



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Thursday 16th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The weeks are just flying by in school and it has been lovely on sunnier days over the last few weeks to be able to use our fabulous school field again for playtimes now that it has dried up.

The children across the school are all working incredibly hard in all aspects of the curriculum. A special mention must go to our Year 6 class, who are absolutely working their socks off in preparation for their SATs which start next week! We hope each of them gets the amazing results they deserve.

In order to help Year 6 have the best start to each day of SATs, school will be running a special free Year 6 Breakfast Club from Monday 11th May - Thursday 14th May starting at 8.15am each morning. All Year 6 children are strongly encouraged to attend as this gives the class a positive start to the day together - a chance to eat, drink, and settle their nerves before the tests begin! Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate younger siblings.

Looking ahead, we are particularly excited to begin our 'Turning Grey to Green' nature project, made possible through successful grant funding. This initiative will develop additional planting areas around our school grounds, enhance biodiversity, and involve pupils in meaningful gardening activities. We would be grateful if parents might consider donating outdoor plants as offerings to Our Lady for our May Procession on **Friday 15th May**, as these will have a lasting impact on our school environment when they are planted by the children the following week.

I am delighted to share that we have been selected to participate in three different filming projects; a real honour for our school. Further information and permission slips will be shared with the relevant classes. We look forward to sharing the finished films with you in due course!

Please see the list of dates of important dates at the end of this newsletter. Included are the dates for next half term to give parents as much notice as possible of events which parents may wish to attend such as Sports day and Year 6 Leavers events.



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CATHOLIC LIFE

Catholic Pupil Profile: This half term, we will be focussing on the virtues of **Grateful & Generous**

What does this mean? Pupils are growing to be **grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, both now and in the future.

Catholic Schools help their pupils grow by encouraging them to know and be grateful for all their gifts, developing them to the full so that they can be generous in the service of others

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.



The Month of May is a special month within the church's year; it is traditional to honour Mary, the mother of Jesus. We will be praying a variety of traditional prayers to Our Lady throughout the month.

On **Friday 15th May at 2.45pm**, we will hold a **May Procession** starting in the school hall and processing out to the statue of Mary in our school grounds, led by our Year 5 children.

The children are asked to bring a plant for the school garden, which the children can plant afterwards or a small posy of flowers to school on this day, please.

We are delighted to invite parents and carers to join us for this special occasion.



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What's been going on in school recently?

In addition to all the fantastic learning in our classrooms, we have also been learning outside the classroom; here are a few of the highlights from the last few weeks...

Our pupils have been busy exploring the natural world. Reception class have been observing and handling living creatures including worms, snails, and tadpoles, developing their understanding through direct, hands-on experience. Year 2 have started an investigation of plant growth, carefully controlling variables such as sunlight and water to understand the conditions necessary for plants to thrive. These practical experiences are fundamental to developing scientific thinking and curiosity about the world around us. Year 5 and Year 1 are participating in the 'Growing to Love Tomatoes' campaign, which encourages pupils to understand the food chain and sustainability whilst enjoying the satisfaction of growing their own food.

Year 4 received valuable instruction from the **local fire service**, learning about fire safety and the importance of water and road safety.

Year 6 recently visited **St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham**, where they engaged thoughtfully with the history and significance of this important religious building. The guides and members of the public commented favourably on the reverence and exemplary behaviour demonstrated by our pupils during Mass, and the children returned with considerable new knowledge about the Cathedral's history.

Our celebration of St George's Day, began with a fabulous assembly delivered by members of Saint George's House. It provided an opportunity for pupils to reflect upon the values of courage and community that this patron saint represents. They also helped us all to learn about the links between St George and Darlaston. Have you spotted the statue of St George and the dragon on Darlaston Green?

Throughout the school, pupils have been sharing their learning with parents through engaging class assemblies and workshops. Year 3 delivered a fabulous assembly, showcasing their understanding of health, diet, and nutrition through a game show format that demonstrated both their knowledge and confidence. Year 4 pupils have been developing their computing skills through block programming using Scratch, and we were delighted to welcome parents to support them as they explored creativity and problem-solving. Year 2 also welcomed parents into their Science lessons, where pupils confidently explained their investigations and participated in hands-on planting activities.

Today, Year 4 are visiting the Harry Potter Studios, bringing their English lessons to life following their reading of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. This immersive experience allows pupils to explore the magical world they have been studying in class, deepening their engagement with the text and inspiring their imagination and love of literature.

Swimming: Year 2 have made a super start to their school swimming lessons this half term, well done Year 2. Next half term it will be Year 6's turn for swimming lessons.



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Uniform Reminders

As we are now in the summer term, pupils can come to school wearing their summer uniform:

Navy V-neck Sweatshirt or Cardigan with School Logo

Navy Trousers/ **Navy** Skirt / **Navy** Shorts or Red & White gingham summer **dress** (not gingham skirts or shorts)

White Shirt with a collar (no polo shirts)

Red and Navy striped school tie

Black Shoes - **No trainers.**

- If your child has outgrown their uniform and it is still in good condition, please consider donating it to school so that it can be used by others.
- Hair - long hair must be tied back for school. No extreme haircuts or shaved lines/ patterns. Hair accessories must be small and in school colours - red, white, blue or black.
- **Earrings are not allowed at school. If you intend to have your child's ears pierced, please wait until the start of the long summer holiday to allow time for them to heal before returning to school in September.**
- Make-up and nail varnish are not allowed.

Thank you for helping to maintain our high uniform standards.

Staffing News

We wish Miss Perry every happiness for the future with her husband to be.

Miss Perry will be getting married during the next half-term break and will return to school on 1st June as Mrs Ginder.





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Breakfast Club

Thank you to the many parents who completed our free breakfast club survey. Your responses are really helpful to us in planning for this exciting development ready for September.

We will let you know further details once our arrangements have been finalised.



Parent & Emergency Contact details

Have you recently moved house, changed your phone number or email address? Please ensure your contact details are kept up to date throughout the school year - speak to Mrs Sheffield or Miss Wellington in the school office if your details need changing.



Nursery spaces available for September

We have a few vacancies available in our Nursery class from September 2026. If your child or anyone you know is looking for a place for a child after their 3rd birthday, please contact the school office for further information.





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'Learn with me' Parent workshops this half term

Thanks to the many parents who have supported their children by attending the workshops we have already offered for other classes this half term; we hope you found them useful.

In response to requests from parents, we are pleased to offer the following opportunities to join your children in school and learn alongside them this half term:

Nursery

- Minibeasts 'Learn with Me' - Friday 22nd May at 9am or 2.45pm

Reception

- Habitats 'Learn with Me' - Thursday 21st May at 2.45pm

Year 1:

- Geography 'Learn with me' - Tuesday 19th May at 2.45pm

Year 5

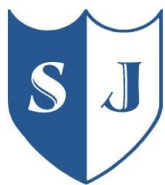
- Science 'Learn with me' - Thursday 14th May at 2.45pm



Sun safety

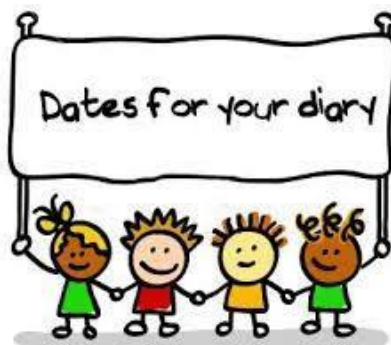
We are hopeful that in the coming weeks we will start to experience some lovely warm weather! When the sunshine arrives, please ensure your child brings a named water bottle to school each day, a hat and that sun cream is applied before school.



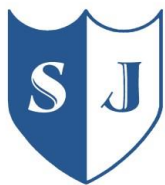


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DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 5 th May	Year 3 to Mass at St Joseph's Church, Darlaston at 10am. Parents & Carers welcome.
Thursday 7 th May	Year 2 Queens Workshop
Thursday 7 th May	Year 4 to Harry Potter Studios
Friday 8 th May	Year 1 Class Assembly - Parents & carers welcome
Friday 8 th May	One Life Music in school filming Year 1 & Year 4
Friday 8 th May	Year 3 to Pasford Farm
Monday 11 th May - Thursday 14 th May	Year 6 SATS Week
Monday 11 th May	Parish filming event (Attended by a group of Year 5 pupils)
Thursday 14 th May	Year 5 Science 'Learn with me' for Parents at 2.45pm
Friday 15 th May	Year 6 Pizza making workshop
Friday 15 th May	May Procession at 2.45pm - We honour Mary, the Mother of Jesus with flowers and plants during a special prayer service, led by our Year 5 pupils. Parents & Carers welcome.
Monday 18 th May - Wednesday 20 th May	Year 6 Residential Visit to Whitemoor Lakes
Tuesday 19 th May	Year 5 GIFT Team attending Fr Hudson's Mass at St Marys the Mount Church, Walsall
Tuesday 19 th May	Year 1 Geography 'Learn with me' for Parents at 2.45pm
Tuesday 19 th May	Year 2 to Mass at St Joseph's Church, Darlaston at 10am. Parents & Carers welcome.
Thursday 21 st May	Reception Habitats 'Learn with me' for Parents at 2.45pm
Friday 22 nd May	Key stage 2 First Aid Workshops with St John's Ambulance
Friday 22 nd May	Nursery 'Learn with me' for Parents at 9am or 2.45pm
Friday 22 nd May	Break up for half term
Mon. 25 th May - Fri. 29 th May	School Closed for half term
Monday 1 st June	Back to school!
Monday 1 st June - Friday 5 th June	Year 6 'Bike Right' cycling week (More details to follow)
Wednesday 3 rd June	School photographer in school - class photos
Tuesday 2 nd June	Year 6 start swimming
Monday 8 th June	PE Enrichment Day - Reception to Year 6 pupils all wear their PE kit to school
Tuesday 9 th June	New Reception Parents Meeting at 2.30pm or 5pm - for parents of children starting Reception in September 2026.



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Wednesday 10 th June	Year 1 visit to Weston Park
Wednesday 10 th June	First Holy Communion retreat Day for children in Year 4 enrolled on the sacramental programme.
Thursday 11 th June	Year 4 Vikings Workshop
Friday 12 th June	KS2 Steel Pan music workshop
Saturday 13 th June	First Holy Communion mass at 4pm, St. Joseph's Church, Darlaston
Wednesday 17 th June	CAFOD speaker in assembly and workshops for Years 3, 4 & 5
Thursday 18 th June	Year Ancient Egyptians Workshop
Friday 19th June	Reception Class Assembly - Parents & carers welcome
Thursday 25th June	Nursery Pirate Picnic Day
Saturday 27 th June	Parish Mass, Stalls & BBQ at St Joseph's Darlaston
Tuesday 30 th June	Year 3 visit to Walsall Canal Basin
Tuesday 30 th June	New Nursery Parents Meeting at 2.30pm or 5pm - for parents of children starting Nursery in September 2026.
Thursday 2nd July	Year 6 Leavers Play at 2.15pm - Parents & carers welcome. More details will be available nearer the time.
Friday 3rd July	Year 6 Leavers Play at 2.15pm - Parents & carers welcome. More details will be available nearer the time.
Monday 6th July	Sports Day - Parents & Carers welcome EYFS & KS1 races will begin at 9.15am KS2 races will begin at 1.30pm
Tuesday 7 th July	Year 5 retreat day at St Thomas More School
Wednesday 8 th July	Year 4 'Born Free' Online workshop
Thursday 9 th July	Reception to Sea Life Centre
Friday 10th July	Music Performance assemblies for parents Reception & KS1 at 9.10am KS2 at 2.45pm
Friday 10th July	PUPIL END OF YEAR REPORTS SENT HOME
Monday 13th - Tuesday 14th July	Year 5 1-night residential visit to Woodlands
Wednesday 15 th July	French Day in school
Thursday 16 th July	Nursery & Reception 'Beach Day' at school
Thursday 16th July	Year 6 Leavers Mass & presentation at 2.15pm - Year 6 parents and carers are encouraged to attend.
Friday 17th July	Break up for the summer holidays!