



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 6th September 2024



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Student's Prayer for a New School Year

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.
 Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.
 Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.
 Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.
 Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.
 Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.
 Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!
 Amen

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 11 th September	School Mass led by Y6	2.00pm
Friday 4 th October	Reception Welcome Service (details to follow)	2.30pm
Friday 25 th October	School closes for half-term	3.20pm
Monday 4 th November	Return to school	8.50am
Wednesday 27 th November	Parents' Evening (school finishes at 2.15pm)	2.30pm – 5.30pm

School Term Dates 2024 -2025

Autumn Term 2024	Spring Term 2025	Summer Term 2025
Monday 2 nd September 2024 to Friday 25 th October 2024	Monday 6 th January 2025 to Friday 14 th February 2025	Monday 28 th April 2025 to Friday 23 rd May 2025
HALF TERM	HALF TERM	HALF TERM
Monday 4 th November 2024 to Friday 20 th December 2024	Monday 24 th February 2025 to Thursday 17 th April 2025	Monday 9 th June 2025 to Monday 21 st July 2025
END OF TERM	END OF TERM	END OF YEAR

Teacher Days –
 Monday 2nd September 2024
 Friday 25th October 2024
 Monday 21st July 2025

Bank Holidays –
 Friday 18th April 2025
 Monday 5th May 2025

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.

Welcome Back!

I hope that you have all had a good holiday and summer. It is lovely to see everyone looking so well! I would like to welcome you all back and give a special welcome to the new children who have started and also a very big welcome to our new staff! I am sure that you will be very happy at St. Joseph's.

The staff and I would also like to thank you for all the gifts and cards we received at the end of last term, we were all touched by your generosity and thoughtfulness. Thank you!

Swimming

Swimming this term will be for Year Four and will start next Friday 13th September. You should have received a letter regarding this.



Congratulations!



Huge congratulations to Miss Teague, who got married over the summer holiday and is now known as Mrs Boxwell! We wish Mr & Mrs Boxwell every happiness and blessing as they begin their married life together

After-School Clubs

We will be running a Hand Ball after-school club this half-term on Monday 9th September for KS2 from 3:20pm to 4:20pm. **There is no cost and places will be given on a first-come, first-served basis and will not be held. Booking will open on Monday 9th September.**

This club will finish at 4.20pm and children must be picked up on time by a responsible adult.

School Improvements

You may have noticed that we have had a lot of work done around school over the summer. This has included the expansion and resurfacing of the car park, the resurfacing of the KS2 playground, new AstroTurf being laid in the playground and, most excitingly, the addition of a new 'trim trail' for the children to use in the playground, which has been completed today. The children are very excited about all of the changes at school and we hope that it will help to make school an even nicer place to be for them. More exciting things are in the pipeline, which we will keep you updated on over the coming months.



Dinner Money

Dinner money is £13.50 a week and should be paid to the office every Monday. If any families' circumstances have changed over the holiday regarding free school meal entitlement, please let us know as soon as possible. Also, just a reminder that current Government legislation means that all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 now get free school meals regardless of entitlement.

Children from Y3 upwards have to pay for their meals unless you are entitled to free meals. If you think that you may be entitled to free school meals and are not currently receiving them, please come in to the school office. Please note that if you receive ANY Working Tax Credit, you are not entitled to receive free school meals and you will need to pay for your child's meals. **If you receive Universal Credit you are only entitled to free school meals if your earnings are LESS THAN £7,400 per year.**

Y6 Secondary Transfer Applications for September 2025

All children in Year 6 should have received a letter before the holiday with details on how to apply for a secondary school place for September 2025. Applications for a secondary school place starting September 2025 can be made between 12 September and 31 October 2024. You are less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools if you apply late.

Secondary Transfer preferences for school places must be submitted to the city council by Tuesday 31st October 2024. Please ensure that you have applied for places by then, as late applications are less likely to get the school of their choice.

This half-term's virtues are: Compassionate & Loving

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

Uniform

It is wonderful to see all of the children looking so smart in their uniforms! I would just like to remind you of a few of our policies regarding uniform in school.

- 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."
- For health and safety reasons, we do not allow children to wear any jewellery in school. The only exception to this is small gold studs, which should not be worn on days when your child has P.E. or swimming. Members of staff are not allowed to remove earrings, and no responsibility will be taken for any child who removes their own earrings. Hoop or Creole earrings, necklaces, bracelets and rings are not allowed in school.
- Mobile Phones are not permitted in school unless it has been agreed with myself in advance. Any mobile phones in school have to be given into the school office at the start of the day and collected at the end.



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club starts again on Monday. All children who have attended Breakfast Club regularly last term will need to complete new registration forms if you haven't already. Please note that the cost of Breakfast Club is £1.50 per day. All places are allocated and must be applied for.

Online Safety Newsletter

Also attached to your newsletter today is our monthly Online Safety newsletter.

Penalty Notice Fines for Holidays / Attendance has changed



Please note that the rules for attendance have changed from September 2024. Any days of absences that are unauthorised (this also includes 'late after registration' marks where a child arrives after 9.15am) will now count towards number of absences. **Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days, or less days if you have had previous unauthorised absence in the 10 weeks prior to the holiday.**

Penalty Notice Fines will also be considered when there have **been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period. You do not have to be on holiday to be fined.** You can have sessions of other unauthorised absence, for example keeping a child off school as you thought it was a teacher day and it wasn't, going shopping, birthdays, waiting in for people to attend your property – these are not authorised reasons to miss school.

Similarly, if we do not hear from you when your child is absent or you do not answer a call from us, and we have a reason for their absence, it will be marked as unauthorised. School does not have to authorise medical absence. If a child is repeatedly absent for minor 'medical issues' we will require you to bring in evidence of illness such as an appointment card from a doctor.

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The fine for unauthorised holiday is now £160 for each parent (reduced to £80 if paid within 28 days) for each child that was absent. For example, if you have 3 children absent for term time leave, this would result in each parent receiving a fine of £480 (reduced to £240 if paid within 28 days).

Please bear this in mind when you are booking travel arrangements for the school holidays. Any children who are not back in school on time will be fined if they fit into the categories above. Medical absences either side of school holidays will require evidence of illness to be produced.

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, Mrs Gowen, Mrs West, Mrs Koumi, and Miss Crane. If any parents want to discuss any issues, please contact us at pastoral@stjosb7.bham.sch.uk



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

Reception	Whole Class	Settling into St Joseph's so beautifully
Year One	Whole Class	Settling back into school so well
Year Two	Zayan	Well done Zayan for settling so well into Year 2 and making a positive start to the Year!
Year Three	Trai'von	His enthusiasm, manners, and trying his best all week!
Year Four	Bethel	Always displaying excellent behaviour and being a positive role model.
Year Five	Eldana	Enthusiasm, helpfulness and working hard all week.
Year Six	Whole Class	An excellent first week back! Keep up the great work Y6 😊

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