

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

'Guided by Jesus, learning together, striving for excellence'



Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year! We hope you have had a wonderful summer break.

If you or your child are new to our school, you are very much welcome to our school family and we look forward to getting to know you better in the weeks ahead. All of our new pupils have all made a fantastic start and we are very impressed with the way they are settling in.

We pride ourselves on being a listening staff, so please don't hesitate to come and speak to us about any concerns you may have. Equally, it is always lovely to hear positive feedback about the school and how your children are finding their experience.

The children have started the new school year with big smiles. They have settled quickly into school routines and are working hard; they are full of energy and enthusiasm for their learning - a great start to the new academic year - well done everyone!

Thank you for supporting our uniform policy- the children look very smart in their uniforms, which shows the pride we have in our school. A reminder about uniform expectations can be found in your child's planner. Some allowances have been made this week while families sourced correct uniform items but **from Monday 8th September**, pupils without the correct uniform will lose their golden stamp. As always, if you are having genuine difficulty sourcing the correct uniform, don't hesitate to speak to us and we will see what we can do to help.

We look forward to sharing examples of the children's learning with you throughout this year - please follow the school's Facebook page to stay up to date with what's going on.

<https://www.facebook.com/StJosephsCatholicPrimaryDarlston>

Communication with school

If there is a need to contact school, to speak to or pass on a message to the office or teaching staff, please use the school telephone number 0121 5686496, call into the main school office or email: postbox@st-josephs.walsall.sch.uk. Messages can also be written into pupil's school planners.

Please ensure your contact details are kept up to date throughout the school year. Forms will be sent home in the coming days for you to check that the details school holds for your child are correct. Please take the time to check these carefully and return them checked and signed to school as soon as possible. Thank you.



Catholic Life

Catholic Pupil Profile: This half term, we will be focussing on the virtues **Eloquent & Truthful**.

Pupils are growing to be **eloquent and truthful** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people and the world.

Each week, one child from each class who has demonstrated these virtues will be celebrated in our celebration assembly on Friday morning. Parents of chosen children will be notified and invited to attend.



Wednesday Word :You will receive a link to a copy of the Wednesday Word which is a reflection on Sunday's Gospel reading each week. Please take the time to share this with your child.



Season of Creation: The Season of Creation began on September 1st, which is the World Day of Prayer for the care of creation. The season runs until October 4 on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

During the Season of Creation, each class will join in with a short prayer time with One Life Music each day - a chance to reflect on the wonders of God's World and to thank and praise God for his creation.

Celebrating Our Parish Patron - Now a Doctor of the Church!

We're thrilled to share that on 31st July 2025, Pope Leo XIV officially declared St John Henry Newman a Doctor of the Universal Church - a huge honour that recognises his deep wisdom and lasting influence. To mark his Feast Day on 9th October, pupils from our Year 5 class will join pupils from our other parish schools for a full-day workshop, reflecting on his life and legacy. The celebrations will continue on Saturday 11th October, when families with children in all classes are encouraged to attend Mass at St Joseph's Church, Darlaston at 4pm. Children from school will be involved in leading the readings and prayers at Mass on that afternoon. It promises to be a joyful and inspiring time for everyone involved. Please attend if you are able - you will be made most welcome!



Curriculum Information

Information about what your child is learning in school in Years 1 - 6 will be emailed out to you by the school office each half term and can also be found on the class pages of the school website. We hope you find the information useful and welcome your feedback about them.

Nursery and Reception parents will receive a weekly overview of what the children are learning from Monday 8th September onwards. These can be found on the class page of the school website and will also be emailed out by the school office.



School Dinners

All pupils from Reception - Year 2 are entitled to a healthy free school meal daily - please encourage your children to try school dinners if they currently bring a packed lunch. School lunches for Key Stage Two pupils must be paid for in advance, thank you. Please remember all hot meals must be booked in advance.



We have a number of children in school with severe nut allergies.

Please do not send any products containing nuts into school in lunchboxes or as birthday treats.

Thank you.

Macmillan Cancer Support

On Friday 26th September, our Mini-Vinnies will be holding a cake sale at the end of the school day to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity close to many of our hearts.

We would be grateful of donations of cakes to sell and ask that children and parents bring along a small amount of money if they would like to buy a cake.

Many thanks in advance.





Many of you will be aware, from previous communications and from the National Press that school attendance is a high national priority. Rules have become stricter, reflecting the critical importance of regular attendance and punctuality in a child's educational journey.

We cannot stress enough how vital it is for children to be present and on time every day. Each lesson builds upon the last, and frequent absences or late arrivals can significantly impact a child's progress and understanding. Moreover, good attendance habits formed now will serve your children well throughout their lives. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school consistently and arrives promptly each morning.

Legislation states that we are not able to grant holiday requests – in fact it is illegal for us to do so. Furthermore, holidays in term time will result in the local authority issuing parents with a penalty notice. Therefore, we ask you to ensure that all holidays are booked outside of term time. The local authority will also fine the parents of children who are persistently absent or late to school.

Please make sure your child is in school between 8.40 and 8.55am each day. If the gate has already been closed and your child enters school through the main school office, they will be marked down as late. If your child will be absent from school, please notify the school office of the reason by 9am.

Parking Reminder for Parents and Carers

We kindly ask all parents and carers to park safely and considerately when dropping off or picking up children from school. Please allow extra time in your journey to park a little further away and walk, helping to reduce congestion near the school gates.

Please remember that it is **illegal** to park on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school, as these areas must be kept clear for the safety of our pupils. We also ask that you show courtesy to our neighbours by not blocking driveways or access points.

Thank you for helping us keep our school community safe and respectful.



Behaviour Policy Updates & Golden Stamps

A few reminders about our school Behaviour Policy:

Our school rules are:

Ready, Respectful, and Safe.

Our pupils have been engaging in thoughtful discussions this week about what these rules mean in various school settings - from classrooms to corridors to the playground. For those interested in learning more, our updated behaviour policy is available on the school website.



Pupils from Reception -Year 6 will continue to receive a golden stamp in their planners at the end of each school day if they have been 'golden' in school. We still strongly encourage parents to check their child's planner daily for messages from staff and encourage you to use it to communicate with staff. Please read with your child daily at home and use the planner to record a comment about their progress.



Children from Reception - Year 6 are also divided into four House Teams named after the patron saints of the UK: St David, St George, St Andrew, and St Patrick. This system allows pupils to earn house points for their team, with the winning house announced weekly and a special award presented at the end of the school year. We hope this will continue to foster a sense of teamwork amongst pupils and will also allow our Year 6 pupils more opportunities for leadership in school.

Congratulations to our Year 6 House Captains, who were democratically elected to lead their House this morning by members of their House team.

St David's House Captains: Eva & Kaya

St George's House Captains: Daniel & Ella

St Andrew's House Captains: Ismae & Hugo

St Patrick's House Captains: Darcy & Adonai

I am sure they will prove to be excellent role models throughout the school year!



A prayer for the new school year

Lord Jesus, We ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.

Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.

Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

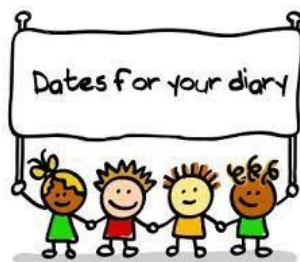
Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our learning and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends.

Jesus, inspire us to do our very best throughout this year.

Amen.



DATE	EVENT / INFORMATION
Tuesday 9 th September	Swimming lessons start for Year 3 pupils
Tuesday 9 th September	Year 6 to Mass at St Joseph's Church at 10am. Parents & Carers are welcome
Wednesday 10 th September	Severn Trent Water Assembly for KS2 pupils
Wednesday 10th September	Meeting for Year 2 Parents at 3.30pm - Come and find out about an exciting overnight residential opportunity for Year 2 at Kingswood!
Tuesday 16 th September	Members of the new GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) Team Chaplaincy Day
Wednesday 17th September	Mass for Year 1 - 6 at 9.15am in the School Hall. Parents & Carers are welcome.
Wednesday 17th September	New Reception children and their parents / carers at 2.45pm in the school hall.
Tuesday 23 rd September	Year 5 to Mass at St Joseph's Church at 10am. Parents & Carers are welcome
Wednesday 24 th September	Art Day for Year 1, Year 3, Year 5
Friday 26 th September	Macmillan Cake Sale on school playground from 3.15pm

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Tuesday 30 th September	Harvest Celebrations in school - donations of tinned and dried food would be gratefully received. Key Stage 2 pupils will celebrate Mass at St Joseph's Church at 10am. Parents & carers are welcome. EYFS & Key Stage 1 will celebrate in school during the day.
Wednesday 1 st October	Art Day for Year 2, Year 4, Year 6
Thursday 2 nd October	Carbon Monoxide Safety Assembly (Key Stage 1 & 2) Year 2 Safety Seymour Workshop Year 5 CO Crew Workshop
Monday 6 th October	Year 3 Pedestrian Safety Training
Tuesday 7 th October	Year 4 to Mass at St Joseph's Church at 10am. Parents & Carers are welcome.
Wednesday 8 th October - Thursday 9 th October	Year 2 to Kingswood (1 night residential)
Thursday 9 th October	Year 5 'Doctor Who?' Retreat Day
Friday 10 th October	Year 6 Class Assembly - Parents & Carers welcome
Saturday 11 th October	School & Parish Mass at St Joseph's Church, Darlaston at 4pm to celebrate the Feast of Saint John Henry Newman - All welcome.
Monday 13 th October	Black History Month Dance Workshops for Years 1 -6
Tuesday 14 th October	Year 3 to Mass at St. Joseph's Church at 10am. Parents & Carers are welcome.
Thursday 16 th October	Parents Evening Appointments will be available between 2pm and 6pm. Information about how to book will be sent out in the near future.
Monday 20 th October	Reception Road Safety Workshops
Tuesday 21 st October	Year 4 to Woodlands Outdoor Learning
Tuesday 21 st October	Year 2 to Mass at St. Joseph's Church at 10am. Parents & Carers are welcome.
Tuesday 21 st October	Last swimming lesson for Year 3
Thursday 23 rd October	Pupils break up for half term
Friday 24 th October	School closed to pupils - INSET Day
Monday 27 th October - Friday 31 st October	School Closed - Half Term.
Monday 3 rd November	School re-opens to pupils.