Newsletter

Friday 16th October 2026

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

117 SELLY OAK ROAD KINGS NORTON BIRMINGHAM B30 1HN
TEL: 0121 458 2458
www.stjosb30.bham.sch.uk

This newsletter is available to view on our school website.

Prayer

The Magnificat

My soul glorifies the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

Our Lady Queen of the Holy Rosary, Pray For Us

Faith-filled and Hopeful

Our virtues for the next half term are: Faith-filled and Hopeful. Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at how our children are displaying these virtues in their words and actions.

A Message from Mr Greavy

Today, we celebrated our Harvest Mas. Many thanks to our families that have donated food and supporting our charitable outreach. All proceeds will be donated to St Vincent de Paul charity; they do such wonderful work supporting families in the local community. We will gratefully accept food donations throughout the year, and our offerings in the basket in the entrance foyer will be donated to the B30 Foodbank and SVP.

Thank you also for your generous donations last week when we wore yellow to raise awareness and support world mental health day. We raised money to support the Young Minds charity. This will help and support so many people- thank you.

As we come to the latter end of this busy but successful half term; we celebrate all of the children's achievements in their new year groups. The children have settled really well into their new classrooms; we have been so impressed with our reception children during their first half term within our St Joseph's family.

Please take the time to fill out a couple of surveys we have sent out recently. Your voice matters as we look at our inclusivity strategy; ensuring we support all the children in our care in the best, most strategic way possible.
If you could also take a few moments to complete the information sent regards us striving to Schieve our gold award for My Happy Minds. Your testimonies will really help us to achieve this award.

As this our final newsletter of the half term, can I say thank you for the support our families have continued to offer the school throughout this half term.

Have a lovely weekend.
Mr Greavy

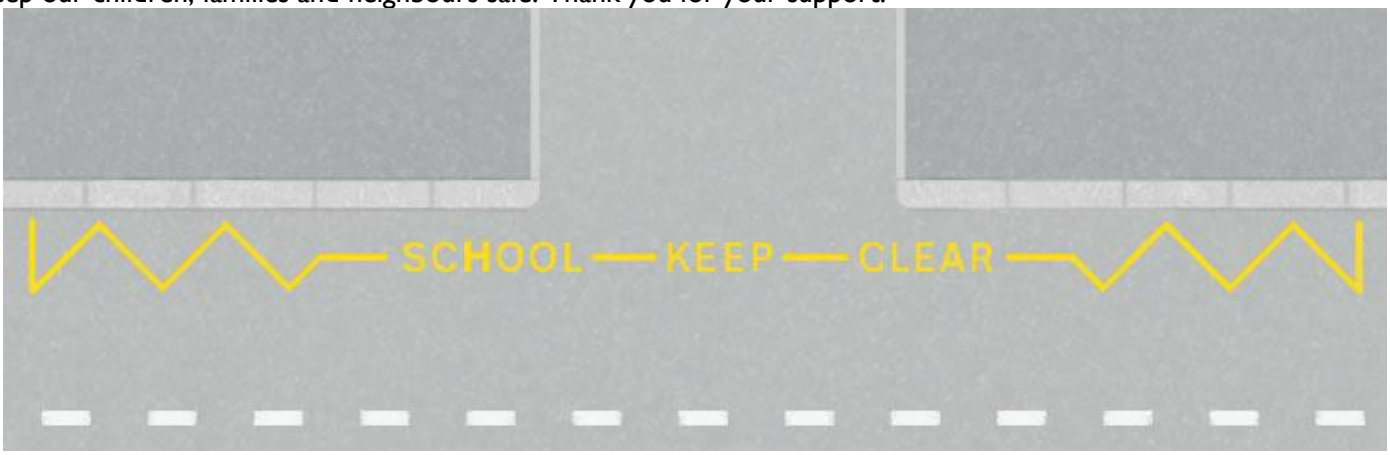
Parking

The safety of our pupils is our highest priority. Please help us keep everyone safe by parking considerately and respecting our neighbours in Selly Oak Road and Beaumont Road.

Please remember:

- The school car park is **not available for parent parking.**
- Parent vehicles must **not enter or park on the school driveway** unless agreed in advance by the school office (for example, when collecting an ill child).
- Keep the school entrance, driveway and access gates clear at all times for emergency vehicles.
- Do not park on yellow lines, zig-zags, pavements, dropped kerbs, residents' driveways or anywhere that may cause an obstruction.
- Do not wait on the driveway or leave your engine running while parked.

Remember you may use Rowheath Pavilion Car Park and walk to school. We appreciate your cooperation in helping to keep our children, families and neighbours safe. Thank you for your support.



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 9th October 2026	Class	Week ending Friday 16th October 2026
R	Olivia	R	Nova
1	Rosie	1	Jordan
2	Reon	2	Sophia
3	George	3	Dominik
4	Imogen	4	Lydia
5	Hettie	5	Emmy
6	Edie	6	Isaac

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

Class	Week ending Friday 9th October 2026	Class	Week ending Friday 16th October 2026
R	Hadwin	R	Rosa
1	Jude	1	Bailey
2	Kingston	2	Paighton
3	Ivy R	3	Ivie P
4	Margaret	4	Jayden
5	Tia	5	Ada
6	Ana	6	Edie

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	94.17%	97.32%	96.83%	**99.17%**	99.00%	97.33%	98.67%
Late Marks	7	14	7	**5**	**5**	11	15

Congratulations to **Year 3** who are our attendance winners for this period. They have been awarded our attendance trophy. Congratulations to **Year 3 & Year 4** 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 **97.66%** 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.

Mission Team

We thoroughly enjoyed coming together as a school community to celebrate our Harvest Mass this morning, giving thanks to God for all the wonderful gifts and blessings we receive. We would also like to say a great big thank you to all our families for your generous Harvest donations, which have been gratefully received by the St Vincent de Paul Society to support people within our local community.

We have also really enjoyed praying the Rosary with children throughout the school during this special month of October. It has been lovely to come together in prayer, reflecting on the life of Jesus and asking Mary, our Blessed Mother, to pray for us.

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

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

The Mission Team

Mobile Phones & Smart Watches in School

A polite reminder to parents and carers that **we strongly advise children not to bring mobile phones to school**.

We understand that some parents may feel their child needs a phone if they **walk to or from school independently**. If this is the case, please ensure that:

- The phone is **switched off on arrival at school**.
- It is **handed directly to the class teacher** at the start of the day.
- Phones will be **stored securely in the school office** and returned at the end of the school day.

Please also be reminded that **pupils are not permitted to wear smart watches that have messaging, calling or photography capabilities** while in school.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to keep pupils focused, safe and free from unnecessary distractions during the school day.

Grapes in Lunchboxes & Snacks: Important Safety Reminder

A quick reminder to parents and carers about grape safety.

If you are sending grapes into school as part of your child's packed lunch or after-school snack, please ensure that they are cut in half lengthways before being packed.

Whole grapes can pose a serious choking risk to children due to their size and shape. Cutting them lengthways helps to reduce this risk and keeps our children safe.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping us keep everyone safe at school.

World Mental Health Day

Thank you for your donations we raised;

£205

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

Open Events for Reception 2027 intake

We are holding Open Events for prospective parents and new pupils to visit our school on;

- Monday 19th October at 9:30am
- Monday 2nd November at 5:30pm
- Thursday 5th November at 9:30am.

You will hear from our school Principal Mr Greavy and will also be offered a tour of our school. If you wish to attend any of the events, please complete the form to book a place; Open Events for Reception 2027 intake – Fill in form

Apply online for your child to start Reception class in September 2027
Applications for Reception class 2027 open on Thursday 1st October. Visit https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and submit an online application by 15 January 2027 (the final closing date).

Online applications will receive an immediate email confirmation when the application is submitted. Those online applicants who have not provided an email address will not receive an acknowledgement, so it is very important that you include an email address. If you have not received an acknowledgement by 15 January 2027, then you should call Children's Services on 0121 303 1888 to confirm that your application has been received.

Online applicants that submit their application with a valid email address will be sent an offer by email on 16th April 2027. Parents/carers that submitted an online application without a valid email address will be sent an offer letter by first class post which will arrive after 16th April 2027.

If you do not have internet at home. You can apply online from any device with internet access or if you are able from a computer whilst at work.

If you have any questions about your child starting school, please do not hesitate to contact a member of Children's Services on 0121 303 1888 where staff will be pleased to offer assistance.

As well as applying online to Birmingham Admissions, where St Joseph's has been listed as a preference, we will also need our Supplementary Information Form to be completed and for a copy of the Baptism Certificate to be sent into school by 15th January 2027. A copy of the form is available on the school website or from the school office.

Apply online for your child to start Secondary School in September 2027

We would like to remind you that applications for secondary school places need to be submitted by **31st October 2026** at the latest via www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

Birmingham Admissions treat any applications received after 31st October as late and you may not be offered one of your preferred schools.

Parents Evening - 11th November 2026 and 19th November 2026

Next week we will send an email with details of how to book an appointment to see your child's Teacher for our Autumn Term parents evening. You are also invited to go and look at your child's books in their classroom before / after your appointment.

We look forward to you joining us for parents evening.

Reception & KS1 Nativity

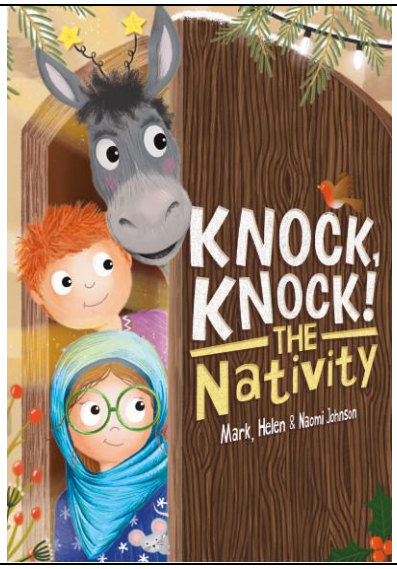
Parents/carers of children taking part in this year's Nativity are advised that an email containing a link to request tickets will be sent **on Monday 19th October** at 6pm**.**

Please note that tickets are limited to two per family. When completing the online form, you will be asked to select your preferred performance. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and once a performance reaches capacity, it will no longer be available for booking.

As tickets are limited, all requests must be submitted via the online form included in the email.

Please ensure the school office has your current email address and remember to check your inbox, including your junk/spam folder.

Thank you for your cooperation and support. We look forward to welcoming you to our Nativity performances.



KS2 Tuck

Payment for KS2 Tuck for the second half of the autumn term (from Monday 2nd November to Friday 18th December 2026) is now available on ParentPay at a cost of **£10.50**

If you would like your child to have toast each day at morning break, please login to ParentPay and pay the KS2 Tuck item **by 9am on Monday 2nd November**. Alternatively, you can send your child with a healthy snack for them to have at morning break; please do not send chocolates / biscuits / sweets / crisps.

Unfortunately, the kitchen is unable to provide children with toast if payment has not been made via ParentPay for the half term.

School Meal Plans – Autumn Term 2

Below you will find the meal plan payments for the second half of the autumn term. The following information should be used by parents to calculate the amount to be paid. **Please pay for school meals weekly in advance, via ParentPay**.

One week's notice is required to change meal plans, please complete the Change of Meal Plan form which is available from the office or on the school website.

	2nd Half Term	
DAY	**2/11 to 18/12**	**AMT**
MON	7	£19.60
TUES	7	£19.60
WEDS	7	£19.60
THUR	7	£19.60
FRI	7	£19.60
TOTAL		**£98.00**

Breakfast Club – Autumn Term 2

Breakfast club is charged at £5.25 per day.

Parents must book and pay for breakfast club in advance via ParentPay.

The following information should be used by parent/carers to calculate the amount to be paid for the autumn term.

	2nd Half Term	
DAY	**2/11 to 18/12**	**AMT**
MON	7	£36.75
TUES	7	£36.75
WEDS	7	£36.75
THUR	7	£36.75
FRI	7	£36.75
TOTAL		**£183.75**

SEND News

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

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)

Parent and Carer Support

Family Hubs

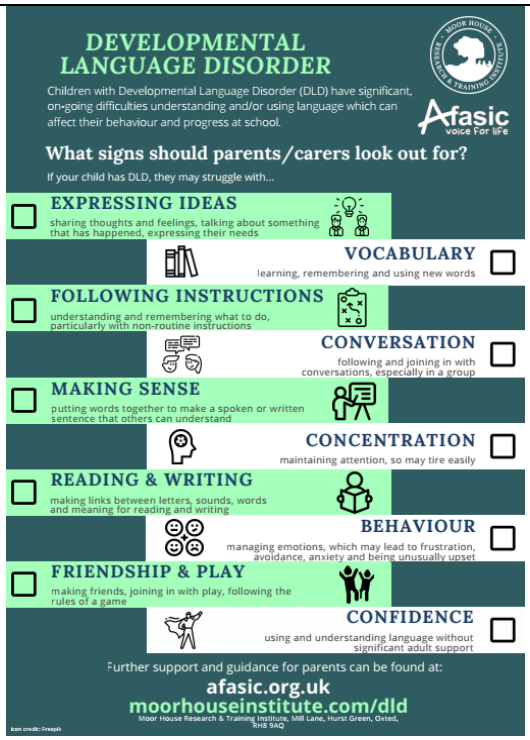
- Parent and carer groups
- Parenting courses and workshops
- Family support services
- Advice on wellbeing, relationships, and child development

Place2Be: Parenting Smart

- Free online articles for parents and carers
- Practical advice on behaviour, anxiety, friendships, resilience, screen time, and emotional wellbeing
- Short, evidence-informed guidance to support children and young people

Family Hubs - Parent/ carer groups

Place2Be: Parenting Smart: Articles



Raising Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

Last week, St Joseph's marked **International Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) Awareness Day**, joining the national campaign **"Together for DLD."** This year's theme highlighted the importance of families, schools and professionals working together to support children and young people with DLD.

DLD is a common but often hidden condition that affects a person's ability to understand and use language. Around **7.6% of the population** are thought to have DLD, meaning that there are typically **two children in every class of 30** who may experience these difficulties. DLD can impact learning, literacy, social relationships, confidence and emotional wellbeing.

Throughout the week, staff reflected on ways to make communication more accessible for all pupils. Effective strategies include using clear and concise language, breaking instructions into smaller steps, providing visual supports, explicitly teaching vocabulary and allowing additional processing time. These simple adaptations can make a significant difference to children's participation and success in school.

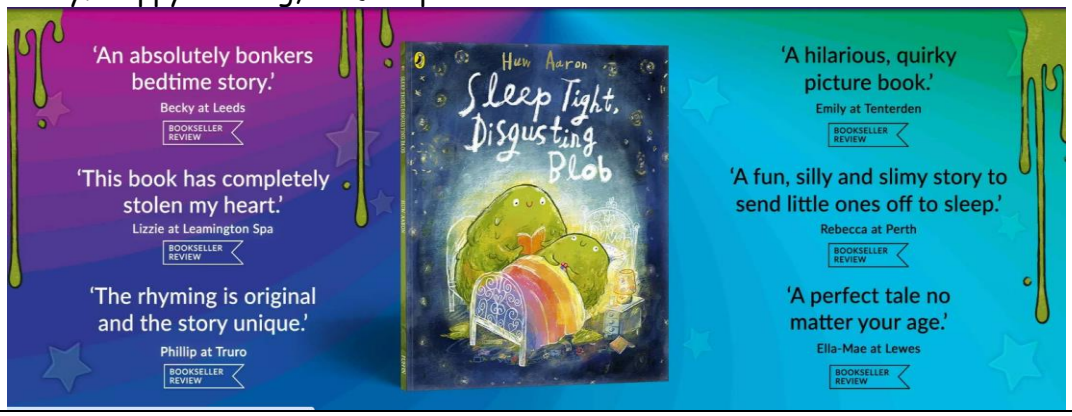
At St Joseph's, we are committed to creating an inclusive environment where every child can thrive. By increasing awareness and understanding of DLD, we can help ensure that children with speech, language and communication needs receive the support they need to develop confidence, achieve academically and reach their full potential.

Together for DLD – together we can make a difference.

St Joseph's Book of the Month

As we celebrate the Year of Reading, we are delighted to share St Joseph's first recommended read: **Sleep Tight, Disgusting Blob by Huw Aaron!**

This wonderfully silly and imaginative picture book is sure to bring plenty of smiles at story time. We encourage families to pick up a copy, enjoy it together at home and help us make reading a special part of every child's day. Happy reading, St Joseph's!



Word Aware

Word Aware Teaching vocabulary

EYFS/KS1

Word	Definition	Challenge
tremendous	Very good, amazing.	How many times could you find to use the word **tremendous**? Tell someone that their writing, drawing or acting is **tremendous** when they do it really well.
thundering	A loud, deep noise. Can be about the weather.	How does the word **thundering** make you feel?

KS2

Word	Definition	Challenge
triumphantly	Doing something that shows you have won, or you have succeeded.	Pretend you are going to hold something up **triumphantly**. What would you be holding?
uproar	Lots of shouting and noise because people are very upset about something.	What might cause an **uproar** in your school?

CAFOD Live Simply

We would like to share with you some cost-effective tips of how to keep warm this winter from the British Red Cross- Keeping warm this winter

1. Keep your body warm

Extremely cold weather can have a negative impact on our health. People with respiratory problems such as asthma, or heart conditions are at particular risk during the winter months. Our bodies need to be kept at a core body temperature of 37C to stay healthy, which means rooms should be heated to a minimum of 18C. There are many ways you can maintain your core body temperature and stay warm in winter, without turning the central heating on. Try these tips:

Layer up your warmest indoor clothing

Wearing lots of layers rather than one thick piece of clothing will help trap your body heat and keep you warmer. Clothes made with insulating material, like wool jumpers and thermal underwear, are best for keeping you warm at home. Using a hot water bottle is also an inexpensive way to stay warmer for longer. You can also keep your feet warm with thick socks and slippers.

Food and drink

Eating healthily and drinking plenty of hot drinks throughout the day will help with staying warm at home. Avoid alcohol - it prevents your blood vessels from constricting, and you'll begin to lose body heat.

Move around

It's also important to avoid sitting still for long periods of time - move around and keep as active as possible. This will help boost your circulation and keep you warm.

2. **Keep your house warm**

Heating one room during the day is a cost-effective way to keep your house warm and your energy bill down. Here are a few ways to keep a room warm without using central heating.

Curtains

Open your curtains during the day - the sun still provides warmth, even in the winter months. Make sure you close them as soon as the sun sets to keep the warm air in. Investing in thicker curtains, or thermal curtain liners, will help keep the cold air out and prevent heat loss.

Use a draught excluder

We tend to lose a lot of heat through gaps around windows and doors. Exclude draughts by lining your windows with rubber seals and use a homemade draught excluder by doors.

Move furniture away from external walls

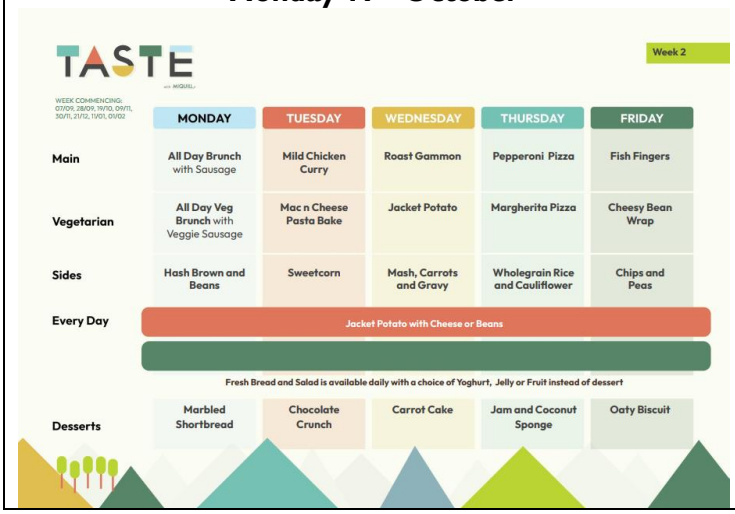
Sitting with your back against an internal wall will instantly feel a lot warmer.

Insulate your floor with rugs

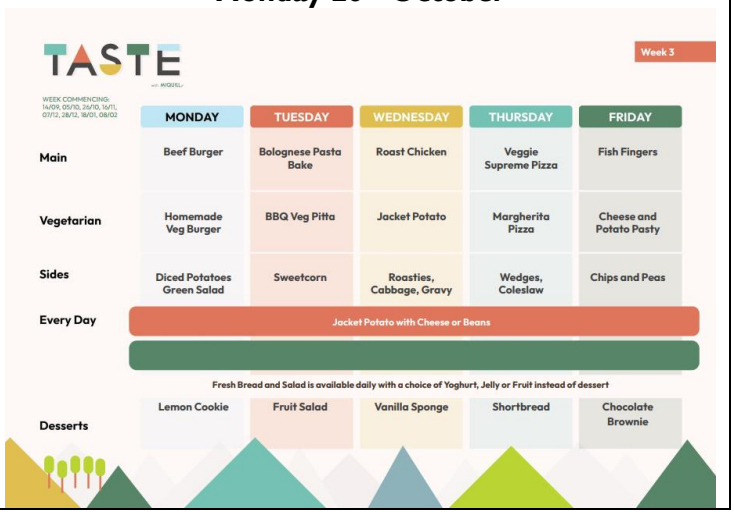
If you don't have carpets, put down plenty of rugs. Hardwood or laminate floors are a lot colder than carpeted areas.

School Menu week commencing

Monday 19th October



Monday 26th October



Other News

Congratulations to the following children for their various achievements:

Zachary Year 1 – received his piano music monsters stage 4 certificate.

Esme Year 1 – received her piano monsters stage 4 certificate.

Carson Year 2 – has received his 5m distance swimming medal.

Sonny Year 2 – has received his Diamond beginner level 4 award and Diamond distance 5m award.

Kingston Year 2 – has received his 5m distance swimming medal.

Alfie Year 3 – received his Swim England Learn to Swim level 4 award.

George Year 3 – received his Swim England Learn to Swim level 4 award.

Ivie Year 3 – received her Swim England Learn to Swim level 3 award and her Water Safety level 1 award.

Quinton Year 4 – has received his Learn to Swim stage 4 Swim England award.

Isaac Year 6 – has received his 25m and 50m distance swimming medals.

Luca Year 6 – Luca won a bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke at the Coventry & District meet last Sunday. In this meet, he also secured another two county qualifying times - one for 100m Breaststroke and one for 50m Freestyle. He achieved PBs in both of these events, improving his time by over 11 seconds in total!

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)

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

FOSJ Monster Ball

Tickets available from the school office!

Community News

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

AUTUMN TERM 1 26/27	
Mondays	Year 4 woodland adventure every Monday in Autumn term 1.
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) 6-7:30pm FOSJ Monster Ball – **tickets available from the school office.**
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) **9.30am Whole school Mass in Church, all welcome.** 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.
Friday 20th November	**9:15am KS2 Mass led by Year 4 in school, all welcome.**
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
Friday 27th November	**9:15am KS1 & Y3 Mass led by Year 3 in school, all welcome.**
Wednesday 2nd December	9:30am – Reception & KS1 Nativity for Parents/Carers **– booking link being sent via email 19/10 at 6pm.**
Thursday 3rd December	9:30am – Reception & KS1 Nativity for Parents/Carers **– booking link being sent via email 19/10 at 6pm.**
Friday 4th December	**9.15am Whole school Mass led by Year 5 in school, all welcome.**
Sunday 6th December	1pm Year 3 Reconciliation at Ss. Joseph & Helen Church.
Tuesday 8th December	**9.30am Whole school Mass in Church led by Year 6, all welcome.**
Thursday 10th December	Whole school theatre trip to see Cinderella at the Palace Theatre, Redditch.
Friday 18th December	**9.15am Whole school Mass led by the Misson Team in school, all welcome.** 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* 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.