



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St. Joseph's News

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

God of love, you bless those people who are poor,  
who are sad, who are hungry and thirsty  
and who are hurt because they stand up for what they believe in.  
Help us to follow in your way.  
Amen.



## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	School Mass – led by Year 4	2.00pm
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	St Josephine Bakhita house group children <b>ONLY</b> - own clothes day	
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for half term	3.20pm
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED – MAC TRAINING DAY</b>	
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	School reopens	8.40am
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	First Holy Communion Parents' meeting	3.00pm
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day dressing up day	
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	First Holy Communion commitment mass	9.45am
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening 2.30pm – 5.30pm	
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Y3 & Y4 Maundy Thursday Liturgy (pm)	
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Y5 & Y6 Stations of the cross Liturgy (pm)	
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	School closes for <b>ONE WEEK</b> Easter holiday	<b>1.00pm</b>

## School Term Dates 2024 -2025

Spring Term 2025	Summer Term 2025
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 to Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 to Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
HALF TERM	HALF TERM
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
END OF TERM	END OF YEAR

<b>Teacher Days –</b> Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 - MAC Teacher Day Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025
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<b>Bank Holidays –</b> Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
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## 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.

## School Mass – every Wednesday

Our next School Mass will take place on Wednesday 5th February at 2pm and will be led by Year 4. The children lead the Liturgy and they 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.

## Faith in Our City Week

We have had a wonderful week in school celebrating Faith in Our City week. The children have really enjoyed their visits which they have found really interesting and have given them a wonderful insight into other faiths. Year Five will also be visiting a Buddhist Temple, but this will be later in the year in April.

The children all looked wonderful in their outfits today and have really enjoyed teaching other children about their clothing and why they wear it. Thank you for making such a huge effort with this! You can see some photos from this week at the end of the newsletter.



## Advance warning – half term break

We close on THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> February for our half-term break as Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February is a MAC Teacher Training Day. The children return to school on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 8.40am

## Vacancy – Lunchtime Supervisor

We currently have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor. Please visit

<https://www.stjosb7.bham.sch.uk/vacancy/vacancy-for-a-lunchtime-supervisor/>

for more information or to apply. Applications close on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30pm.

***Please note that to apply for the position, you must complete all documents listed under the 'Application Forms' section IN FULL and submit them to school. For safeguarding reasons, we cannot consider any application other than those completed in full on the correct application form. You will also need to be able to provide two references.***

## Reception Young Artists Competition

Reception class recently took part in a 'Young Artists' competition. We are delighted to hear that four of our children have had their art work selected to appear in a book called 'Me & My Family'. The book will be published in March. Congratulations to Noah, Betselot, Pareesa and Mana who will have their artwork published! Each child will also receive a certificate.

## Different Upcoming School Holidays

Just a reminder that we have different holidays to other Birmingham schools this year. We will be having a ONE week holiday at Easter and a TWO WEEK holiday in May. Please bear this in mind when making any travel arrangements for the holidays. Dates are on the first page of this newsletter and have been on since September.

*This half-term's virtues are: Compassionate & Loving  
If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact one of the safeguarding team;  
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**Medical absences either side of school holidays will require evidence of illness for them to be authorised. Once you have had 5 unauthorised days absence you can be fined. These days do have to be all at the same time/ consecutively and can be over a period of different terms.**

Any days of absences that are unauthorised (this also includes 'late after registration' marks where a child arrives after 9.15am) 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).

## 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.

## Communication and Autism Team - Parent Workshop / Drop In Session

Come along and meet Dawn, Wendy and Jo from the Communication and Autism Team (CAT). This is an opportunity for you to meet other parent carers with autistic children, or children who are on the neurodevelopmental pathway for assessment.

The session will be held at Lakeside Children's Centre B23 7UH on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February from 9.30-11.30am (Please note there are no childcare facilities at the venue.) If you have any questions, please contact the email below: [Joanne.clifford@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Joanne.clifford@birmingham.gov.uk) Just turn up on the day – there is no need to book.

## Communication and Autism Team - Parent carer Advice Sessions online

The CAT team would like to invite parent carers of children with a diagnosis of autism or children who are on the neurodevelopmental pathway for assessment to a one-to-one advice session. The sessions will take place online via Microsoft TEAMS and will last for 25 minutes. Sessions are available between 9am – 12pm on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Due to limited places, the sessions will be offered to the first families to contact us. To reserve a place please email: [wendy.p.bantock@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.p.bantock@birmingham.gov.uk) or [joanne.clifford@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.clifford@birmingham.gov.uk)

Please include in your email / booking that it is for the SPRING 2025 – CAT Parent carer Advice Sessions and the following information:

- Your name – Parent carer
- Your Child's name
- Your Child's school
- Preferred email address for the TEAM's invite to be sent to
- A brief description of the things you would like to talk about in the session, so that the CAT can prepare and make sure the advice is relevant to your child.

You will receive an email response to confirm your booking including the date and time of your session or to tell you that the sessions are full for this term. (We will be delivering more sessions online next term for parent carers.)

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## Pharmacy First – an NHS service being offered from pharmacies across England for children and adults

There is a new NHS service which pharmacies across England are offering for children (as well as adults) called **Pharmacy First**. Community Pharmacists offer free and confidential advice for minor illnesses such as coughs, colds, and eye infection. If appropriate, they can also provide treatment\* without a prescription for seven common conditions:

- Urinary tract infection (women aged 16-64)
- Sinusitis (adults and children aged 12+)
- Sore throat (adults and children aged 5+)
- Earache (children and young adults aged 1-17)
- Infected insect bite (adults and children aged 1+)
- Impetigo (adults and children aged 1+)
- Shingles (adults aged 18+)

The pharmacy will send an electronic message to the person's GP surgery so their health record can be updated. Should the pharmacist be unable to help, they will direct the person to their GP surgery or other health professional as appropriate. This service takes away the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment and may help ensure children get well and back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better sooner if they are unwell.

Patients that are already exempt from prescription charges, such as children, will still be exempt from charges if treatment is provided for the listed conditions, otherwise usual [NHS prescription charge rules](#) apply. For more information on how your pharmacist can help, visit [Think pharmacy first :: NHS Birmingham and Solihull](#) or watch [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQUI\\_ZOqFZg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQUI_ZOqFZg)

## 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:

Adolina                      Zayan                      Huda                      Inaaya



## 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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

Well done to **Year 6** class who had the best attendance this week with **98.3%**!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 96.5%	Year One: 93.6%	Year Two: 97.6%	Year Three: 93.7%
Year Four: 94.7%	Year Five: 93.7%	Year Six: 98.3%	

This gives a whole school attendance of **95.4%**

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

Reception	Hazim	Trying hard in all areas.
Year 1	Yukang	Fabulous singing during mass this week :)
Year 2	Eliana T	Excellent behaviour on the Y2 class trip to the church.
Year 3	Jasmine	Excellent English work
Year 4	Jayden	Showing improvement when dividing by 10.
Year 5	Dina	Having a mature attitude to her learning
Year 6	Fiyin	Super effort in writing this week 😊

## This Week's News



The children have loved coming to school in clothes from their culture today. They have really enjoyed showing each other their special outfits.



As part of our Faith in the City week, year 3 visited the Gurdwara. We discovered they make 25000 meals a week and give them all away free. We also looked at their prayer rooms and looked around their amazing temple. We had a great time!

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed a trip to St Joseph's Church. Sister Catherine showed us around. We learnt lots of new words... altar, sanctuary, font, stained glass...

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Y6 had a wonderful time visiting the Islamic Exhibition Centre. It was wonderful to learn so much about the history, art and culture of Islam.



Year 4 visited the Singers Hill Synagogue. The children enjoyed learning about a different faith.



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