



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St. Joseph's News

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

“I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the Gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town, and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand, whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself.

I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world. Amen.”



## Dates for your Diary

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

**Return to school**

8.40am

## School Term Dates 2024 -2025

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

<b>Teacher Days –</b>
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2024 Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 - MAC Teacher Day Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025

<b>Bank Holidays –</b>
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025



## Merry Christmas and Thank you

I would like to thank you all for your support with so many things this term and particularly with our Christmas events. Our fundraising and productions were all so successful because of the support that you gave to them. This is very much appreciated and really helps to make our school a happier place to be! It is so lovely to have the involvement and interest of our parents and carers and it really encourages the children to see their families in school.

On behalf of all the staff and Governors of St. Joseph's, I would like to wish all of you and your families a peaceful, blessed and joyful Christmas, and a very happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all back safely in January.



**We return to school on Monday 6th January 2025 at 8.40am.**

## 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.

## St. Joseph's Mass Times - Christmas Services at St. Joseph's

I would like to invite all families to our Christmas services at St. Joseph's. It is always a pleasure to see so many of you at Mass and you are all most welcome. The family service on **Christmas Eve** is always very special and popular. This starts at **7.00pm**. Christmas Day Mass will be at 9.45am.

There are also masses at **St. Vincent's** on Christmas Eve at 5pm and 9.20pm (starting with carols at 8.45pm) and Christmas Day at 11.30am.

It is important to remember the true meaning of what we celebrate at this time of year, especially for those of us who are Christian or Catholic. The word 'Christmas' means 'the birth of Christ' and that is what should be at the heart of all that we do to celebrate, so it would be wonderful to see the church full for our services! I look forward to seeing you over Christmas.

Father Solomon



## Goodbye!

Sadly, today, we shall be saying goodbye to Mrs Corbett and Mr Dempsey. Mrs Corbett has been our Office Administrator over the last 18 months and has done a wonderful job supporting our children and helping to keep our school running. Mr Dempsey has been with us since September teaching our Year 5 children. We wish them all the best in their new roles and would like to thank them for all of their hard work for us.

## 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 Gowen, Mrs West, Mrs Koumi, and Miss Crane.



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

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



## After School Club

There will be a Mini Trampolining After School Club commencing after the holidays on Tuesday for six weeks beginning on 7<sup>th</sup> January from 3:20pm to 4:15pm for **Year 1 and Year 2 classes only**. It is based on a first come first served basis and will cost £18, this must be paid in full before your child can start the club. All clubs finish at 4.15pm and children must be collected on time. Clubs are run by outside agencies and their staff leave at this time.

## MAC Teacher Pool

Our MAC currently have a live advertisement for a 'teacher pool' to recruit teachers to work across the MAC schools. If you know anyone who may be interested in applying to work as a teacher in our MAC, please share the advertisement with them. It can be found on GOV.UK teaching vacancies

- <https://teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk/jobs/teacher-teacher-pool>

## Starting School - Reception 2025 – apply now!

If you have a child that was born between 01-09-2020 and 31-08-2021, online application is now open on the Birmingham City Council website for Reception school places for September 2025.

Preferences for school places must be submitted to the city council by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**. Please ensure that you have applied for places by then, as late applications are less likely to get the school of their choice



## Nechells Methodist Church - Craft and Coffee morning

Nechells Methodist Church, Nechells Park Road, B7 5PR are having a craft and coffee morning this Saturday 21st December 10am-12noon. Please see the flyer below for more details.

## Penalty Notice fines for holidays / poor attendance

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. 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 for them to be authorised.**



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## 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:

Kielet - Reception    Sarah - Year 3    Nahom - Year 5    Sofoniyas - Year 6



## Class Attendance – weekly attendance treats



As you know, it is very important that children attend school every day, both for their wellbeing and academic achievement and also to encourage good habits for their future working life. At the end of each half term, the class with the most certificates will be given a treat!

## Attendance – week ending 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Well done to **Year 5** class who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous **100%**!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 96.1%	Year One: 92%	Year Two: 92%	Year Three: 98.2%
Year Four: 96.6%	Year Five: 100%	Year Six: 97%	

This gives a whole school attendance of **96.3%**



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**Nechells  
Methodist Church**

Nechells Park Road, B7 5PR

Sunday Morning services:  
11am start

Stay afterwards for:  
A warm drink & conversation

**Upcoming events:**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December:**

Coffee & Crafts (ages 0 to 99)

10am to 12noon

**Christmas Day Service:**

11am start



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