

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Joseph's Catholic Primary SchoolNewsletter November 17th 2023

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A message from our Principal



Dear parents,

What a busy week in school! The week kicked off with odd socks day to mark the start of Antibullying week. The children have taken part in a range of activities around the theme of 'Make a Noise about Bullying!' and it has been pleasing to hear the really positive conversations taking place about this subject. We're proud to say that any rare incidents of bullying at St Joseph's are dealt with very swiftly and the children feel happy and safe at our school.

PC Kat Andrews visited school today too and spoke with Year 5 and Year 6 about the importance of keeping safe online. This session was extremely insightful and the children will have gained a lot of important knowledge to support them in the online world. I'm sure you will agree this will have been very valuable for our upper KS2 children.

Maths Week England has been a great success in school! Please do look at our social media accounts as there are so many updates about the learning that has taken place during this focus week, including some quite brilliant extra activities completed at home.

I'm so pleased that the children have enjoyed the different focuses this week - they often create the best memories of school.

Please do keep an eye on the dates for your diary within this newsletter as I update when further dates and events are made available - including upcoming school trips and Christmas events.

Our school website is regularly updated. Please have a look here - <u>St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Home (st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)</u>

Updates:

November TEN:TEN Newsletter The November newsletter from Ten:Ten to support you with prayer at home www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/

Have a great weekend

God bless

Maths Week England



Please check our social media accounts on Instagram and X (Twitter) for updates regarding the activities that the children took part in during Maths Week England - you are in for a treat! Thank you to everyone who also took part in extra activities at home, it is always positive to see that the children have been engaged and wanting to continue outside of school.

St Joseph's Open Day for September 2024 intake- November 29th. All are welcome! Please call to confirm your place.



Reminder- Family Mass takes place each Saturday at 5:00pm. Please come and join us! The latest Parish newsletter can be found at this link folds-Bulletin-19th-November-2023.pdf and November scripture reflection OLAS-SCRIPTURE-COMMENTARIES-NOVEMBER-2023-1.pdf





 $1-Instagram\ @STJOSEPHSCATHOLICPRIMARY$

Twitter @StJoStourbridge

Children's liturgy - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 25: 14-30



What do you remember from today's reading? Jesus tells another parable. This time a man is about to go abroad and so he calls his servants to him and gives them each something to look after.

He gives the first servant 5,000 gold coins. He gives the second servant 2,000 gold coins. And the final servant 1,000 gold coins. What did the servants do with the money they had been given?

The first one used the 5,000 coins he had been given and made 5,000 more. So he gave the master back 10,000 coins all together. The second one used the 2,000 coins he had been given and made 2,000 more, giving the master back 4,000 coins all together. The final servant hid his 1,000 coins in the ground. When his master came back he dug the money up and returned it to him.

How did the master react? Why do you think he was so angry?

In some versions of the story instead of talking about gold coins, it uses the word "talents". A talent was a word for money in Jesus' time. This story is sometimes known as the "Parable of the talents".

What do you think Jesus is trying to tell us in this parable?

Jesus is telling us that it is important to use the gifts that God has given us. We are all good at different things. We all have different skills and talents. What is your talent?

Some of us are good at singing, some of us are good at sport. Some of us are good at dancing, some of us are good at drawing. Some of us are good at baking, some of us are good at building Lego. Some of us are good at speaking out when we see that something is wrong or unfair, some of us are good at helping others.

Whatever your talent is, Jesus is saying that it is important not to hide our talents from others – to just keep them to ourselves and never let them grow. Instead, it is by going out into the world, by sharing our talents and using our skills to help others that we serve God.

Children all around the world are using their talents to make the world a better and fairer place. By using our skills to help others in our world, we are also serving God.

For example some children have been creating artwork about climate justice and caring for our world, which will be shown at an exhibition at the Houses of Parliament during some very important climate talks which are about to start.

Some children have been raising money throughout the year to support their global family.

And some children, like Jasmine in Peru, have been volunteering to make their community a better place. Jasmine has helped to clear rubbish and create a new area with a maze, a playground and a safe place to play sport for all the children in her community.

How will you use your gifts, skills or talents to serve God in the coming week?

We pray together for God's help to use our talents wisely:

We pray for world leaders: that they may use their talents for the good of all people, making the world a fairer place for everyone to live. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all children around the world: that they may all have the chance to learn new skills and to use their talents to make the world a better place. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may not hide our talents away, but instead use them to help others, especially people who are poor. Lord, in your mercy

Closing prayer:

Generous God, you gave us a voice. Help us shout loud for what is right and fair. You gave us ears. Help us to listen to those in need. You gave us talents. Help us share and multiply them for the good of all your people. Amen.

Reflection adapted from Cafod children's liturgy

Curriculum



Have you seen the curriculum area on our school website? It is full of information about the progression of key knowledge and skills that our children learn throughout their time at school. Our curriculum is designed to ensure that the precise knowledge and skills are learnt and reinforced so

that the children develop a wide schema (web of knowledge) and are able to know more and remember more during their time at school and are prepared for their next stage in education.

Ofsted agreed that we are continuing to develop an ambitious curriculum so that in all areas the children are able to achieve well and use the techniques that they have been taught to tackle a variety of challenges. Our curriculum is rooted in the teachings of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teachings so we make links with the children's learning to areas such as caring for our world, the dignity of workers, developments for the common good and more.

To bring the curriculum to life, we also plan for educational visits and visitors that enrich learning further.

You can view your child's learning in all areas at the link below.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Curriculum Plans (st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)

Live Simply Update



Please continue to bring in any food that you can donate which will be taken to the food bank. Our WOW walk to school once a week is up and running! Can you walk to school once a week? Talk to a friend or family member about God's creatures that you see on your journey.

Stones/pebbles needed for our prayer garden - Thank you for the stones and pebbles that have arrived in school. With a few extra we can begin to paint and add prayers for our garden area.

Catholic Social Teaching



Each class has a Catholic Social Teaching focus this year. Links will be made to this throughout the school year. Catholic social teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world.

Stewardship and Option for the Poor - Pope Francis invites everyone on the planet to consider how our actions are affecting the earth and the poorest people. Everything is interconnected, and all of creation praises God. It is our Christian vocation to care for creation.

Thank you for all of the Christmas shoeboxes that have been brought into school for our Gambia appeal!

Gifts from God



The following children have been awarded certificates in our Gifts from God assembly this afternoon and will be invited to 'Brew with Mr W' on Friday afternoon to discuss their achievements. Well done children for your hard work and commitment to our school values.

	Gospel values	Good work	
Reception	Nellie	Aarianna	
Year 1	Belle	Eli & Sam	
Year 2	Willow	Flo H	
Year 3	Georgina	Francesca	
Year 4	Mathilda	Daniel	
Year 5	Xanthe	Iris	
Year 6	Daisy	Whole Class	

Diary Dates -Autumn Term



*Please note all term dates are available on the calendar section of the school website

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Calendar (st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)

Wednesday 22nd November - Confessions Year 5

Thursday November 23rd - Father Philip meeting Year 4 parents for discussion about Holy Communion plans 3:15pm

Friday 24th November - Confessions Year 6

Wednesday 29th November - Year 6 Mass (for children)

Wednesday 29th November - 2nd Open Morning for prospective Reception children 2024

Friday 1st December - Catholic Social Teaching sharing assembly 2:40pm

Saturday 2nd December - OLAS Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 6th December - Music and Mince Pies concert 9:15am

Wednesday 6th December - Christmas jumper day (donations for Crisis)

Wednesday 13th December - Year 5 Stay and Pray 9:10am

Wednesday 13th December - Year 4 class Mass 2:20pm

Monday 18th December - Reception Christmas carols 2:30pm

Tuesday 19th December - Pantomime for the whole school

Wednesday 20th December - Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity dress rehearsal for children

Wednesday 20th December - Children's Christmas dinner day (more information available soon)

Thursday 21st December - Nativity for parents 1:30pm and 6:00pm

Friday 22nd December - Whole school Mass 9:10am, Christmas carols 2:45pm

Friday 22nd December - School closes for Christmas

PTA updates



Upcoming events:

Coming soon...

We are very lucky to benefit from such an active and passionate PTA - thank you for your ongoing support to our school!

Please see the below videos for how our outside area has been transformed in school with thanks to the PTA! We have lots of exciting plans including a gardening club, vegetable patch, the use of a greenhouse, a pond area, new benches to listen to stories from the storytelling chair and areas for children to be responsible for. All showing how we are caring for our common home - how wonderful!

Thank you so much to our fantastic PTA!

Please see the link below for an update on the PTA outdoor projects for the rest of this year. If you can help in any way, please do let your

class PTA representative know. Thank you to the PTA for preparing this wonderful slideshow! <u>OUTDOOR PROJECTS (canva.com)</u>



Thank you so much to the PTA who joined us last Saturday and helped out with the outdoor area at school. The school environment looks absolutely wonderful and the children had a brilliant surprise on Monday morning! Thank you PTA!











PE Timetable



Please take note of your child's PE days for this half term.

Year 1 & Year 2 - Please remember to send PE kits back into school on Monday 6th November.

Reception Class - Friday

Year 1 - Thursday & Friday

Year 2 - Monday & Tuesday

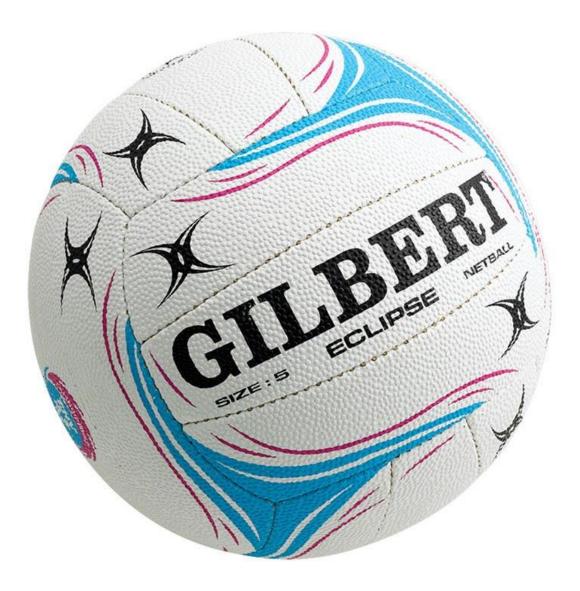
Year 3 - Tuesday & Thursday

Year 4 - Tuesday & Friday (Swimming)

Year 5 - Monday & Wednesday

Year 6 - Wednesday & Friday

Clubs



Lunchtime Clubs:

Tuesday - Cross Country - Years 4/5 & 6

Wednesday - Y6 leading 'Mindfulness group'

Wednesday - Y5/Y6 girls football training (to start after half term)

Thursday - Year 2 - 6 Choir (Mrs Cangiano)

If your child is interested in joining any of our Before & After school clubs, please contact the school office for more details.

Monday 3:25-4:25pm - DPA Drums

Tuesday 8am - KS2 Gymnastics (R&B) -spaces available

Wednesday 8am - Dodgeball - Years 1-6 (Mark Bennett)

Thursday 8am - KS1 Gymnastics (R&B) - spaces available

Thursday 3.15-4.15pm - Years 4 -6 Netball

Friday 8am - Archery Club - Years 1-6 (Mark Bennett)

Friday 3.15-4.45pm - Years 1-4 Football (Your sport)

Tuesday & Wednesday 3.15-4.30pm - Irish Dancing

Sport in the community



CALLING ALL YOUNG CRICKET FANS, Oldswinford Cricket Club run an U9's team that train throughout the winter and summer and also enter softball festivals. This year's team will be again coached and managed by Dave Hannam. This group is open to year 4 pupils only. Due to popular demand, we are going to be starting the U9's earlier this year after huge success last year reaching county finals. If your year 4 child would be interested in having a go, please follow the link below. Details of venue and cost are also included in this email.

Venue - Redhill School, Junction Road, Stourbridge, DY8 1JX

Time - 5-6pm

Dates - Friday 10th November to 15th December 2023 (6 Sessions)

Cost - £24.00 to be paid by card at the first session.

Can you please fill out the below link to confirm interest

If you require any further information please feel free to contact us.

Cheers

Rich

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfRAihDFeESIsyTfF7Iy3 ZpxIG0FGKbI8HGNx3IPI2n1A0A/viewform

Our new caterers and lunch menu

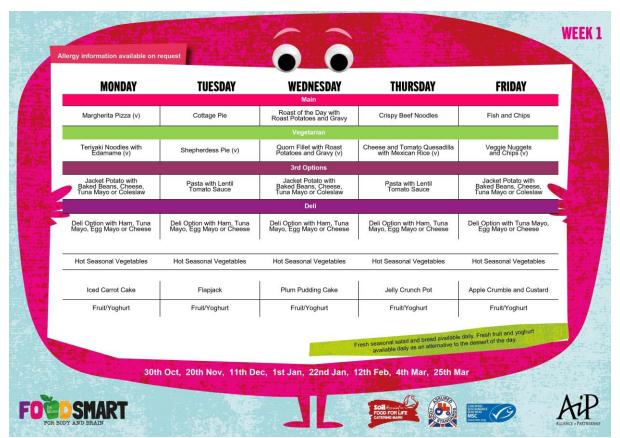


The children have been delighted with our new lunch menu at school. Meals can be pre-ordered daily or weekly on the new School Food United app, details were emailed out to all parents on Monday 27th February. Please remember to order before 8am. Pupils in Reception & KS1 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. Dinners for KS2 pupils are £2.30 per day.

School Menu- Autumn term



Menu autumn





Allergy information available on request

MONDAY	13th Nov, 4th Dec, 25th	h Dec, 15th Jan, 5th Feb WEDNESDAY	o, 26th Feb, 18th Mar THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MUNDAI	TOLODAI	Main	IIIONSDAI	TRIDAT
Ratatouille Pasta Bake (v)	Meat Feast Pizza	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Gyros	Fish and Chips
		Vegetarian		
Korean Cauliflower with Rice (v)	Veggie Pizza (v)	Mediterranean Gnocchi Bake (v)	Mushroom and Spinach Enchilada (v)	Cheese and Tomato Pinwheel with Chips (v)
		3rd Options		
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Pasta with Lentil Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Pasta with Lentil Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Salmon Mayo or Coleslaw
		Deli		
Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese
Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables
Sticky Orange Cake	Gainsborough Tart	Fruit Crumble with Custard	Cinnamon Fruit Pudding	Chocolate Mousse
Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt











Attendance



Congratulations to Reception class who have achieved the highest attendance this week. You will receive an extra play time!

Attendance for the whole school for this week is 96.43%.

Here is the attendance for this week for each class:

Year R: 97.4%

Year 1: 99.7%

Year 2: 94.7%

Year 3: 94.3%

Year 4: 100%

Year 5: 89.7%

Year 6: 99.3%

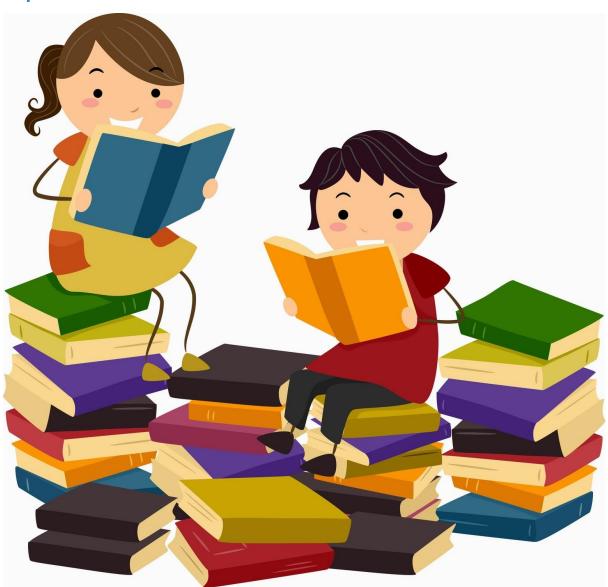
Please make sure your child is in school every day unless ill. Remember illnesses such as colds can be managed well with Calpol and although children can feel unwell first thing in a morning they do tend to brighten up during the day. We will always contact you if we are concerned that your child has become unwell throughout the day.

If there is no reason provided for your child's absence an unauthorised code is marked in the register. This will impact your child's overall attendance. Please contact school before 8.55am where possible and leave a message . If we are not aware of why your child is not in school we will try and contact you, if we are unable to contact the parent/carer we may call one of the other contacts on your child's records.

Please try to be as punctual as possible, we have noticed a small number of children are arriving late to school. If your child arrives after the close of the registration period (9.05am) this again is recorded as an unauthorised absence on the register and will affect your child's overall attendance figure. If your child arrives at school after 8.55am they MUST be accompanied by a parent/carer for signing in purposes.

In line with Government guidance all pupils who test positive for COVID-19 are recorded as ill in the register.

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals



If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,

We get an extra [£1,385 (for primary schools) / £985 (for secondary schools) – these figures are for the 2022/2023 financial year] for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

For example, we've previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Universal infant free school meals

Currently, pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You shouldn't confuse UIFSM with free schools meals and the pupil premium.

If your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

Does my child have to eat the free school meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

How do I register?

You only need to register once at the school.

To register, please go to www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals

If you need further information, you can contact the Free School Meals Teams by:

Telephone - 01384 814988

Email - freeschoolmeals.benefits@dudley.gov.uk

More information

For more information about pupil premium go to our website, which contains details of how the pupil premium has been spent in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year.

Safeguarding



You can reach out to Mr Wilkes, Mrs McCole or Mrs Riley or any member of staff in school.

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) for this school are:



Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr A. Wilkes



Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs J. McCole



Designated Safeguarding Lead Mrs M Riley

Dudley Early Help Strategy



EARLY HELP STRATEGY | healthandwellebing (dudleyhealthandwellbeing.org.uk)



2 - National Online Safety

This week we have emailed you with information on how to sign up for resources, courses and webinars around online safety using the National Online Safety platform. I will shortly add suggested resources to your parent 'watch list' which I believe will be of great support to us all as we keep our children safe in an ever changing environment online. Please do sign up to this fantastic resource which we also use regularly in school. All schools within Emmaus have been provided with this opportunity to support online safety of our children.

Within school, we are able to see which courses that you have completed, but not any other details. Please ensure that you select the 'parent/carer' user group when you sign up.



3 - Please scan for our Instagram page.

Twitter @StJoStourbridge

Contact us



Mr Wilkes and Mrs McCole are available at the start and the end of the school day and can usually be contacted by telephone throughout the school day or a meeting arranged with a senior member of staff.

You will always receive a warm welcome at St Joseph's!

If you have any concerns or worries, no matter how small, please let us know so we can do everything we can to make things better and resolve your concerns. Never hesitate to get in touch. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Telephone-01384 431980

Email - info_stjosephs@emmausmac.com