



Friday 13th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a particularly busy half term so far, and I am delighted to report that our pupils are showing real commitment to their learning. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all parents and carers for the support you have provided in facilitating your child's education. Your engagement and partnership with the school remain invaluable to our collective success.

I must take this opportunity to remind all parents of the importance of daily reading at home. Evidence consistently shows that regular reading practice makes an enormous difference to pupils' progress in school. I would encourage all families to prioritise this activity as part of their daily routine.

Next week presents an exciting opportunity for us to celebrate St Joseph's Day on Thursday 19th March. Year 6 pupils will be heading out of school to enjoy an educational visit to a working farm, whilst all other classes will remain in school and participate in our planned activities. School uniform is expected to be worn on this day in school. In keeping with the significance of St Joseph, who was a carpenter by trade, we have organised Design and Technology activities across the school. Pupils will have the opportunity to engage in creative and practical learning experiences, and we will also be enjoying some special treats within our classrooms to mark the occasion.

I wish to extend my thanks to all parents who attended parents' evening this week. We hope that you found the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and review their work in their books to be both informative and valuable.

To all our moms, we extend our warm wishes for Mother's Day this coming Sunday. We hope you have a wonderful celebration with your families.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the important dates at the end of this newsletter for the next two weeks before Easter and for the forthcoming half term. We recognise that parents often need to plan ahead regarding time away from work to attend school events and celebrations. By providing this information in advance, we hope to facilitate your planning and enable greater participation in the life of our school community.

Thank you once again for your continued support.



CATHOLIC LIFE

Catholic Schools Pupil Profile: This half term, we will be focussing on the virtues Children are growing to be: **Intentional & Prophetic**.

Pupils are growing to be **Intentional** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience and **prophetic** in the example they set for others.

We look forward to inviting parents into school each Friday to celebrate the achievements of the children chosen by their teachers for demonstrating these virtues.



Wednesday Word: You will have received a link to a copy of the Wednesday Word by email - it provides families with a weekly reflection on Sunday's Gospel. Please take the time to share this with your child.

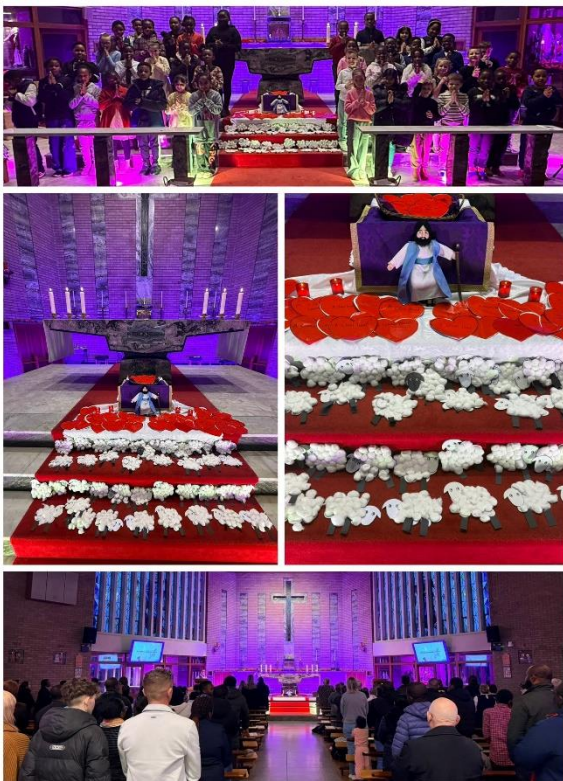
Next School & Parish Mass - On Saturday 21st March, we would love as many families as possible to attend Mass at St Joseph's Church, Darlaston **at 4pm**. Please let the school office know if your child will be attending and would like to be involved in leading an aspect of the liturgy- we need children to read and take up the offertory gifts. Children who attend will be given an extra golden stamp for supporting the Catholic life of the school. Please note, everyone is welcome - Catholic or not!

Congratulations!

Many congratulations to our pupils in Year 3 who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last night alongside over 40 other children from across the St John Henry Newman Parish.

Over the last 8 weeks, they have worked extremely hard to prepare to receive this special sacrament of God's love and forgiveness.

May God bless them all as they continue on this next step on their faith journey.





Lent Almsgiving

During the season of Lent, we try as a school community to raise money for people in need. There are two opportunities for all the children to get involved in supporting people, both locally and globally who need our help and support.

On Friday 20th March, we will hold a 'Break the Rules Day' to raise money for Father Hudson's Caritas, a local charity who work with people from all walks of life, including the elderly, homeless and disabled, offering friendship, care, and support. Cash donations can be sent in on the day, depending on how many rules your child wishes to break!

On Friday 27nd March, the children in our school CAFOD Club will be organising a 'Big Lent Walk' to raise money for CAFOD and help to fight global poverty. All children and staff across the school will be taking part in the walk around the school grounds during the school day, learning more about the work of CAFOD and praying for people in poverty around the world. The children will all bring home a sponsor form today and we would be grateful if you could help them get some sponsorship for taking part.



Break the Rules Day!

Friday 20th March 2026
Raising Money for Father Hudson's Caritas

Get ready for 'Break the Rules' Day at St Joseph's! It's going to be a super fun day where you can break some rules to raise money for **Fr Hudson's Caritas**!

How much?

It costs £1 per rule broken. Or, you can break **ALL** the rules for just £3! Remember to bring **cash** on the day.

Important: Lessons will continue as normal!

Rule-Breaking Ideas!

Which rules can you break?

1. **Crazy Hair:** styles, accessories, colour—must wash out by Monday!
2. **Fun Footwear:** Trainers, odd socks, crazy tights
3. **Fancy Dress:** PJs, superhero cape, favourite character
4. **Own clothes or wear your uniform inside out/ back to front.**
5. **Paint Your Nails.**
6. **Wear Fake Tattoos**
7. **Wear Face-Paint or Make-Up**
8. **Wear your favourite hat in class.**
9. **Bring your cuddly toy to school**
10. **Bring a 'naughty snack' for playtime (Remember NO nuts)!**

Remember, all money raised goes to Fr Hudson's Caritas! Let's make this 'Break the Rules' Day a fabulous Lenten Fundraiser.



Thank you in advance for your generosity for these two very worthwhile charities.



Monday 13th April 2026
Easter Bonnet Parade (EYFS & KS1) & Egg Diorama Competition (KS2)

To give families chance to get creative during the Easter break, we will hold our annual **Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg Diorama Competition on the first day back after Easter holiday.**

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are encouraged to create a bonnet / hat at home and wear it to school ready for our fantastic parade. Parents are welcome to join us on the school playground at 2.50pm to watch the parade!

Key Stage 2 (Years 3 - 6) pupils are also encouraged to get creative at home and make an Egg Diorama (a scene using decorated eggs). The dioramas will be displayed in the school hall for all pupils to see and prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

We look forward to seeing your amazing creations!

Breakfast Club

We are pleased to share an update on the government's roll-out of free breakfast clubs. St Joseph's will be offering this provision from **September 2026**. Over the coming months, we will be surveying parents so we can plan effectively and ensure the new breakfast club meets the needs of all our families.

Our **current breakfast club provision will continue as normal** until the new scheme begins. For further information, please contact the school office or visit our school website. **Please remember to book breakfast club on the SCOPAY app.**



What's been going on in school recently?

During this important and wonderful season of Lent, last week our school family had the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a follower of Christ. Thanks to Dan and Emily from Onelife Music, we experienced an engaging, thought-provoking, and enthusiastic retreat. This precious time of observance allowed us to pray, give, and act on our beliefs through music, sharing, and offering. We are grateful for the chance to deepen our faith together as a community.

We celebrated World Book Day with an enchanting day filled with stories, laughter, and creativity! The children enjoyed delicious hot chocolate and biscuits while listening to captivating tales. We also joined live events and played "Guess the Book Character," sparking joy and excitement throughout the school! Thank you to everyone for making this day so memorable. Let's keep the love for reading alive!

Year 5 had a fantastic trip to Oak House, diving deep into the fascinating world of the Tudors! Our students explored the rich and poor aspects of daily life during this intriguing period, gaining first-hand experience of what life was like. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn and engage with history in such an immersive way. We are proud of our students for their enthusiasm and curiosity.

Well done to our Nursery and Reception children and our Year 3 & 4 children for preparing and leading beautiful Lent Stay and Pray celebrations of the word! A huge well done to our liturgy leaders for their exceptional planning and delivery of such a reflective liturgy during this sacred time of the year, focusing on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and grandparents who attended and supported our children. Your involvement makes a significant difference!

We are thrilled to share that some of our Year 3 and Year 4 students participated in an exciting multi-skills event! They showcased their talents in a variety of activities, including golf, archery, and ball skills. Each student represented our school with pride and enthusiasm.

As part of Science Week, our Year 5 students had an exciting Zoom workshop that combined healthy eating with coding! They explored food categories and learned what makes up a healthy lunch, then programmed a robot to select nutritious food items for a lunchbox. This innovative approach not only promotes healthy habits but also enhances their coding skills!

Year 6 took part in a live zoom about Life on a Farm and being a farm vet! The children learnt all about cows, their diets and habitats and learnt all about evolution, adaptation and inheritance. As the theme for this year's science week is 'Curiosity - What's your question?' the children thought of questions before the zoom and then after wrote down all the new facts they had learnt. Did you know there are 9 million cows in the UK?

We are thrilled to announce that some of our eggs have hatched, and we now have adorable baby chicks and fluffy ducklings waddling around Nursery & Reception. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about life cycles and animal care.



The whole school enjoyed a visit from the 'Animal Man' company. They learnt about the different animal habitats, their diets and adaptations and how they survive in the wild. The children then had the chance to hold the variety of different animals including a cockroach, an owl, a snake, a kinkajou, a gecko and a bearded dragon! The children had an amazing experience and were commented on about their amazing behaviour!

Year 2 had an absolutely wonderful trip to the farm this week! Our young explorers had the chance to discover where our food comes from, care for the animals, and even cuddle adorable baby lambs and chicks! The highlight of the day was an exciting tractor ride that brought smiles all around. We are so proud of our students for their curiosity and enthusiasm!

Toileting workshop for Parents

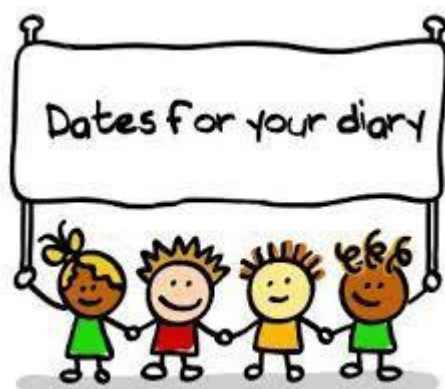
Different children learn to be clean and dry at different times. On Thursday 19th March at 9am, the school nursing team will be holding a workshop in school for parents offering help and advice about toilet training and bed-wetting.

The workshop will explore:

- ❖ What is toilet training and the management
- ❖ Advice and support
- ❖ Developing physical skills
- ❖ Routines
- ❖ Toileting patterns
- ❖ Common problems during toilet training

No booking required - just turn up!





DATE	EVENT
Monday 16 th March	'Lent Stay & Pray' for Parents / Carers of Year 5 & Year 6 at 2.45pm
Tuesday 17 th March	St Patrick's Day - Members of St Patrick's house can wear own clothes to school
Wednesday 18 th March	'Lent Stay & Pray' for Parents / Carers of Year 1 & 2 at 2.45pm
Thursday 19 th March	St Joseph's Feast Day Celebrations in school
Thursday 19 th March	Year 6 Farm Visit
Thursday 19 th March	School Nurses Parent workshop at 9am - Toileting support
Friday 20 th March	Break the Rules Day! Fundraising for Fr. Hudson's Caritas
Saturday 21 st March	Family Mass at St Joseph's, Darlaston at 4pm - All welcome
Monday 23 rd March	Reception Class eye tests
Monday 23 rd March	Nearly New uniform available in the school hall from 3.15pm - 4.30pm - All items free of charge!
Friday 27 th March	Easter Culture Day in school - dress in cultural clothes to celebrate your heritage or identity, or just come in own clothes
Friday 27 th March	Big Lent Walk - Sponsored event for CAFOD
Friday 27 th March	Stations of the Cross for KS2 children, led by Year 4 at 2.45pm. Year 4 parents are welcome.
Friday 27 th March	Break up for Easter
Monday 30 th March - Friday 10 th April	School Closed for Easter Holidays
Monday 13 th April	School re-opens for the Summer Term
Monday 13 th April	KS2 Egg Diorama Competition EYFS & KS1 Easter Bonnet parade at 2:50pm
Tuesday 14 th April	Year 6 visit to St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
Thursday 16 th April	National Offer Day for Reception Places for September 2026
Thursday 23 rd April	St George's Day - Members of St George's house can wear own clothes to school
Friday 24 th April	Year 3 Class assembly - Parents & carers welcome
Friday 24 th April	Year 4 SPARKS Fire Safety workshop
Monday 4 th May	BANK HOLIDAY - School closed
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	Year 3 to Pasford Farm

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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



Monday 11 th May - Thursday 14 th May	Year 6 SATS Week
Friday 15 th May	Year 6 Pizza making workshop
Monday 18th May - Wednesday 20th May	Year 6 Residential Visit to Whitemoor Lakes
Friday 22 nd May	Key stage 2 First Aid Workshops with St John's Ambulance
Friday 22 nd May	Break up for half term
Monday 25 th May - Friday 29 th May	School Closed for half term