

# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY

SCHOOL

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter September 15th 2023

#### Within this newsletter:



- A message from our Principal
- This week's Gospel
- Curriculum
- Live Simply Award updates
- catholic Social Teaching
- Gifts from God awards
- Dates for this half term
- PTA Updates
- PE timetable
- Clubs
- Attendance
- School lunch menu
- Pupil Premium and Free School Meals
- Safeguarding
- Dudley Early Help Strategy
- National Online Safety
- Contact us

#### A message from our Principal



#### Dear parents,

It feels very much that we're back into the rhythm of school life this week. The children are settling into their new classes well, and there is a wonderful buzz of excitement and learning within school. September is a time in school where a freshness and newness can be felt strongly within our school and environment. As such, it has been wonderful to hear the conversations around school this week as the children learn about the wonders of creation and discuss how we can be good stewards of our common home. Let us give thanks to our Lord Jesus for the many wonders of creation that we see and hear each day.

Great excitement too was evident when we were thrilled and awestruck to be visited by Real Madrid and England footballer, Jude Bellingham on Wednesday. What an experience for the children lucky enough to be selected for the football session with Jude and for those who were able to meet him. He couldn't have been more approachable and welcoming to our children and clearly enjoyed his visit 'home' to Stourbridge. Our children were rightly inspired by meeting Jude and hopefully he will come back to visit us soon! Below I have included the link to the BBC article of Jude's visit, and our full press release too. Please also keep your eye on our website and social media channels for further photos and updates of this very special afternoon for our school. St Joseph's has a long history of being committed to children's physical activity and school sport and the excitement around school regarding this visit is further evidence of this.

<u>Jude Bellingham thrills Stourbridge pupils with guest role - BBC News</u>

<u>St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - PRESS RELEASE – SEPTEMBER 2023 - Jude Bellingham visit (st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)</u>

I have added many diary dates for this term to the end of this newsletter and they will also be updated on the calendar section of the school website. Reception parents, may I draw your attention to the welcome Mass and assembly that you are invited to attend. Also, you will see our Open Morning for prospective Reception 2024 children is on October 4th 9:30-11:00am. Please share this date with all who this may concern. As previously mentioned, St Joseph's welcomes children of all faiths and from all pre school settings in line with our admissions policy.

#### **Uniform/Hairstyles update:**

A polite reminder that PE uniform is:

School PE t-shirt

Blue PE shorts

Navy / Grey jogging bottoms over the top of shorts in the colder weather (please not leggings)

School jumper in colder weather

Children must be able to remove their own ear piercings before PE

Please could I re-emphasise that hairstyles should be conventional and longer hair tied back. There should not be any tram lines shaved into hair. Please do ask the office if you wished to clarify anything about hairstyles and we'd be happy to help.

Please could I ask that this is closely adhered to to ensure the high standards at our school are maintained. Thank you.

#### Dogs on leads:

Please can I remind parents that dogs should be kept on leads when close to the school as some of the children are nervous of dogs.

#### **Updates:**

**September TEN:TEN Newsletter** Here is the September newsletter from Ten:Ten. This newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout July and suggests ways to support your family prayer times <a href="https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/">www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/</a>

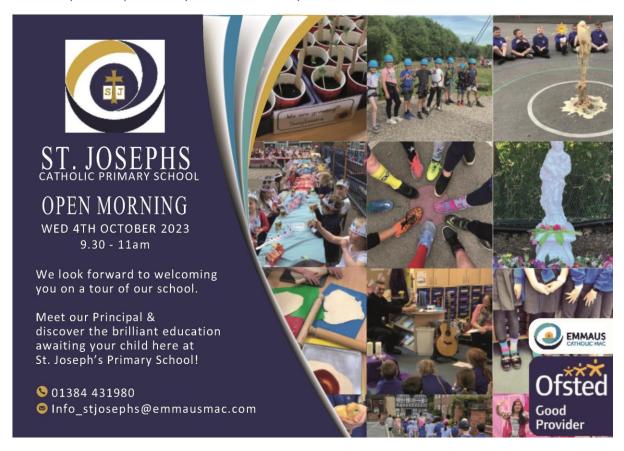
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God bless

Mr A. Wilkes

Principal

# St Joseph's Open Day- Wednesday October 4th. All are welcome!



1 - Please share the date and time with anyone who has a child that will begin in Reception in September 2024. St Joseph's welcomes children of all faiths and from all nursery/pre school settings.

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-10th-September-2023.pdf





2 - Instagram @STJOSEPHSCATHOLICPRIMARY

Twitter @StJoStourbridge

# Children's liturgy - The twenty fourth Sunday in ordinary time Matthew 18:21-35



Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive someone. What does Jesus answer?

Jesus says that Peter should forgive someone not just seven times, but seventy times seven. That's 490 times!

That's a lot isn't it! Do you think Jesus wants us to count how many times we forgive someone? What happens if we forgive them more than 490 times?

Jesus chose seventy time seven because it was a really big number – he is saying to Peter that there should be no end to our forgiveness, just like there is no end to God's forgiveness. If someone is truly sorry and tries to change then we should try to forgive them.

Then Jesus tells Peter a story to show what he means. Can you remember what happens in the story?

A servant owes the king lots of money and cannot pay it back. So the king decides to punish him. But the servant asks the king to be patient and he will pay back all the money he owes. What does the king say?

The king agrees to be patient. How do you think the servant felt when he heard this?

But when the servant meets someone else who owes him money, what does he do?

Even though the second servant says he will pay, he is shown no mercy. The first servant has him thrown into prison.

What does the king say when he hears about this? The king is very cross and punishes the first servant. He wanted the servant to act with mercy, just as the king had done for him.

Who do you think the king in this story is meant to be? And who is the first servant?

The king is God – who is always ready to be patient, merciful and forgiving with us if we ask, and if we try to change our ways.

The servant is like us – we sometimes find it hard to change our ways, to stop doing what we know is wrong.

Can you think of a time when you have been forgiven? How did you feel?

Can you think of a time when someone has said sorry and said that they would not do it again, and you found it hard to forgive? Why was it hard? How did you feel?

Can you think of a time when someone has said sorry and tried to change and you did forgive them? How did you feel then?

How can we help other people to see that what they are doing is wrong and that they need to make a change?

This week let's try our best to make a change in the way we treat other people, to say sorry when we have done something wrong, and to forgive and help others make a change in the way they behave.

We join together now in prayer to God who loves and forgives us:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it will be a living example of God's love and forgiveness for all. Lord, in your mercy....

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we will do our best to treat each other better and to say sorry when we have done something wrong. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may try to help others to see that they need to make a change, so that they no longer hurt others and the world becomes a better place for all to live. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of love, help us to share your forgiveness with others. Guide us to do what is right and to make this world a fairer place for all who live in it. 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.

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

#### Live Simply Update



Each of the children in school have written their pledge for how they are going to continue to Live Simply in the academic year.

Our Gardening club is coming soon and will be led by Liam, Parish Youth Worker. How exiting for our children! The seeds and greenhouse has arrived and we will shortly begin growing to show our commitment to living sustainably! More news to follow!

#### 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.

The season of creation - Stewardship - 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.

#### **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.

Year group	Gospel values	Good work
Reception	Connie	Bella
Year 1	Vivienne	Alba
Year 2	Luca V	Ava
Year 3	Annie & Georgie	Ollie
Year 4	Arthur	Isla A
Year 5	Isabella	Will
Year 6	Max	Holly

#### **Diary Dates -Autumn Term**



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

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

Tuesday 19th September - Mr Hodgson (HCHS Principal) visiting Year 6

Wednesday 20th September - St Matthew House Mass (for children)

Saturday 23rd September - Reception welcome Mass at OLAS 5:00pm

Monday 25th September - Little Way Week (Acts of kindness)

Tuesday 26th September - Read Write Inc parents meeting (6pm) - Details will be emailed out

Wednesday 27th September - Reception welcome assembly 9.10am (Reception / Year 6 parents)

Wednesday 27th September - Year 6 MAC sports at Hagley

Monday 2nd October - The month of the Holy Rosary and Black History Month

Wednesday 4th October - St Joseph's Open Day 9:30am-11:00am

Wednesday 4th October - Year prayer service (for children)

Thursday 5th October - Vision screening for Reception

Thursday 5th October - Cafod Harvest Fast Day

Friday 6th October - Inset Day

Monday 9th October - Children to bring tins/dried food in for Harvest donation to the food bank

Wednesday 11th October - Stay and Pray for Year 6 and parents 9:10am

Wednesday 11th October - Year 2 Mass (for children)

Thursday 12th October - Year 5 Harvest Assembly (2:30pm) (Year 5 parents)

Tuesday 17th October - Parents' evening night 1 - 3:30pm-6:00pm

Wednesday 18th October - Parents' evening night 2 - 3:30pm-6:00pm

Wednesday 18th October - St Luke's House Mass

Monday 23rd October Whole School flu vaccinations

Wednesday 25th October - Reception prayer service (for children)

Friday 27th October - final day of the first half of the autumn term

Half term - Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November

Monday 6th November - Start of autumn term 2

Monday 6th November - UK Parliament week in school

Wednesday 8th October - Year 5 class Mass (for children)

Friday 10th November - Remembrance assembly - Year 1 and Year 2 10:45am

Monday 13th November - Anti-Bullying week

Wednesday 15th November - Year 6 serving lunch to parishioners

Wednesday 22nd November - Confessions Year 4

Thursday 23rd November - Confessions - Year 5

Friday 24th November - Confessions Year 6

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

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 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

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



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.

Reception Class - Friday

Year 1 - Tuesday & Friday

Year 2 - Monday & Tuesday

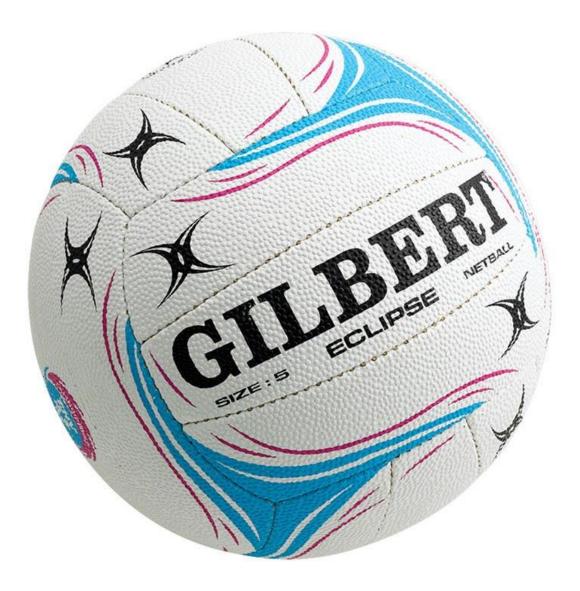
Year 3 - Thursday & Friday

Year 4 - Monday & Friday

Year 5 - Monday & Wednesday

Year 6 - Wednesday & Friday

#### Clubs



#### Lunchtime Clubs:

Tuesday - Cross Country - Years 4/5 & 6

Wednesday - Y6 leading 'Mindfulness group'

Wednesday - Gardening club - Liam (Parish youth worker)

Thursday - Year 2 - 6 Choir (Mrs Cangiano)

<sup>\*</sup>A lunchtime gardening club is to soon begin. Please contact the school office if you would like for your child to be included in this club!

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)

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

Thursday 8am - KS1 Gymnastics (R&B)

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



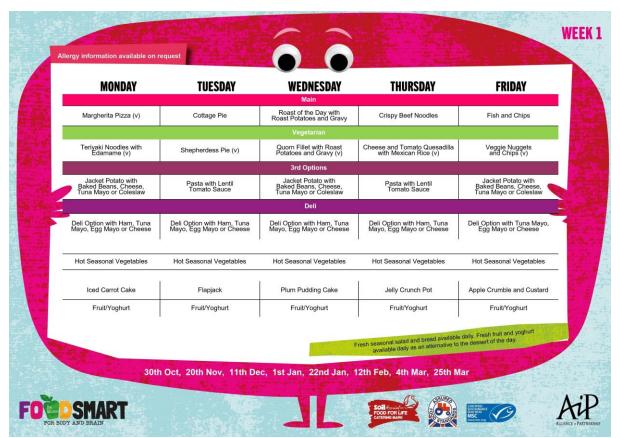
The children have been delighted with our new lunch menu at school. Meals can be pre-ordered daily or weekly on the new School Food United app, details were emailed out to all parents on

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





# 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, Year 3 who have achieved the highest attendance this week. You will receive an extra play time!

Attendance for the whole school for this week is 98.5%.

Here is the attendance for this week for each class:

Year R: 97.4%

Year 1: 99.3%

Year 2: 99.3%

Year 3: 100%

Year 4: 98.3%

Year 5: 95.7%

Year 6: 99.3%

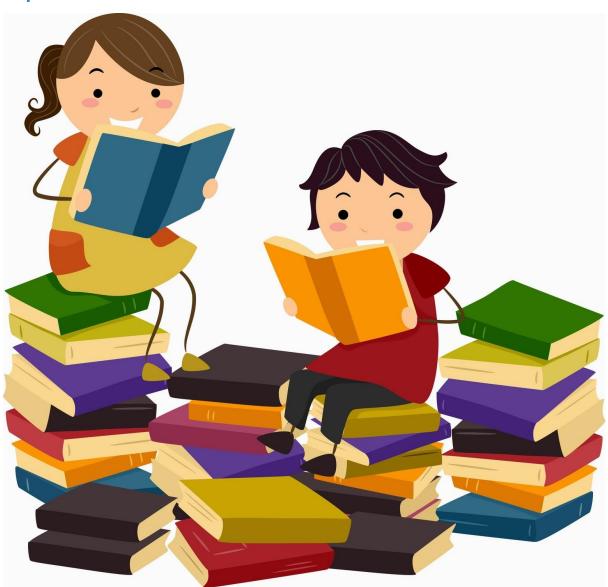
Please make sure your child is in school every day unless ill. Remember illnesses such as colds can be managed well with Calpol and although children can feel unwell first thing in a morning they do tend to brighten up during the day. We will always contact you if we are concerned that your child has 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 <a href="https://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals">www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals</a>

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)



3 - 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.



4 - 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