



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 9th October 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the life of your servant, John Henry Newman.

He faithfully bore witness to the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith.

By his holy example, may the Holy Spirit inspire and awaken virtue.

Amen.



Dates for your Diary

Friday 16 th October	School Mass led by Year Five	2.00pm
Friday 16 th October	Meeting for Confirmation Parents	3.00pm
Sunday 18 th October	Commitment Mass for FHC – St Joseph's Church	9.45am
Friday 23 rd October	School closes for half-term	3.20pm
Monday 2 nd November	Return to school	8.50am
Wednesday 11 th 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 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

School Mass – every Friday

School Mass has now moved to a Friday, and the next School Mass will be on Friday 16th October at 2pm, led by Year 5. 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: 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.



October Half Term

Just a reminder that school will break up for half term on Friday 23rd October at 3.20pm. Children will return to school on Monday 2nd November.

Sacramental Preparation – Communion and Confirmation

Next week we have two important events coming up for children preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

On Friday 16th October there will be a meeting for all Confirmation Parents. This will take place in school at 3.00pm. On Sunday 18th October there is a Commitment Mass for First Holy Communion children. This takes place at St Joseph's Church at 9.45am. It is important that all families attend these events.

Anti-Bullying Week – Pyjama Day Monday 16th November 2026

To mark Anti-Bullying Week, we are inviting all children to come to school wearing their pyjamas on Monday 16th November. This is a great way to show our support for kindness, respect and inclusion, while helping to raise awareness of the importance of standing up against bullying. Children can wear their favourite pyjamas and there will be no charge. We look forward to seeing everyone join in and helping us make the day a memorable one!



MAC Annual Parent and Carer survey

Our MAC (St Teresa of Calcutta) would like you to take part in their annual parent and carer survey. Please visit the following link to complete the survey [St Teresa of Calcutta Multi Academy Company \(MAC\) Parent/Carer Survey - Autumn Term 2026](#)

The deadline for responses is Friday 27 November at 9:00am. Many thanks!



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.

- Apply online before 15 January 2027
- Visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions to apply



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!

Reception 2027 Open Morning - Tuesday 10th November - 09:00-10:30am

We will be holding an Open Morning for families with children who are due to start school In Reception in September 2027. It will be a 'drop-in' event held between 9.00am and 10.30am and is a lovely opportunity for you to visit school and see what we can offer your child. Please let your friends and family know and anyone you may know who has a child due to start school.

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.

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

We currently have places available in all classes from Reception to Year Four. If you know anyone who has recently moved into the area, or who is looking to change their child's school, please encourage them to consider St. Joseph's!

Safeguarding Spotlight: Car Seat Safety & UK Law 🚗

As we head into a busy term of school runs, we want to remind all parents and carers about the legal requirements for child car seats. We have noticed some instances of children travelling without correct restraints during drop-off and collection. Ensuring your child is properly secured isn't just about avoiding a penalty—**it is vital for their survival and safety in the event of an accident.**

⚖️ What Does the Law Say?

- By law, **all children** must use a correct child car seat until they are either **12 years old or 135 cm tall**, whichever they reach first. After this milestone, they must wear a standard adult seat belt.
- Driver's Responsibility: It is legally the driver's responsibility to ensure that any passenger under the age of 14 is restrained correctly.
- The Penalties: Failing to use the correct child car seat can result in an immediate £60 fixed penalty notice and three points on your licence. If a case goes to court, this can increase to a fine of up to £500.

PhD Research –Kind Hearts, Questioning Minds, Thirst for Knowledge

A member of staff within the Archdiocese is undertaking research as part of a PhD and is keen to hear the views and experiences of parents and carers whose children attend Catholic primary schools. The research is a survey which should take no longer than 5 minutes. The findings from this research will be used to help enhance and support Catholic education, so we would be very grateful for your participation. Parents and carers of all faiths, and those of no faith, are warmly encouraged to take part – your views and experiences are important. Participation is entirely voluntary, and consent can be withdrawn at any time. To find out more and take part, please click here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/YcKE9XC8vC>

Events at Nechells Pod

Thrive Together - Tuesday 27th October - PLACES MUST BE BOOKED

This is a lovely family event, with something for everyone to enjoy, including a delicious hot, sit-down meal, a cookery demonstration and free recipe bags, free books to take home, kindly provided by the National Literacy Trust, craft activities and games and fitness taster sessions. It's a great opportunity to come together, enjoy some good food and have a bit of fun along the way! Please see <https://www.stjosb7.bham.sch.uk/2026/10/01/thrive-together/> for details on how to book.



You can see details of other events at the following links

Fitness & Wellbeing – <https://www.stjosb7.bham.sch.uk/2026/10/02/fitness-wellbeing-activities-nechells-pod/>

Food pantry - <https://www.stjosb7.bham.sch.uk/2026/10/02/food-pantry-nechells-pod/>

Story Tots & Stay and Play – <https://www.stjosb7.bham.sch.uk/2026/10/02/story-tots-stay-and-play-nechells-pod/>

Bloomsbury Library - <https://www.stjosb7.bham.sch.uk/2026/10/02/bloomsbury-library-nechells-pod/>

Manage Your Diabetes Course - <https://www.stjosb7.bham.sch.uk/2026/10/01/manage-diabetes-nechells-pod/> for details on how to book.

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.

*This half-term virtues are: Attentive & Discerning
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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 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:

Ivy – Y1 Yosan – Y3 Ezekai – Y5 Benjamin – Y6

Attendance

This week we have an incredible **FOUR CLASSES** with **100% attendance**! This is absolutely brilliant – well done to Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y3.

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 100%	Year One: 100%	Year Two: 100%	Year Three: 100%
Year Four: 99.6%	Year Five: 97.7%	Year Six: 99%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 99.4% for this week, which again is a fabulous achievement.



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

Reception	Sariyah	Creating 2 incredible junk models.
Year One	Hanibal	Excellent work in maths this week.
Year Two	Tashunoa	Knowing how we can show God's love to others.
Year Three	Tyler	Working hard and remaining on task all week.
Year Four	Aron	Going the extra mile in his work, and doing extra homework to show me his understanding.
Year Five	Caden	His lovely DT analysis and his constant politeness.
Year Six	Samiha	Always finishing tasks to a high standard and in a timely manner.

Keep it up Samiha! 😊

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