

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Joseph's Catholic Primary SchoolNewsletter January 19th 2024

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A message from our Principal



Dear parents,

What a chilly week it has been! Although, I do think that the adults 'feel the cold' a little more than the children. Some have still insisted on wearing shorts and needing reminders to wear coats at break and lunchtime! Thank you for bearing with us this week with the added salt on the school grounds during the cold snap and the minor disruption in the car park while the new lighting has been fitted. I'm pleased to say that this job in school has been completed successfully and we have a very bright school indeed.

I have had the pleasure of visiting classrooms this week and joining in with child-led worship. To see our children participating in Key Stage 1 and planning and leading prayer in Key Stage 2 was a wonderful experience. The children led with such confidence, care to detail and understanding of the key messages. Well done all!

I have added number of new dates to the school website and the diary below. Please do keep an eye on this. Year 4 parents, don't forget the Romans assembly that the class will be leading next Thursday - you're very welcome to join us and see the learning that has been taking place in Year 4 history lessons.

Finally, thank you to everyone who responded to the parent questionnaire. We had 89 responses overall. Ideally I would have liked a full school (207) to analyse but there is a good spread of the school that I have been able to do this for. Please see the results below. *Please note - each parent who responded represents 1.12%.

I have included some of the comments and suggestions received within the analysis, but if there is anything further that you wished to discuss with me please do not hesitate to make an appointment at the school office or see me on the gate.

I'm delighted that the questionnaires are so positive and that you feel that St Joseph's is a happy and thriving place for your children.

Parent questionnaire December 2023.pdf (st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)

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> *Please note, the Spring 2024 termly study plan and all curriculum plans are available on our website.

Updates:

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

God bless

Mr A. Wilkes

Principal

Catholic Social Teaching



Please see the below initiatives that are led by our new Caritas ambassadors in school!

Our Caritas Ambassadors took time out of their lunch to pray for anyone mentioned in our Prayer Stop box . During this Year of Prayer,

we are encouraged by Pope Francis to take part in individual and community prayer.



If you are shopping in Tesco Stourbridge or Oldswinford, please ask for a blue token and pop it in the collection point to support school!





1 - Instagram @STJOSEPHSCATHOLICPRIMARY

Twitter @StJoStourbridge

Our Lady and All Saints Church welcomes you! Mass Times - Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8:30am and 11:30am. Latest newsletter OLAS-Bulletin-14th-January-2024.pdf January scripture commentary OLAS-COMMENTARIES-JANUARY-2024.pdf



Children's liturgy - 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time 1: 14-20

Mark



Simon and his brother Andrew are fishing by a lake when Jesus asks them to follow him. At once, they leave their fishing nets behind and go with Jesus.

James and John do the same when they are asked. They leave their father behind as well as their boat and their fishing nets. They follow Jesus and become his disciples.

Do you think it was an easy decision for them to make to follow Jesus in this way?

How do you think the people that they left behind, like their families and friends, felt when they left so quickly? How would you feel if you had to leave your family, friends and all your things behind.

Jesus asks us all to follow him. But unlike Simon, Andrew, James and John in this reading, we cannot see Jesus and go with him as he travels round the country. So, what do you think Jesus wants us to do? How can we follow Jesus?

We can follow Jesus by living our lives as he would want us to. By being kind to others, sharing all that we have, and caring for all people, especially those who are poor or sick, so that the world becomes a fairer place for everyone to live in.

We can also follow Jesus by standing up for what we believe in and speaking out when we see something that is not right.

And of course, praying helps us to follow Jesus. It is when we pray that we come to know Jesus better and this helps us to understand how to follow him.

How will you follow Jesus this week?

We try to follow Jesus in all that we do and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may continue to follow Jesus' example by welcoming and helping those who are poor, sick and alone. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may follow Jesus by sharing what we have with those who do not have enough. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that, even if we find it difficult, or others laugh at us, we may stand up for what we believe in and follow Jesus' call. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer:

Lord Jesus, lead us to join together with other people across the world in helping others, especially those who are poor, so that all people may know that we are your followers. Amen.

Reflection adapted from Cafod children's liturgy

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	Arianna	Scarlett	
Year 1	Lily	Tommy	
Year 2	Maisie	Arjun	
Year 3	Ophelia	Peony	
Year 4	Erin	Josh	
Year 5	Freddie	Charlie	
Year 6	Annabel	Archie	

Arts Ambassadors



Arts Ambassadors

Mrs Cangiano had an overwhelming response for these new roles with over 80 applications! Thank you to all pupils who applied. We are pleased to announce that we have elected 12 Arts Ambassadors with representatives from each class from Year 1 to 6. The Arts Ambassadors will help to plan, promote and prepare arts events, feedback to Mrs Cangiano about arts events and lessons and collaborate to develop the arts further at St. Joseph's.

Arts Ambassadors:

Year 1 - Tommy and Charlie A

Year 2 - Frankie and Flo

Year 3 – Peony and Bethan

Year 4 - Eliza and Grace

Year 5 – Minie and Isabella

Year 6 – Frankie and Amelia

Active Play Leaders



Our new Active Play Leaders have made a great start organising games at break and lunchtimes for our Key Stage 1 children. The children have designed their own code of conduct and new exciting games. Well done children, it is great to see our young people taking on more and more leadership roles within school in a whole range of areas.

Thank you to Coach Mark Bennett for training our play leaders!

Attendance



Congratulations to **Reception** and **Year 2** who have achieved the highest attendance this week. You will receive an extra play time!

Attendance for the whole school for this week is 97.9%.

Here is the attendance for this week for each class:

Year R: 100%

Year 1: 97.7%

Year 2: 100%

Year 3: 98.3%

Year 4: 96.7%

Year 5: 96%

Year 6: 96.7%

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.

Diary Dates 2023-24



*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)

Monday 8th January - School reopens for the spring term

Saturday 6th January -1st session for First Confession 4pm in the Parish centre followed by Enrolment Mass for Preparation for First Confession (Year 3) 5pm OLAS

Thursday 18th January - PC Andrews to see Year 6 to support Y7 transition

Wednesday 24th January - Year 6 Confession

Thursday 25th January - Year 4 Romans Assembly - 2:30pm (Year 4 parents welcome)

Wednesday 31st January - St John House Mass - 2:30pm

Friday 2nd February - Cannon Paul McNally visiting Year 6 - 1:30pm

Friday 2nd February 6:30pm - Year 6 Confirmation at Our Lady and All Saints Church

Monday 5th February - 7pm - Year 5 performing in the Hagley pyramid concert 'Electric Dreams' at Birmingham Symphony Hall (tickets available - school office have emailed parents a link to purchase tickets)

Monday 5th - Friday 9th February - Children's Mental Health Awareness week. 'Express yourself' homework to be provided

Monday 5th February - Online Safety Week

Wednesday 7th February - Year 3 Stay and Pray - 9:10am (Year 3 parents welcome)

Wednesday 7th February - Reception Prayer Service - 2:30pm (Reception parents welcome)

Thursday 8th February - NSPCC Number Day - Dress up for digits (£1 contribution via parent pay to take part)

Thursday 8th February - final day of the first half of the spring term

Friday 9th February - School closed to children (Inset day)

Monday 19th February - school reopens for the second half of the spring term

Wednesday 21st February - Year 1 Prayer Service - 2:30pm (Year 1 parents welcome)

Wednesday 28th February - Year 2 Prayer Service- 2:30pm (Year 2 parents welcome)

Wednesday 6th March - Year 3 Mass - 2:30pm (Year 3 parents welcome)

Friday 8th March - Catholic Social Teaching sharing assembly (parents welcome)

Tuesday 12th March - 3:30pm-5:30pm Parents' evening night 1

Wednesday 13th March - 3:30pm-5:30pm Parents' evening night 2

Wednesday 13th March - Year 4 and Year 6 confession - 1:20pm

Thursday 14th March - Year 5 and Year 6 confession - 1:20pm

Thursday 14th March - Y4/Y5 taking part in 'Sugar Swap'

Friday 15th March - St Patrick's Day - Own clothes / Irish Dancing from 2:30pm

Tuesday 19th March - St Joseph's Day

Wednesday 20th March - Year 6 serving senior parish lunches - 1pm

Thursday 21st March - Year 3 stations of the cross - 2:10pm

Friday 22nd March - final day of the spring term - Mass (Holy Week) - 9:10am

Monday 8th April - School reopens for the start of the summer term

Friday 12th April - Whole School Mass - 9:10am

Wednesday 17th April - Year 6 serving senior Parish lunches - 1pm

Tuesday 23rd April - St George's Day - children in Red and White

Wednesday 24th April - St Mark's House Mass - 2:20pm

Rosary Group each Wednesday lunchtime in May

Wednesday 1st May - St Joseph's Day and Mass - 2:20pm (parents welcome)

Wednesday 8th May - Whole School Mass - 2:30pm (parents welcome)

Monday 13th-Thursday 16th May - Y6 SATs week

Wednesday 15th May - Year 1 stay and pray - 9:10am (Year 1 parents welcome)

Wednesday 15th May - Year 6 serving senior Parish lunches - 1pm

Wednesday 22nd May - Whole School May procession - 2:20pm

Wednesday 22nd May - Friday 24th May Year 5 Alton Castle retreat residential

Friday 24th May - school closes for the end of the first half of the summer term

Monday 3rd June - school reopens for the second half of the summer term 2

Wednesday 5th June-Friday 7th June - Year 6 Whitemoor Lakes

Wednesday 5th June - Year 5 class Mass - 2:30pm (Year 5 parents welcome)

Wednesday 19th June - Reception stay and pray - 9:10am

Wednesday 19th June - Year 6 serving senior parish lunches - 1pm

Wednesday 19th June - Year 6 class Mass (Year 6 parents welcome)

Monday 24th June - National sports week

Sports days to take place on Tuesday 25th June. KS1 9:15-10:30am, KS2 11:00-12:30pm

Thursday 27th June - Y6, Y1 and Reception smoothie making

Thursday 27th June - 5:30pm new Reception parents (September 2024) induction evening

Friday 28th June - Catholic Social Teaching sharing assembly - - 2:30pm (parents welcome)

Saturday July 6th at 12:00pm - Year 4 Holy Communion at Our Lady and All Saints Church

Wednesday 10th July - Whole School Mass - 2:20pm (parents welcome)

Wednesday 17th July - Year 6 serving senior parish lunches

Thursday 18th July - Leavers' assembly and Prize giving

Friday 19th July - school closes for the summer holidays

Monday 22nd July - School closed for children (Inset day)

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)

PTA updates



Two very important updates from our PTA below. Thank you to all parents who have contributed to the fundraisers that have taken place over the last few weeks. All of the money raised will greatly benefit our children!

Upcoming events:

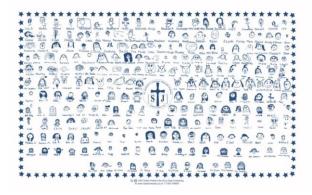
TBC

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

Thank you so much to our fantastic PTA!



2 - Thank you SO much to all the local businesses and individuals that have helped us with our amazing 2023 raffle prize haul! Get your tickets on Parent Pay now! Please feel free to offer tickets to friends and family to help your PTA raise as much as possible for our school this year! Tickets will be drawn on 20th December, good luck!



3 - Thank you to everyone for your tea towel orders (and to the children for their amazing portraits!) You've helped us raise a wonderful £275 which we'll be using to purchase books and other items requested by our class teachers. The tea towels are now being printed and will be with you by the end of term. PTA have purchased a few extras, so if you've missed out please speak to your class rep.

PE Timetable



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

(Please remember Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 that PE kits remain in school and are sent home at half term)

Reception Class - Friday

Year 1 - Thursday & Friday

Year 2 - Monday & Tuesday

Year 3 - Thursday & Friday

Year 4 - Monday & Friday (Swimming)

Year 5 - Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 6 - Tuesday & Friday

Clubs



Lunchtime Clubs:

Tuesday - Cross Country - Years 4/5 & 6

Wednesday - Y6 leading 'Mindfulness group'

Wednesday - Y5/Y6 girls football training

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 (RB) - 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

Our new caterers and lunch menu

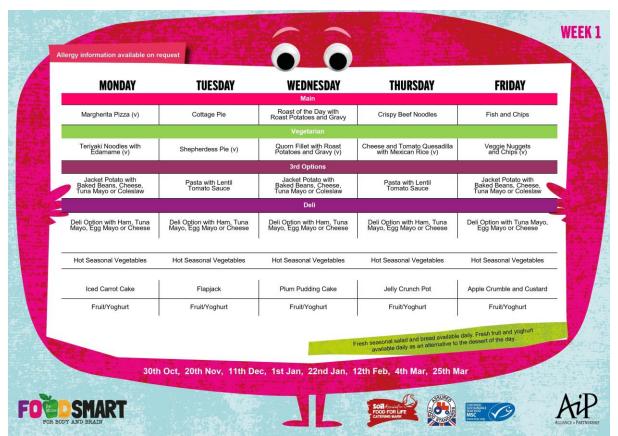


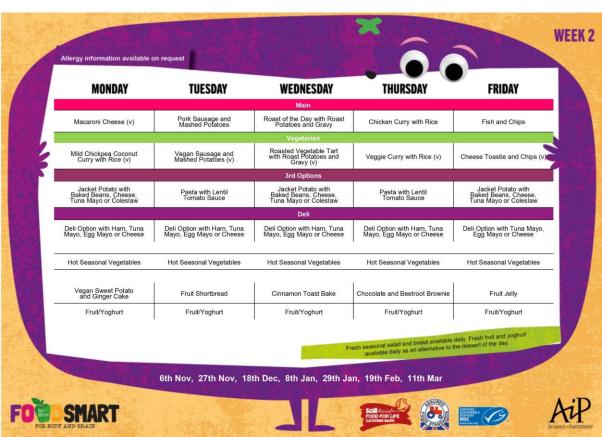
The children have been delighted with our new lunch menu at school. Meals can be pre-ordered daily or weekly on the new School Food United app, details were emailed out to all parents on Monday 27th February. Please remember to order before 8am. Pupils in Reception & KS1 are entitled to Universal Free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

School Menu- Spring term



Menu Spring





Allergy information available on request

13th Nov, 4th Dec, 25th Dec, 15th Jan, 5th Feb, 26th Feb, 18th Mar MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY 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











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)



4 - 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.



5 - 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