



ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Newsletter November 24th 2023

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A message from our Principal



Dear parents,

The drop in temperature today certainly feels as if winter is soon approaching. Everything suddenly feels even busier than usual in school! School has been a complete hive of activity this week. In lessons, break times and the clubs we offer before school, lunchtime and after school, I have seen children interacting well with one another, learning and thriving - a great sight..

Year 1 have had the most wonderful visit to the Black Country Living Museum - thank you to the adults and parent volunteers who supported them. School trips are always memorable and more will be announced in your child's year group soon.

Thank you to the Year 4 parents who joined us in school on Thursday to meet with Father Philip regarding the children's preparation to receive their First Holy Communion. It was lovely to see such a great turnout.

In preparation for Advent, children in Years 4 and 5 have celebrated the Sacrament of Confession this week. In addition to this, as we approach Advent, please do see below for the dates of our Christmas events such as Music and Mince Pies, school Nativity and carols.

Furthermore, our Liturgy Leaders in school have organised our reverse Advent calendar and charity fundraising with further details below and to be emailed to parents.

This links perfectly with our Virtues for this half term to be Attentive and Discerning, reminding ourselves when we can see Christ in our Lives and also when we too can be Christ to others by living out our values.

Next week is our second Open Morning date for prospective parents of children who begin Reception class in September 2024. Please share this date with anyone who may wish to come and see our wonderful school - they can call the school office to book their place.

Finally - A pianist is needed for our school Mass band! Please call in to the school office if you are able to support us!

Our school website is regularly updated. Please have a look here - [St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Home \(st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk\)](http://st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)

Updates:

November TEN:TEN Newsletter The November newsletter from Ten:Ten to support you with prayer at home www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/

Have a great weekend

God bless

Mr A. Wilkes

Principal

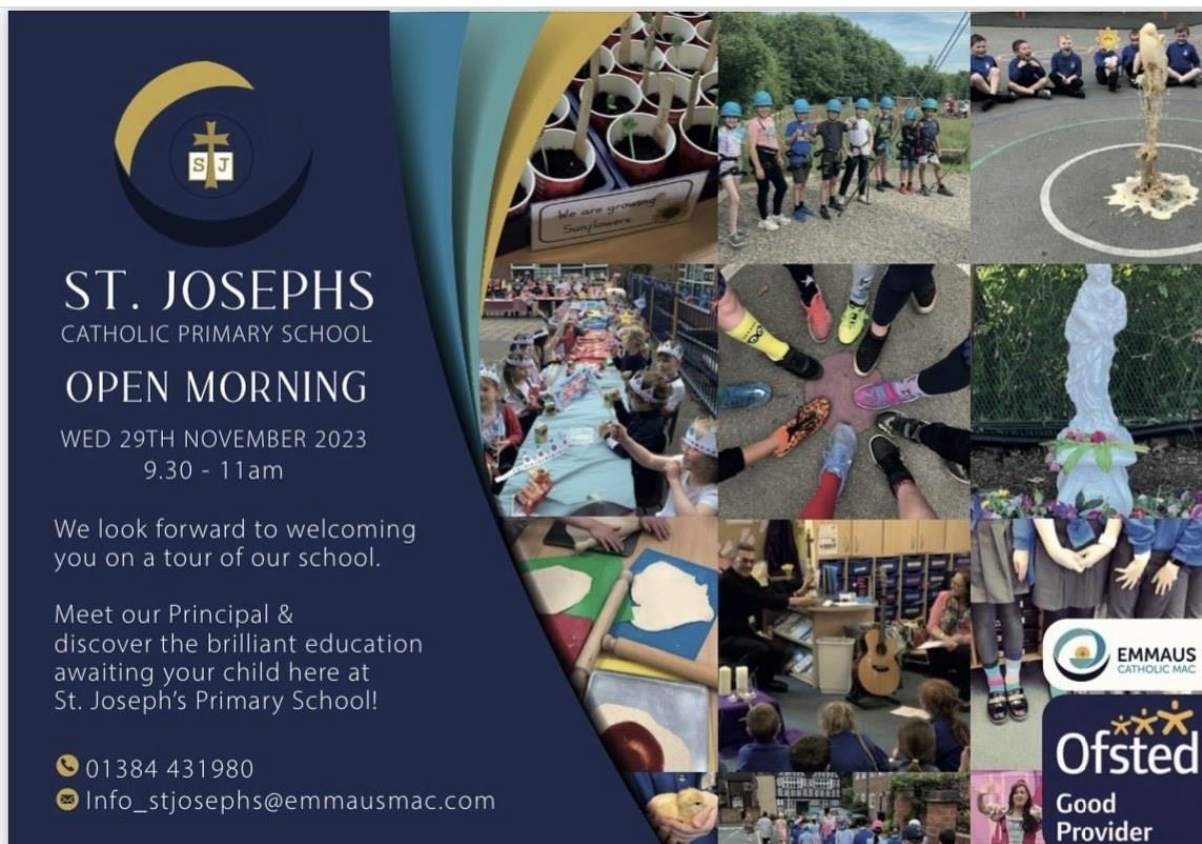
Reverse Advent Calendar 2023


Reverse advent calendar

During Advent, please bring in donations of the following items to help those people who are less fortunate than us. Your donations will be shared between 'Project Gambia' and the Stourbridge food bank. Thank you so much



St Joseph's Open Day for September 2024 intake- November 29th. All are welcome! Please call to confirm your place.





ST. JOSEPHS
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
OPEN MORNING
WED 29TH NOVEMBER 2023
9.30 - 11am

We look forward to welcoming you on a tour of our school.

Meet our Principal & discover the brilliant education awaiting your child here at St. Joseph's Primary School!

☎ 01384 431980
✉ Info_stjosephs@emmausmac.com


Ofsted
Good Provider

Reminder- Family Mass takes place each Saturday at 5:00pm. Please come and join us! The latest Parish newsletter can be found at this link

[OLAS-Bulletin-19th-November-2023.pdf](#) and November scripture reflection [OLAS-SCRIPTURE-COMMENTARIES-NOVEMBER-2023-1.pdf](#)



1 - Instagram @STJOSEPHSCATHOLICPRIMARY

Twitter @StJoStourbridge

Children's liturgy - The Solemnity of Christ the King, 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 25: 31-46



Matthew
25:31

Jesus tells us about the kind of person who will be welcome in his kingdom. Can you remember what they did to make Jesus happy?

This group of people fed Jesus when he was hungry, gave him a drink when he was thirsty. They welcomed him when he was a stranger and lonely, they gave him clothes when he didn't have any. They visited him when he was sick and in prison.

But how do they feel and what do they say when they hear all this? They are very surprised and they ask Jesus when it was that they did all these things.

What does Jesus answer? He says, "when you did this to the least of my brothers or sisters, you did it to me." What do you think this means?

We are all God's children. We are all brothers and sisters – members of one big global family. And Jesus is saying that he is in each one of us. And so, every time we help someone else, every time we treat someone kindly, welcome them or share with them, then we are doing this to Jesus.

Can you think of a time when you have done one of these things? When have you given food to someone hungry or a drink to someone thirsty? When have you welcomed someone or given someone in need some clothes? When have you visited someone who is sick? Or can you think of a time when someone has shared with, welcomed or cared for you? How did you feel?

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is in each and every person around the world? And, if Jesus is in every person and we are all brothers and sisters, how do you think we should treat each other?

This week, let's all try to remember that Jesus is in every person and to treat people as Jesus wants us to. Let's try to help those who are hungry, thirsty, lonely and sick.

What will you do this week to help them?

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may see Christ in all people and be a shining example of Jesus' message to us. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world: that each person may know they are special and all people may be treated with love and generosity. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may all do what we can to share food and water with those who hunger and thirst, to care for those who are sick or in prison and to welcome those who are lonely. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer:

God of all, show us how to answer your call so we may see your kingdom – a place where no one is hungry, thirsty, or alone – here on earth. Amen

Reflection adapted from Cafod children's liturgy

Curriculum



Have you seen the curriculum area on our school website? It is full of information about the progression of key knowledge and skills that our children learn throughout their time at school. Our curriculum is designed to ensure that the precise knowledge and skills are learnt and reinforced so

that the children develop a wide schema (web of knowledge) and are able to know more and remember more during their time at school and are prepared for their next stage in education.

Ofsted agreed that we are continuing to develop an ambitious curriculum so that in all areas the children are able to achieve well and use the techniques that they have been taught to tackle a variety of challenges. Our curriculum is rooted in the teachings of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teachings so we make links with the children's learning to areas such as caring for our world, the dignity of workers, developments for the common good and more.

To bring the curriculum to life, we also plan for educational visits and visitors that enrich learning further.

You can view your child's learning in all areas at the link below.

[St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Curriculum Plans \(st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk\)](http://st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)

Live Simply Update



Please continue to bring in any food that you can donate which will be taken to the food bank. Our WOW walk to school once a week is up and running! Can you walk to school once a week? Talk to a friend or family member about God's creatures that you see on your journey.

Stones/pebbles needed for our prayer garden - Thank you for the stones and pebbles that have arrived in school. With a few extra we can begin to paint and add prayers for our garden area.

Catholic Social Teaching



Each class has a Catholic Social Teaching focus this year. Links will be made to this throughout the school year. Catholic social teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world.

Stewardship and Option for the Poor - Pope Francis invites everyone on the planet to consider how our actions are affecting the earth and the poorest people. Everything is interconnected, and all of creation praises God. It is our Christian vocation to care for creation.

Thank you for all of the Christmas shoeboxes that have been brought into school for our Gambia appeal!

Gifts from God



The following children have been awarded certificates in our Gifts from God assembly this afternoon and will be invited to 'Brew with Mr W' on Friday afternoon to discuss their achievements. Well done children for your hard work and commitment to our school values.

*Gifts from God will return next week as confession was taking place this week!

	Gospel values	Good work
Reception	Nellie	Aarianna
Year 1	Belle	Eli & Sam
Year 2	Willow	Flo H
Year 3	Georgina	Francesca
Year 4	Mathilda	Daniel
Year 5	Xanthe	Iris
Year 6	Daisy	Whole Class

Diary Dates -Autumn Term



*Please note all term dates are available on the calendar section of the school website

[St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Calendar \(st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk\)](http://st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)

Wednesday 29th November - Year 6 Mass (for children)

Wednesday 29th November - 2nd Open Morning for prospective Reception children 2024

Friday 1st December - Catholic Social Teaching sharing assembly 2:40pm

Saturday 2nd December - OLAS Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 6th December - Music and Mince Pies concert 9:10am

Wednesday 6th December - Christmas jumper day (donations for Crisis)

Wednesday 13th December - Year 5 Stay and Pray 9:10am

Wednesday 13th December - Year 4 class Mass 2:20pm

Monday 18th December - Reception Christmas carols 2:30pm

Tuesday 19th December - Pantomime for the whole school

Wednesday 20th December - Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity dress rehearsal for children

Wednesday 20th December - Children's Christmas dinner day (more information available soon)

Thursday 21st December - Nativity for parents 1:30pm and 6:00pm

Friday 22nd December - Whole school Mass 9:10am, Christmas carols 2:45pm

Friday 22nd December - School closes for Christmas

Future date for the diary:

Saturday July 6th at 12:00pm - Year 4 Holy Communion at Our Lady and All Saints Church.

PTA updates



Upcoming events:

Friday 1st December - Christmas jumper/uniform sale 3.15pm KS2 playground

Coming soon...

We are very lucky to benefit from such an active and passionate PTA - thank you for your ongoing support to our school!

Please see the below videos for how our outside area has been transformed in school with thanks to the PTA! We have lots of exciting plans including a gardening club, vegetable patch, the use of a greenhouse, a pond area, new benches to listen to stories from the storytelling chair and areas for children to be responsible for. All showing how we are caring for our common home - how wonderful!

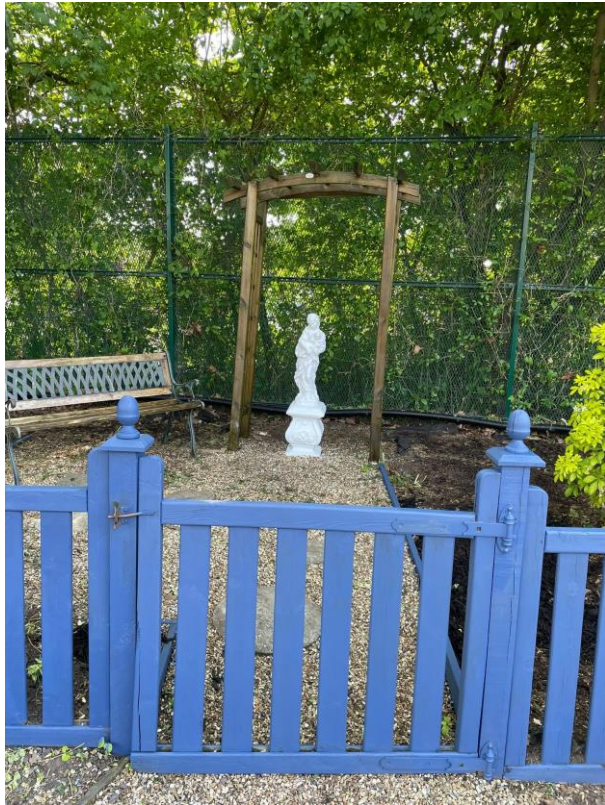
Thank you so much to our fantastic PTA!

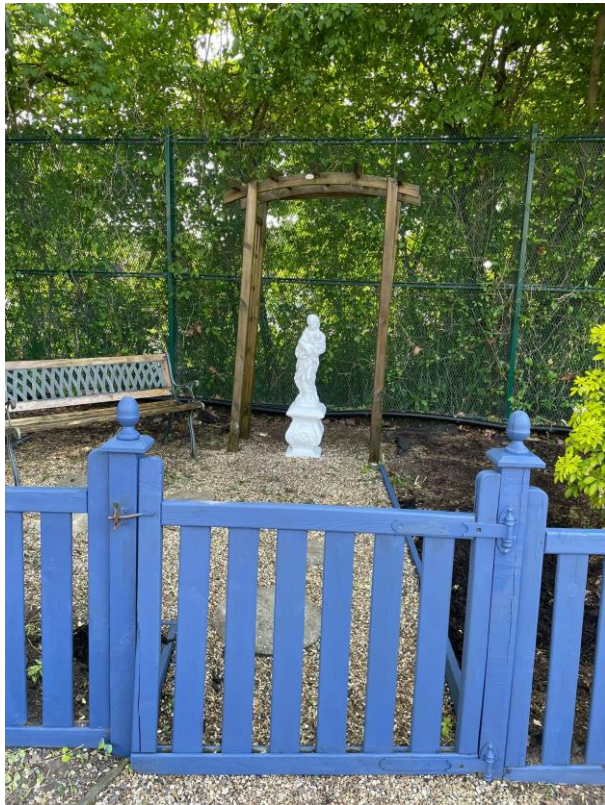
Please see the link below for an update on the PTA outdoor projects for the rest of this year. If you can help in any way, please do let your

class PTA representative know. Thank you to the PTA for preparing this wonderful slideshow! [OUTDOOR PROJECTS \(canva.com\)](https://www.canva.com)



Thank you so much to the PTA who joined us last Saturday and helped out with the outdoor area at school. The school environment looks absolutely wonderful and the children had a brilliant surprise on Monday morning! Thank you PTA!





PE Timetable



Please take note of your child's PE days for this half term.

Year 1 & Year 2 - Please remember to send PE kits back into school on Monday 6th November.

Reception Class - Friday

Year 1 - Thursday & Friday

Year 2 - Monday & Tuesday

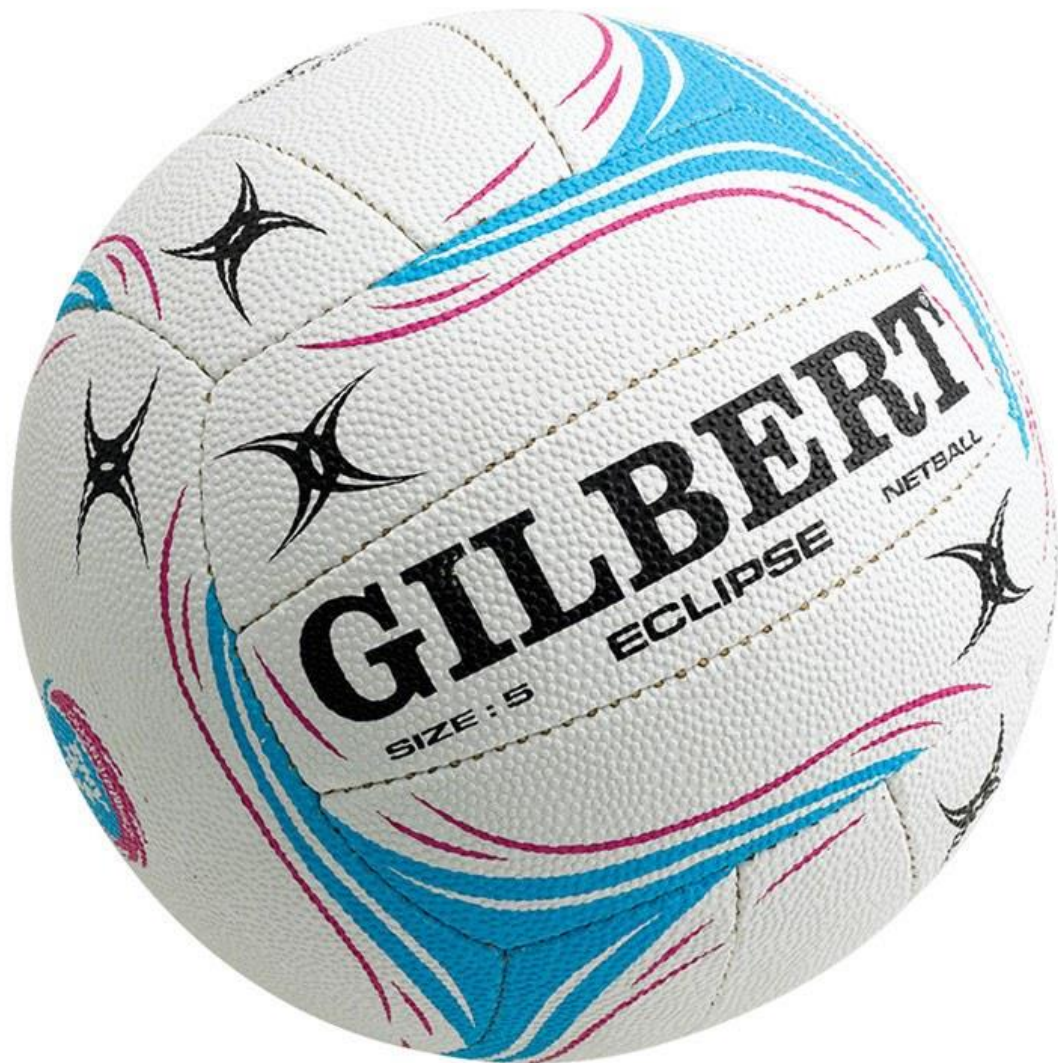
Year 3 - Tuesday & Thursday

Year 4 - Tuesday & Friday (Swimming)

Year 5 - Monday & Wednesday

Year 6 - Wednesday & Friday

Clubs



Lunchtime Clubs:

Tuesday - Cross Country - Years 4/5 & 6

Wednesday - Y6 leading 'Mindfulness group'

Wednesday - Y5/Y6 girls football training (to start after half term)

Thursday - Year 2 - 6 Choir (Mrs Cangiano)

If your child is interested in joining any of our Before & After school clubs, please contact the school office for more details.

Monday 3:25-4:25pm - DPA Drums

Tuesday 8am - KS2 Gymnastics (R&B) -spaces available

Wednesday 8am - Dodgeball - Years 1-6 (Mark Bennett)

Thursday 8am - KS1 Gymnastics (R&B) - spaces available

Thursday 3.15-4.15pm - Years 4 -6 Netball

Friday 8am - Archery Club - Years 1-6 (Mark Bennett)

Friday 3.15-4.45pm - Years 1-4 Football (Your sport)

Tuesday & Wednesday 3.15-4.30pm - Irish Dancing

Sport in the community



CALLING ALL YOUNG CRICKET FANS, Oldswinford Cricket Club run an U9's team that train throughout the winter and summer and also enter softball festivals. This year's team will be again coached and managed by Dave Hannam. This group is open to year 4 pupils only. Due to popular demand, we are going to be starting the U9's earlier this year after huge success last year reaching county finals. If your year 4 child would be interested in having a go, please follow the link below. Details of venue and cost are also included in this email.

Venue - Redhill School, Junction Road, Stourbridge, DY8 1JX

Time - 5-6pm

Dates - Friday 10th November to 15th December 2023 (6 Sessions)

Cost - £24.00 to be paid by card at the first session.

Can you please fill out the below link to confirm interest

If you require any further information please feel free to contact us.

Cheers

Rich

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfRAihDFeESIsyTfF7ly3_Zp-xlG0FGKbi8HGNx3IPI2n1A0A/viewform

Our new caterers and lunch menu



The children have been delighted with our new lunch menu at school. Meals can be pre-ordered daily or weekly on the new School Food United app, details were emailed out to all parents on Monday 27th February. Please remember to order before 8am. Pupils in Reception & KS1 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. Dinners for KS2 pupils are £2.30 per day.

School Menu- Autumn term



Menu autumn






WEEK 1

Allergy information available on request

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main				
Margherita Pizza (v)	Cottage Pie	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Crispy Beef Noodles	Fish and Chips
Vegetarian				
Teriyaki Noodles with Edamame (v)	Shepherdess Pie (v)	Quorn Fillet with Roast Potatoes and Gravy (v)	Cheese and Tomato Quesadilla with Mexican Rice (v)	Veggie Nuggets and Chips (v)
3rd Options				
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Pasta with Lentil Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Pasta with Lentil Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw
Deli				
Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese
Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables
Iced Carrot Cake	Flapjack	Plum Pudding Cake	Jelly Crunch Pot	Apple Crumble and Custard
Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt

Fresh seasonal salad and bread available daily. Fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily as an alternative to the dessert of the day.

30th Oct, 20th Nov, 11th Dec, 1st Jan, 22nd Jan, 12th Feb, 4th Mar, 25th Mar






WEEK 2

Allergy information available on request

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main				
Macaroni Cheese (v)	Pork Sausage and Mashed Potatoes	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Curry with Rice	Fish and Chips
Vegetarian				
Mild Chickpea Coconut Curry with Rice (v)	Vegan Sausage and Mashed Potatoes (v)	Roasted Vegetable Tart with Roast Potatoes and Gravy (v)	Veggie Curry with Rice (v)	Cheese Toastie and Chips (v)
3rd Options				
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Pasta with Lentil Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Pasta with Lentil Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw
Deli				
Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese
Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables
Vegan Sweet Potato and Ginger Cake	Fruit Shortbread	Cinnamon Toast Bake	Chocolate and Beetroot Brownie	Fruit Jelly
Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt

Fresh seasonal salad and bread available daily. Fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily as an alternative to the dessert of the day.

6th Nov, 27th Nov, 18th Dec, 8th Jan, 29th Jan, 19th Feb, 11th Mar

Allergy information available on request

13th Nov, 4th Dec, 25th Dec, 15th Jan, 5th Feb, 26th Feb, 18th Mar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main				
Ratatouille Pasta Bake (v)	Meat Feast Pizza	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Gyros	Fish and Chips
Vegetarian				
Korean Cauliflower with Rice (v)	Veggie Pizza (v)	Mediterranean Gnocchi Bake (v)	Mushroom and Spinach Enchilada (v)	Cheese and Tomato Pinwheel with Chips (v)
3rd Options				
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Pasta with Lentil Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Pasta with Lentil Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Salmon Mayo or Coleslaw
Deli				
Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Deli Option with Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese
Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables
Sticky Orange Cake	Gainsborough Tart	Fruit Crumble with Custard	Cinnamon Fruit Pudding	Chocolate Mousse
Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt

Fresh seasonal salad and bread available daily. Fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily as an alternative to the dessert of the day.



Attendance



Congratulations to Year 6 who have achieved the highest attendance this week. You will receive an extra play time!

Attendance for the whole school for this week is 96.52%.

Here is the attendance for this week for each class:

Year R: 93.7%

Year 1: 98.3%

Year 2: 97.7%

Year 3: 94.7%

Year 4: 96.7%

Year 5: 95.7%

Year 6: 98.7%

Please make sure your child is in school every day unless ill. Remember illnesses such as colds can be managed well with Calpol and although children can feel unwell first thing in a morning they do tend to brighten up during the day. We will always contact you if we are concerned that your child has become unwell throughout the day.

If there is no reason provided for your child's absence an unauthorised code is marked in the register. This will impact your child's overall attendance. Please contact school before 8.55am where possible and leave a message . If we are not aware of why your child is not in school we will try and contact you, if we are unable to contact the parent/carer we may call one of the other contacts on your child's records.

Please try to be as punctual as possible, we have noticed a small number of children are arriving late to school. If your child arrives after the close of the registration period (9.05am) this again is recorded as an unauthorised absence on the register and will affect your child's overall attendance figure. If your child arrives at school after 8.55am they MUST be accompanied by a parent/carer for signing in purposes.

In line with Government guidance all pupils who test positive for COVID-19 are recorded as ill in the register.

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals



If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,

We get an extra [£1,385 (for primary schools) / £985 (for secondary schools) – these figures are for the 2022/2023 financial year] for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

For example, we've previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Universal infant free school meals

Currently, pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You shouldn't confuse UIFSM with free schools meals and the pupil premium.

If your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

Does my child have to eat the free school meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

How do I register?

You only need to register once at the school.

To register, please go to www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals

If you need further information, you can contact the Free School Meals Teams by:

Telephone - 01384 814988

Email - freeschoolmeals.benefits@dudley.gov.uk

More information

For more information about pupil premium go to our website, which contains details of how the pupil premium has been spent in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year.

Safeguarding



You can reach out to Mr Wilkes, Mrs McCole or Mrs Riley or any member of staff in school.

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) for this school are:



Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mr A. Wilkes



Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs J. McCole



Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs M Riley

Dudley Early Help Strategy





2 - National Online Safety

This week we have emailed you with information on how to sign up for resources, courses and webinars around online safety using the National Online Safety platform. I will shortly add suggested resources to your parent 'watch list' which I believe will be of great support to us all as we keep our children safe in an ever changing environment online. Please do sign up to this fantastic resource which we also use regularly in school. All schools within Emmaus have been provided with this opportunity to support online safety of our children.

Within school, we are able to see which courses that you have completed, but not any other details. Please ensure that you select the 'parent/carer' user group when you sign up.



3 - Please scan for our Instagram page.

Twitter @StJoStourbridge

Contact us



Mr Wilkes and Mrs McCole are available at the start and the end of the school day and can usually be contacted by telephone throughout the school day or a meeting arranged with a senior member of staff.

You will always receive a warm welcome at St Joseph's!

If you have any concerns or worries, no matter how small, please let us know so we can do everything we can to make things better and resolve your concerns. Never hesitate to get in touch. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Telephone-01384 431980

Email - info_stjosephs@emmausmac.com