

# St. Joseph's News

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,



This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent, and we light the pink candle on our Advent Wreaths. The pink candle is a symbol of joy, hope and expectation. At the time of Jesus' birth, people were waiting for his coming. They had been told that a Messiah would come, and they were hoping and waiting for the time to come. The third Sunday of advent is also traditionally known as 'Gaudete Sunday'. The word 'Gaudete' is Latin and means 'rejoice!' The theme this week is therefore one of rejoicing that Christmas is very near.

As the feast of Christmas draws closer, we are reminded that Jesus is with us even now, and the Church emphasises the anticipation and joy which should be in our hearts as we come closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus and remembering the true spirit of Christmas. John the Baptist tells people that the one that they have been expecting, the light of the world, is amongst them and that their waiting is almost over. John prepares the way for Jesus through his preaching and baptising. This message also tells us that we should rejoice and have joy in our hearts, as the waiting of advent is almost over.



## 🌿 Christmas Dates for your Diary 🌿

Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception, Y1 & Y2 Christmas Assembly	1.45pm
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Y3 & Y4 Christmas Assembly	1.45pm
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Y5 & Y6 Christmas Assembly	1.45pm
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term Christmas Mass	9.15am
	Christmas Carol Concert	2.30pm
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>School closes for Christmas holiday</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Return to school	

## Reminder - Last Day of Term — next Friday

Next FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> we break up for our Christmas holidays at **1.00pm**. It is very important that someone is here to collect your child promptly, as staff will be leaving the site at this time also. Thank you for your support with this.

## 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.

## Father Christmas' visit to St. Joseph's

Sadly Santa was delayed this week and wasn't able to make it in today. However, I have been reliably informed by the North Pole elves that he will pop in next week before the children finish for Christmas!



## After-school Clubs

**All after school clubs have now finished until after the Christmas holiday.** Times for after the holiday will be confirmed next week

## Christmas Performances

We are delighted that, for the first time since 2019, we will once again be able to welcome you into school for live performances of our Christmas plays! Our Christmas Performances take place next week:

Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December at 1.45pm	Rec, Y1 and Y2
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December at 1.45pm	Y3 & Y4
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December at 1.45pm	Y5 & Y6



The children are working very hard to prepare for these already and would be delighted to see their parents and carers in school to watch them perform. Please come along; it makes such a difference to the children when their efforts are well supported.

**We will not be able to admit latecomers**, this is because of the way the hall is set up, as entering the hall will involve you walking through the stage area. For health and safety reasons, once the performance has begun this will not be possible. **Also, there will be no staff in the office area to admit people once the plays have started, so please bear this in mind and allow enough time to get to school.**



### End of Term School Mass

Our final School Mass of the year takes place on Thursday MORNING next week. It starts at 9.15am and will be led by Y3. We will also be lighting the fourth candle on our Advent wreath. You are all very welcome to attend – you do not have to be Catholic to come to Mass.

## School Christmas Carol Concert

We are having a special end of term Christmas Carol Service NEXT Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December. The service will start at **2.30pm** in school, and will be led by children from different classes. The children have been working really hard at learning their carols and are looking forward to singing for you. All families are welcome to attend this event. It will be a lovely way to start your family Christmas, so please come along and share in this special celebration with us.



## St. Joseph's Church Festive Afternoon

St. Joseph's Church are hosting a 'Festive Afternoon' on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Come along to the community room in the church between 11am and 1pm and enjoy a hot chocolate, tea, coffee, mince pie, table-top sale and raffle. Everyone is welcome to attend – bring your friends and neighbours!



## Scarlet Fever / Strep A

Some information was sent out via email earlier this week regarding the current outbreaks of Strep A, Strep throat and Scarlet Fever. Please be aware of the symptoms of these and be vigilant of any illness in your child. A letter has been sent home today detailing the differences between a viral sore throat and a 'Strep' sore throat.

*This half-term virtues are: Faith-filled & Hopeful*

*If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact one of the safeguarding team;  
Mrs Ashley, Mrs Pattinson, Mr Caffrey and Mrs West*



## Starting School - Reception 2023

If you have a child that was born between 01-09-2018 and 31-08-2019, online application is now open on the Birmingham City Council website for Reception school places for September 2023. Please note that paper applications are no longer available and applications must be submitted via the website. Preferences for school places must be submitted to the city council by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. Please ensure that you have applied for places by then, as late applications are less likely to get the school of their choice



### Snow!

In the event of any heavy snow over the coming weeks or extreme weather which causes significant disruption, any school closures will be listed on local radio stations, as follows: Free Radio 96.4, Heart FM 100.7 and Radio WM 95.6. If you do not hear our school name or any mention of 'blanket closures', then school is open!! Remember that there are several St Joseph's schools and you must listen out for ours. We will also send a text message out so please ensure that you keep us up-to-date with any changes of contact numbers. Thank you!

## This week's news

There have been lots of cheeky elves around school over the last few weeks. I think one of them may have even sneaked into the newsletter somewhere....



Years 2-4 enjoyed their visit to the Millennium Point to watch Arthur Christmas. We even had a special visit from Father Christmas. 16 days til Christmas 🎄🎅🎁

During collective worship in Reception this morning we spoke about the importance of Sunday and the lighting of the third Advent candle, the candle that represents joy 🙌😊



Today was Christmas dinner day at St Joseph's. We enjoyed a delicious dinner cooked by our fabulous cooks Kelly and Pat 🎅🎄🍽️

## 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, Miss Teague, Mrs Pattinson, Mrs West, Mrs Koumi, and Miss Crane.

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## Class Attendance – weekly attendance treats

Every week, the class with the highest attendance are rewarded with a certificate and an extra day during the week to attend our lunchtime 'Board Games' club. At the end of each half term, the class with the most certificates will be given a treat!



## Attendance – week ending 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Well done to **Year Three** who had the best attendance again this week with a fabulous 99%!!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Rec	88%	Year One	95%	Year Two	81%	Year Three	99%
Year Four	97%	Year Five	95%	Year Six	96%		

This gives a whole school attendance of 92%



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

Reception	Milka	Super progress in writing
Year 1	Zemira	Showing great understanding of materials and their properties
Year 2	Y2 Readers	Reading beautifully in Mass
Year 3	Abigail	Excellent progress in English
Year 4	Taliyah	Singing a beautiful solo as Mary
Year 5	Dircia	Always persevering and trying hard
Year 6	Kingdavid	Excellent progress in guided reading!

## Christmas Countdown



16

sleeps until Christmas!

## School Term Dates 2022 -2023

Autumn Term 2022	Spring Term 2023	Summer Term 2023
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2023 to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 to Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022 to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 to Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023
<b>END OF TERM</b>	<b>END OF TERM</b>	<b>END OF YEAR</b>

**Teacher Days** - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 / Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 / Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022 / Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July / Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July  
+ MAC teacher day - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

**Bank Holidays** - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 / Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023

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