



**ST JOSEPH'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY  
SCHOOL

**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**

Newsletter December 1st 2023

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## A message from our Principal



Dear parents,

As we approach the first Sunday of Advent, we have spoken with the children about the time to prepare for Jesus is upon us. It is time to get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus as well as for his return; on a date which none of us know, but we do not want to be the person who is 'not ready.' The children have taken this message on board through their actions and words this week. Donations for the reverse advent calendar have been brought in, our new Active Play Leaders have been supporting and leading our youngest children in games at lunchtime and the whole school celebrated a wonderful assembly this afternoon where we shared how our work across the school is rooted in the areas of Catholic Social Teachings - there was a huge amount to be proud of. Well done everyone.

This week we also welcomed more prospective families to visit our school on our second open morning for Reception 2024. We had a great turnout and, I must add, our Head boy and girl and their deputies were an absolute credit for how they led the tour and showcased our wonderful school.

There are, of course, many Christmas events coming up at this time of year. Please do check the diary below so that nothing is missed. We will also send further messages regarding some of the larger events in school.

Could I remind parents that if they wish to order a Christmas lunch for their child then please do so on the app before Thursday 7th December. Thank you.

Finally - A pianist is needed for our school Mass band! Please call in to the school office if you are able to support us!

Our school website is regularly updated. Please have a look here - [St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Home \(st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk\)](http://st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)

### Updates:

**November TEN:TEN Newsletter** The December newsletter from Ten:Ten to support you with prayer at home [www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/](http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/)

Have a great weekend

God bless

Mr A. Wilkes

Principal

## Reverse Advent Calendar 2023

Reverse advent calendar

During Advent, please bring in donations of the following items to help those people who are less fortunate than us. Your donations will be shared between 'Project Gambia' and the Stourbridge food bank. Thank you so much



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 [OLAS-Bulletin-26th-November.pdf](#) and December scripture reflection [OLAS-COMMENTARIES-DECEMBER-2023.pdf](#)



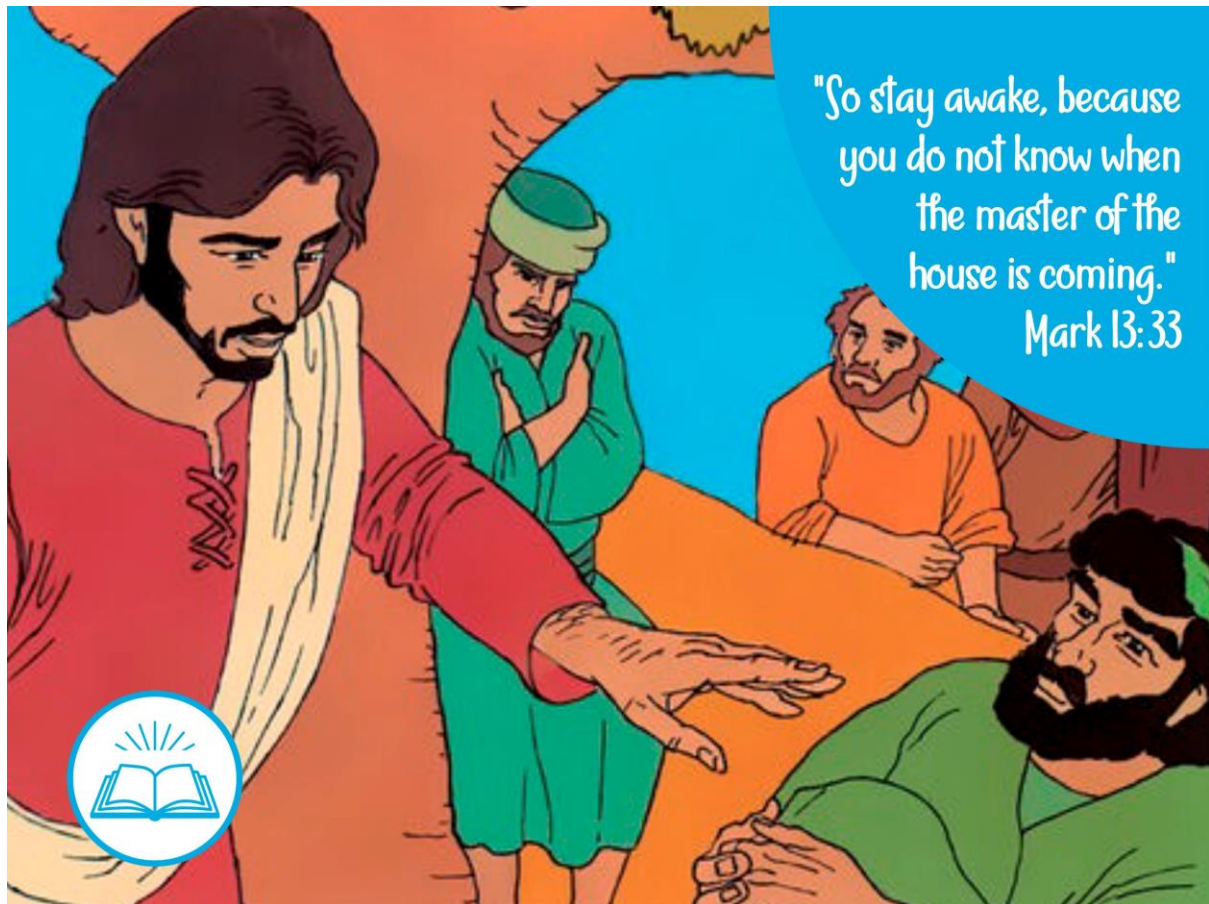


1 - Instagram @STJOSEPHSCATHOLICPRIMARY

Twitter @StJoStourbridge

## Children's liturgy - 1st Sunday of Advent 37

Mark 13: 33-



Jesus promised us that one day he would return. In this gospel story Jesus is telling us that we must be ready when he comes again, but that we cannot be exactly sure when that will be.

As we don't know when he is coming, we must try to be ready all the time. Although we don't have to stay awake all night, we can go to sleep!

Advent is a time when we especially think about getting ready to welcome Jesus, when we remember his birth at Christmas and when he comes again in glory.

In today's gospel, Jesus asks us to look out and keep our eyes open for what is happening around us, so that we are ready when he comes.

What do you think Jesus wants us to see when we look around us?

Do we sometimes see people who need our help? People who are lonely? People who are sad? People who do not feel well?

What do you think Jesus would like us to do when we see people who are sad, lonely, poor or sick?

Sometimes we hear the story of people who live a long way away but who also need our help.

CAFOD has worked with local partners to help people get essential supplies like food, heaters and blankets. This helps them to feel safe, knowing they are ready for winter. Why do you think it is important to know about the lives of people who are living in other parts of the world?

How do you think you could help someone who is cold or hungry?

What will you do next time you see or hear about someone who needs your help?

How will you make sure you are ready for Jesus when he comes again?

We pray for all people who are poor, sick, sad or frightened: that they may be comforted and find hope for a better future. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our families and friends: that we may always keep our eyes open to the world around us and reach out to all those who need our help. Lord, in your mercy....

We pray for our parish community: that we may follow the example of Jesus and be ready to welcome him when he comes. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:**

Living God, help us to listen to your word, to be kind and generous and helpful to others and to be ready to welcome Jesus when he comes. 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 \(st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk\)](http://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.

Today we celebrated a wonderful sharing assembly where we spoke about how in our classes our work is rooted in Catholic Social Teaching. A beautiful assembly!

**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	Grace	Nancy
Year 1	Lillia	Zara & Noah
Year 2	Anne-Marie	Giorgia
Year 3	Isla	Isaac
Year 4	Flynn	Emily
Year 5	Dan	Flo
Year 6	Ollie	Amelia

## 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 \(st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk\)](http://st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)

Saturday 2nd December - OLAS Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 6th December - Music and Mince Pies concert 9:10am

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

Thursday 7th December - Deadline to order Christmas lunch

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

Future date for the diary:

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

## 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:

Friday 1st December - Christmas jumper/uniform sale 3.15pm KS2 playground

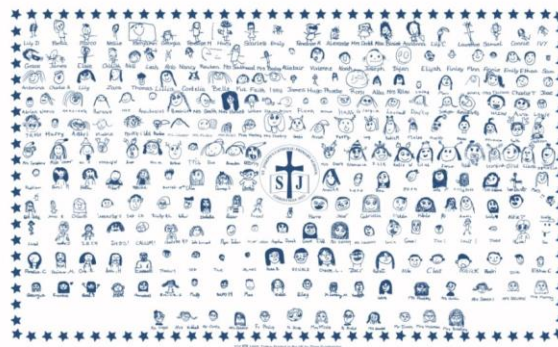
Coming soon...

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.

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

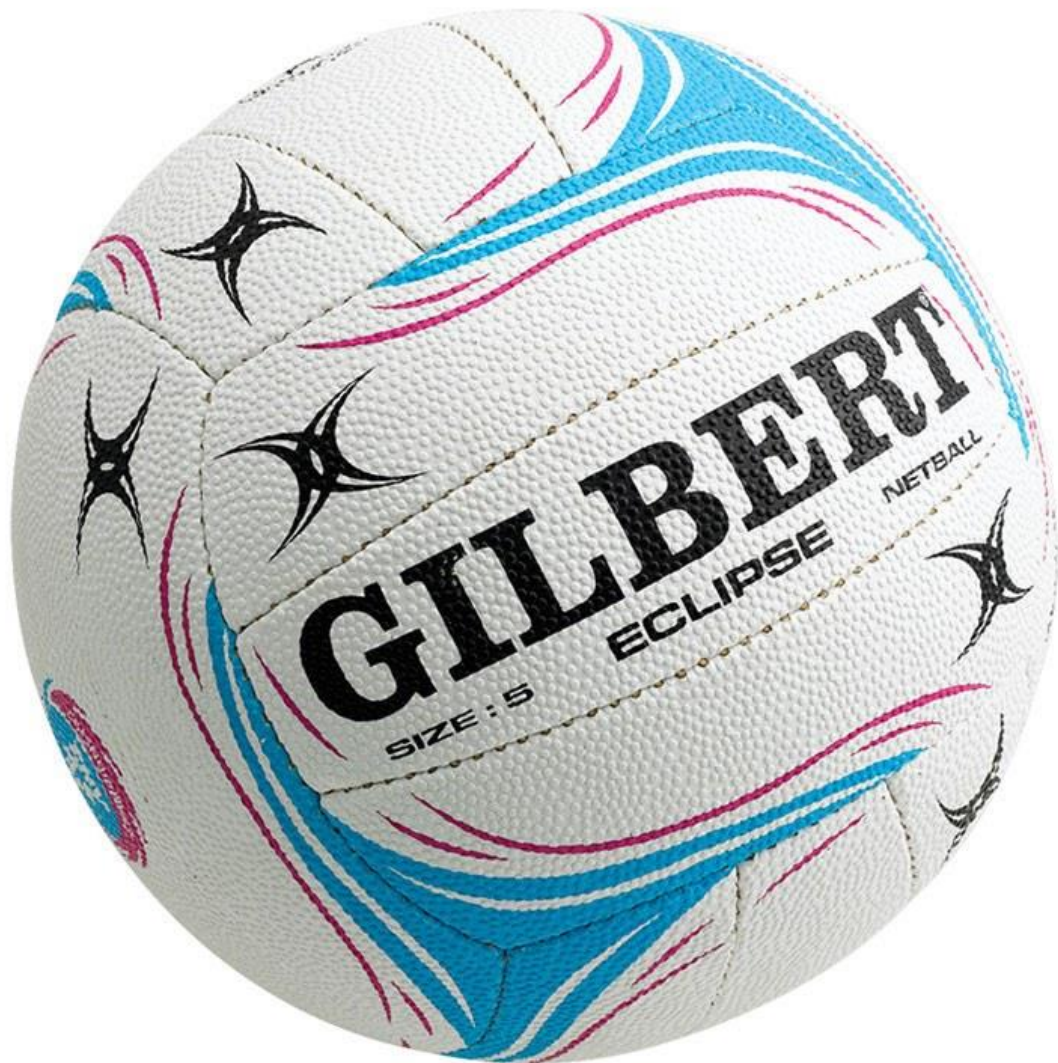
Year 3 - Tuesday & Thursday

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

## 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






WEEK 1

Allergy information available on request

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Main</b>				
Margherita Pizza (v)	Cottage Pie	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Crispy Beef Noodles	Fish and Chips
<b>Vegetarian</b>				
Teriyaki Noodles with Edamame (v)	Shepherdess Pie (v)	Quorn Fillet with Roast Potatoes and Gravy (v)	Cheese and Tomato Quesadilla with Mexican Rice (v)	Veggie Nuggets and Chips (v)
<b>3rd Options</b>				
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, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw
<b>Deli</b>				
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
Iced Carrot Cake	Flapjack	Plum Pudding Cake	Jelly Crunch Pot	Apple Crumble and Custard
Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt

Fresh seasonal salad and bread available daily. Fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily as an alternative to the dessert of the day.

30th Oct, 20th Nov, 11th Dec, 1st Jan, 22nd Jan, 12th Feb, 4th Mar, 25th Mar






WEEK 2

Allergy information available on request

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Main</b>				
Macaroni Cheese (v)	Pork Sausage and Mashed Potatoes	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Curry with Rice	Fish and Chips
<b>Vegetarian</b>				
Mild Chickpea Coconut Curry with Rice (v)	Vegan Sausage and Mashed Potatoes (v)	Roasted Vegetable Tart with Roast Potatoes and Gravy (v)	Veggie Curry with Rice (v)	Cheese Toastie and Chips (v)
<b>3rd Options</b>				
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, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw
<b>Deli</b>				
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
Vegan Sweet Potato and Ginger Cake	Fruit Shortbread	Cinnamon Toast Bake	Chocolate and Beetroot Brownie	Fruit Jelly
Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt

Fresh seasonal salad and bread available daily. Fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily as an alternative to the dessert of the day.

6th Nov, 27th Nov, 18th Dec, 8th Jan, 29th Jan, 19th Feb, 11th Mar

Allergy information available on request

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Main</b>				
Ratatouille Pasta Bake (v)	Meat Feast Pizza	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Gyros	Fish and Chips
<b>Vegetarian</b>				
Korean Cauliflower with Rice (v)	Veggie Pizza (v)	Mediterranean Gnocchi Bake (v)	Mushroom and Spinach Enchilada (v)	Cheese and Tomato Pinwheel with Chips (v)
<b>3rd Options</b>				
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
<b>Deli</b>				
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

Fresh seasonal salad and bread available daily. Fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily as an alternative to the dessert of the day.



## Attendance



Congratulations to 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 96.81%.

Here is the attendance for this week for each class:

Year R: 98.1%

Year 1: 95.3%

Year 2: 99.7%

Year 3: 97.3%

Year 4: 98%

Year 5: 95.3%

Year 6: 94%

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](http://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](mailto: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





#### 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](mailto:info_stjosephs@emmausmac.com)