# Newsletter

**Friday 2nd October 2026**

**ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**
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This newsletter is available to view on our school website.

## Prayer

### Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

## A Message from Mr Greavy

Last week, we were delighted to receive a letter from the Archdiocese of Birmingham, written to congratulate our school on the outstanding outcomes achieved during the last academic year. Please see a section of it below-

> I am writing to congratulate you on the outcomes achieved by your school this year.
>
> Having reviewed the information submitted by the school and the MAC, we are delighted to note that your collective evaluation identifies these outcomes as a **Cause for Celebration,** and we totally agree. This judgement reflects the hard work, commitment and dedication shown by leaders, staff, governors, directors and, most importantly, the pupils entrusted to your care.
>
> As a Catholic family of schools, we recognise that strong outcomes are never achieved by chance. They are the result of faithful and courageous leadership, excellent teaching, dedicated support staff, strong governance and a shared commitment to ensuring that every child can flourish.
>
> As you know, in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, our mission is to **"Form Christ-centred pilgrims of hope with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for justice."** Your achievements this year are a wonderful example of that mission being lived out in practice. Through your work, young people are being equipped not only to achieve academically but also to grow as people of faith, wisdom, compassion and service.
>
> Please convey the gratitude and congratulations of the Archdiocese to all those who have contributed to this success. We commend your leaders for their vision and commitment, your staff for their dedication and professionalism, and your pupils for all that they have accomplished. This success belongs to the whole school community.

We are incredibly proud that our academic achievements have been recognised at diocesan level and grateful for the support of everyone who helps make St Joseph's such a special place to live and learn through our faith in Christ.

We have no doubt, this success will continue given the fantastic start to the term. Thank you to our children for their hard work and determination, our staff for their unwavering commitment to providing the very best opportunities for every pupil, and our families for their continued support and partnership. Together, we make St Joseph's a thriving community where every child can flourish.

Have a lovely weekend
Mr Greavy

**Jesuit Value Awards**

Congratulations to the following pupils who have demonstrated the Virtues we are focussing on this half term

***"Compassionate and Loving"***

| Class | Week ending Friday 25th September 2026 | Class | Week ending Friday 2nd October 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|
| R | Elijah | R | Albie |
| 1 | Lyara-Rowe | 1 | Bruce |
| 2 | Erini-Sophia | 2 | Evie |
| 3 | Rafael | 3 | Lucas |
| 4 | Larah-Sue | 4 | Theo |
| 5 | Robin | 5 | Elenor |
| 6 | Harry | 6 | Collette |

Well done to the following pupils who have been awarded **'Star of the Week'** for their hard work.

| Class | Week ending Friday 25th September 2026 | Class | Week ending Friday 2nd October 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|
| R | Isaac | R | Leo |
| 1 | Milo | 1 | Isla |
| 2 | Adam | 2 | Poppy |
| 3 | Sophie | 3 | Amelia |
| 4 | Janice | 4 | Emmi |
| 5 | Lincoln | 5 | Finn |
| 6 | Stanley | 6 | Charlotte |

**Attendance and late marks for the period 21/9/2026 – 2/10/2026**

| | Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Attendance | 96.17% | 97.86% | 97.33% | 98.00% | **99.00%** | 96.67% | 98.50% |
| Late Marks | 3 | 17 | 6 | **0** | 11 | 13 | 8 |

Congratulations to **Year 4** who are our attendance winners for this period. They have been awarded our attendance trophy. Congratulations to **Year 3** who had the lowest number of late marks for this period. They have been awarded our punctuality trophy.

Overall attendance since the beginning of the school year is **97.73%** our target is 97.5%.

**Attendance**

- **If your child is unwell and will not be attending school, please contact the school office before 9am.**
- After a case of vomiting and/or diarrhoea, your child MUST remain at home for 48 hours after the last episode.
- A Leave of Absence request should be completed for all planned absences from school.
- We would request where possible medical appointments are not arranged in the school day. If your child has a medical appointment, an appointment card/letter must be provided to enable us to authorise absence from school.

**Cinderella – Thursday 10th December**

A whole school visit has been organised to see Cinderella at Redditch Palace Theatre. The cost of the trip is £19.50 per pupil. We are very grateful to the Friends of St. Joseph's who are paying for interval ice-creams for everyone to enjoy.

We appreciate Christmas can be an expensive time, so we are trying to give as much notice as possible to help families budget for the trip. We are asking parent/carers to consent and pay for this trip via ParentPay no later than Thursday 12th November.

**Please note:**

**Pupils should arrive to school from 8:30am for registration at 8:45am. The coaches will be departing from St Joseph's promptly at 9am as the performance starts at 10am.**

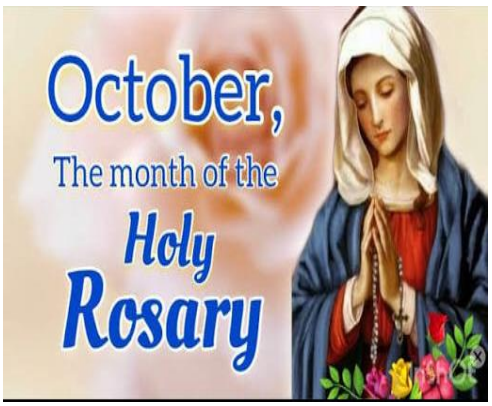
**Mission Team**

October is the month of the Holy Rosary, and we are taking part in the Rosary Challenge at school. We pray a decade of this great prayer daily and learn more about the different mysteries that tell us about moments in Jesus' and Mary's Life. If you would like to pray the Rosary at home, then follow this link.

https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/rosary-challenge

During her lifetime, Mother Teresa always carried a rosary in her hand. In this way, she said, she was holding Mary's hand.

Our Lady of the Rosary,
Pray for Us and keep us safe.




We have now come to the end of the Season of Creation and give thanks for all that God has made and make a promise to help protect the earth our common home. Also, to share what we have with others in need in our local and global community.

Thank you for all your kind help and support. We wish you all a happy and safe weekend together.

The Mission Team

**Harvest Mass**

On Friday 16th October, we are holding our Harvest Mass. We are collecting items of non-perishable food for the St Vincent de Paul Society and would be grateful to receive any donations of non-perishable food. The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) is part of an international Christian voluntary network dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms by providing practical assistance to people in need.

If you are able to help please send your donations into school from **Monday 12th to Friday 16th October.**

***STACS Saturday Open Morning***

*The final Open Morning for St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School is being held on Saturday 3rd October 2026 between 9am – 12pm. There will be an opportunity to hear from the Principal, a tour of the school and visit different subject areas. You will be able to see a new dance space, visit our new Science labs and hear about the GCSE results this summer which were fantastic again! Tickets are available to book at www.stacs.org - don't miss out!*

**World Mental Health Day**

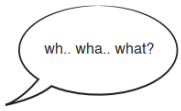
On Friday 9th October we are raising money for Young Minds. Pupils are invited to wear yellow / own clothes. Voluntary donations for YoungMinds can be made via ParentPay.

Further information about the charity can be found at; https://www.youngminds.org.uk/

This World Mental Health Day, wear yellow with thousands of others across the UK and raise money to show young people that they're not alone with their mental health. Because we stand brighter, together.

## Word Aware

**EYFS/KS1**

| Word | Definition | Challenge |
|---|---|---|
| splendid | Very good. | How does the word **splen-did** make you feel? Why? |
|   spluttered | Making short sounds when talking, because you are upset or embarrassed. | Act out **spluttering**. Can others guess the word you are acting out? |

**KS2**

| Word | Definition | Challenge |
|---|---|---|
| flinch | If you flinch, you make a small sudden movement, especially when something surprises you or hurts you. | At the doctors you might **flinch**. Why? |
| flourish | To grow or develop successfully. | If plants are going to **flour-ish**, what do they need? If a child is going to **flourish**, what do they need? |

### Word Aware Game

I spy variation

1: Thinking hat. Word meaning clues are given rather than letters and the object does not need to be within sight. Say, "I put on my thinking hat and think of something that is (give a clue)." If incorrect say, "It's not that. I put on my thinking hat and think of something that is (original clue and a second clue)." Continue until the word has been guessed.

### Word Facts-

Talking is important. It is closely linked to reading, writing and learning. Did you know that research shows that spoken language abilities at 5 years of age predict their reading at 15? By playing a simple speaking and listening games you may not think you are developing reading and writing, but you are. Get talking!

## Sports News

### Y6 Boys Football

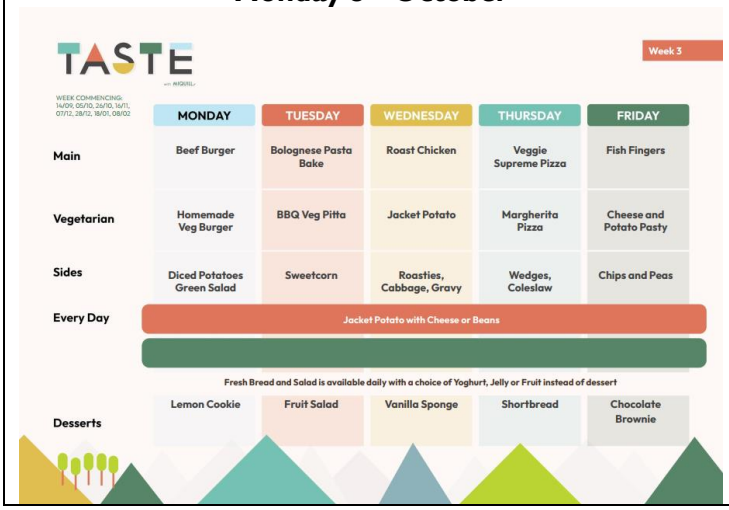
Well done to Joseph B, Joseph C, Harry, Charles, Stanley, Max, Jago, Zachary who recently took part in a Year 6 football competition. The boys never stopped working hard, supporting one another and showing great sportsmanship. Well done boys!

### Y6 Girls Football

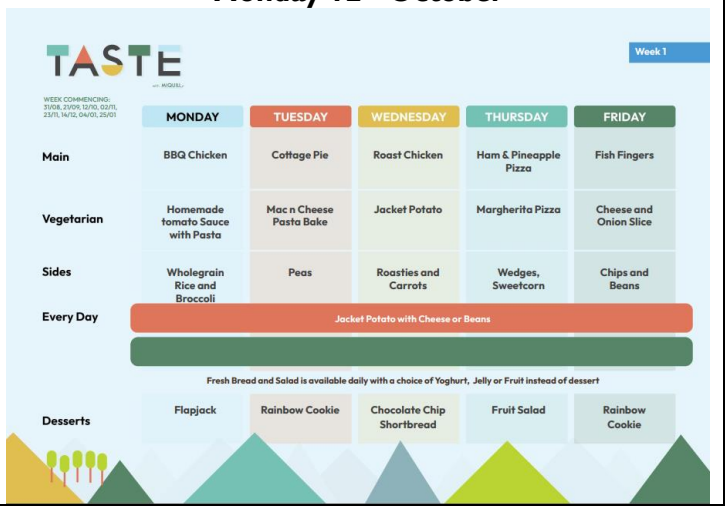
Well done to Kayley, Ciara, Edie, Evelyn, Bea, Orlaith & Lucy who also took part in a Year 6 football competition. There was laughter both during and after the matches, and it was wonderful to see their confidence grow as the day went on. Well done girls!

## School Menu week commencing

### Monday 5th October




### Monday 12th October




## SEND News

SEND BIRMINGHAM

### Birmingham Local Offer

You can find help, advice and information about the services available for your child or young person from birth to 25 years with a special educational need or disability (SEND).

**Home - Local Offer Birmingham**

## Multi Agency Coffee Morning – Monday 9th November – 9.15am

Parents/carers are invited to join us to meet our agencies (CAT/ Educational Psychologist, SALT, OT and LLSS).

Please click on the link to confirm if you are attending; Multi-Agency Coffee Morning Nov 2026 – Fill in form

SEND BIRMINGHAM

Communication & Autism Team

### Speech and Language Therapy

We provide evidence-based support to children (0-19) with a range of specific speech, language and communication difficulties and those with difficulties swallowing, eating and drinking.

**Children and Young People's Occupational Therapy Service (CYPOT)**

**Language, Learning and Strategic Support Team (LLSS)**

**Other News**

Congratulations to the following children for their various achievements:

**Gene Reception** – received his 5 metres Rainbow Distance Swim England award.

**Patrick M Reception** – received his Penguins Stage 1 swim certificate.

**Poppy Year 2** – received her Swim England level 2 swim certificate and 5m distance award.

**Connie Year 2** – received her Swim England level 4 swim certificate.

**Orla Year 2** – received her Penguins Stage 4 swim certificate.

**Sophia Year 2** – received her bronze level certificate at Rainbows.

***If you have any good news that you would like to share with the school and the community, please let us know and we'll put it in the newsletter.***

**Friends of St Joseph's (FOSJ)**

**Book Bags & Water Bottles**

Book bags and water bottles with the school logo on, are available for sale from the school office. All profits go to the Friends of St. Joseph's School Fund.

- Basic bookbag **£6.00**
- Heavy duty bookbag (with strap) **£9.00**

Water Bottles **£3.50**

- **Thursday 22nd October 6-7.30pm –**

  FOSJ Monster Ball.

## Community News

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

| | |
|---|---|
| **AUTUMN TERM 1 26/27** | |
| Mondays | Year 4 woodland adventure every Monday in Autumn term 1. |
| Mon 5th October to Fri 9th Oct | Year 5 swimming every day for 1 week. |
| Friday 9th October | World Mental Health Day – pupils can wear yellow / own clothes. Voluntary donations for YoungMinds via ParentPay. |
| Monday 12th October | 3.45pm Phonics meeting in school for Reception Parent/carers. |
| Mon 12th to Fri 16th October | Booster swimming lessons for specified pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 every day for 1 week. |
| Friday 16th October | 9:15am Whole School Mass led by the Mission Team.<br>Paediatric eye service vision screening for Reception pupils. |
| Sunday 18th October | Y3 & Y6 Enrolment Mass in Church at 9am. Pupils should arrive at 8.45pm wearing school uniform. |
| Monday 19th October | 9:30am Reception 2026 Open Morning – please complete form via link on the school website to confirm you are attending. |
| Thursday 22nd October | Last day before half term holiday. School closes 3:30pm. (After school club at 5.30pm)<br>**6-7:30pm FOSJ Monster Ball.** |
| Friday 23rd October | Staff Inset Day, school closed to pupils. |
| Saturday 31st October | Closing date for secondary school applications. |
| **AUTUMN TERM 2 26/27** | |
| TBC | Year 3 woodland adventure once a week in Autumn term 2. |
| Monday 2nd November | Return to school. Registration 8:55am. (Breakfast club from 7:35am)<br>5:30pm Reception 2026 Open Evening – please complete form via link on the school website to confirm you are attending. |
| Wednesday 4th November | 3:45pm Year 3 Reconciliation meeting for Parents/carers in school. |
| Thursday 5th November | 9:30am Reception 2026 Open Morning – please complete form via link on the school website to confirm you are attending. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Monday 9th November** | **9.15am Multi agency coffee morning - Parents/carers are invited to join us to meet our agencies (CAT/ Educational Psychologist, SALT, OT and LLSS). Please complete the form if you are attending; Multi-Agency Coffee Morning Nov 2026 – Fill in form** |
| Mon 9th – Fri 20th November | Year 4 swimming every day for 2 weeks. |
| Wednesday 11th November | 4:20-7pm Parents Evening. |
| Tues 17th – Fri 20th November | Scholastic Book fair in school. |
| Thursday 19th November | 3:50-6:30pm Parents Evening. |
| **Thursday 26th November** | **9.15 Play Matters workshop – Open to EYFS & KS1 parents. Please complete the form if you are attending; Play Matters - Spill the Tea Coffee Morning – Fill in form** |
| Wednesday 2nd December | 9:30am – Reception & KS1 Nativity for Parents/Carers – further information to follow. |
| Thursday 3rd December | 9:30am – Reception & KS1 Nativity for Parents/Carers – further information to follow. |
| Sunday 6th December | 1pm Year 3 Reconciliation at Ss. Joseph & Helen Church. |
| Thursday 10th December | Whole school theatre trip to see Cinderella at the Palace Theatre, Redditch. |
| Friday 18th December | Last day before half term holiday. School closes 3:30pm. (After school club at 5.30pm) |
| **SPRING TERM 1 26/27** | |
| Monday 4th January | Staff Inset Day, school closed to pupils. |
| Tuesday 5th January | Return to school. Registration 8:55am. (Breakfast club from 7:35am) |
| Friday 15th January | Closing date for Reception 2027 applications. |
| Friday 12th February | Last day before half term holiday. School closes 3:30pm. (After school club at 5.30pm) |
| **SPRING TERM 2 26/27** | |
| TBC | Year 2 woodland adventure once a week in Spring term 2. |
| TBC | Year 1 woodland adventure once a week in Spring term 1 |
| Monday 22nd February | Return to school. Registration 8:55am. (Breakfast club from 7:35am) |
| Monday 1st March | Secondary school offer day. |
| Mon 8th – Fri 19th March | Year 3 swimming every day for 2 weeks. |
| Thursday 25th March | Last day before half term holiday. School closes 3:30pm. (After school club at 5.30pm) |
| **SUMMER TERM 1 26/27** | |
| TBC | Year 5 woodland adventure once a week in Summer term 1. |
| Monday 12th April | Return to school. Registration 8:55am. (Breakfast club from 7:35am) |
| Tuesday 13th April | Class groups, Year 6 leavers and Reception My School Journey photographs. |
| Friday 16th April | Reception 2027 offer day. |
| Monday 3rd May | Bank Holiday, school closed to pupils. |
| Mon 10th – Thurs 13th May | Year 6 - KS2 SATs |
| Thursday 27th May | Last day before half term holiday. School closes 3:30pm. (After school club at 5.30pm) |
| Friday 28th May | Staff Inset Day, school closed to pupils. |
| **SUMMER TERM 2 26/27** | |
| TBC | Year 6 woodland adventure once a week in Summer term 2. |
| Monday 7th June | Staff Inset Day, school closed to pupils. |
| Tuesday 8th June | Return to school. Registration 8:55am. (Breakfast club from 7:35am) |
| Tues 8th – Fri 18th June | Y4 Multiplication checks will take place on a date between 7/6/27-18/6/27 |
| Mon 14th – Fri 18th June | Phonics screening will take place on a date between 14/6/27 – 18/6/27 |
| Weds 16th – Fri 18th June | Year 6 Residential – further details to follow. |
| Wednesday 7th July | Year 6 secondary school transition day. |
| Tuesday 13th July | 6pm Year 6 leavers Production for parent/carers. |
| Thursday 15th July | Year 6 trip to Boundless Outdoors Bell Heath– further information to follow. |
| Monday 19th July | KS2 Sports Day – further information to follow. |
| Tuesday 20th July | Year 6 Leavers Mass *Provisional Date*<br>Last day before half term holiday. School closes 3:30pm. (After school club at 5.30pm) |
| Wednesday 21st July | Staff Inset Day, school closed to pupils. |