Ezana	Good mark-making, alphabet formation and reading

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