



Friday 24th April

Our Emmaus and Diocese Mission

Forming Christ-centred pilgrims of hope with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for justice

Dear Parents

What beautiful weather are having this week! It has been a very busy week in school as we surge forward into the summer term. The children are enjoying new topics of learning as well as spending time outside and on the field for our Key Stage 2 children. This week I wished to provide several updates at the start of the term:

Staffing updates:

I would like to share with our school community that Mrs Southwood, our Reception teacher each Thursday and Friday, and Miss Rollason, our Year 4 teacher, will be leaving St Joseph's at the end of the summer term. Of course, we will thank and say a proper 'farewell' to both highly valued members of staff closer to the summer term, but I felt it appropriate to make parents aware due to the adverts being live. We thank both teachers for their commitment to our school and children and ensuring a successful end to the school year in Reception and Year 4.

Next, at the end of the spring term, Mrs Cheslin, who has been a teaching assistant at our school for 25 years, left St Joseph's to enjoy a well earned retirement. We thank Mrs Cheslin for such a huge contribution to St Joseph's for over two decades and wish her well in her next adventure!

Friday 1st May – Feast of St Joseph the Worker:

Next Friday 1st May, we will be celebrating the feast of our school patron, St Joseph, by going on pilgrimage to Our Lady and All Saints Church for Mass at **9:45am**. All parents, family members and parishioners are welcome to join us for this very special service. On their return to school, the children will learn further about the meaning of 'vocation' and ask 'Who is God calling me to be?' Finally, we will officially open our new glasshouse theatre in the forest area of school and the children will have the opportunity to visit this area of school for the first time.

Memorial garden landscaping:

We are delighted with our recently landscaped memorial garden in school. The results of the work were overwhelming and it has been wonderful to see the children already have the opportunity for prayer and reflection in this area of school. A quiet place for prayer and reflection in the heart of our school.

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Pilgrims of Hope

Gospel reflection: John 10:1-10

In today's reading Jesus tells us a parable in which he is the gate which takes us to God. But can you remember what Jesus says right at the end of today's gospel?

Jesus says, "I have come so that you might have life – life in all its fullness." What do you think it means to have life in all its fullness? Living life to the full doesn't mean having all the latest toys or clothes or the biggest house. And it doesn't mean just having all the things we need in life, like enough food to eat and somewhere safe to live, although this is a really important part of living life to the full.

It also means being the best person we can be, living our lives well and having the chance to use our gifts and talents for the good of all.

What gifts and talents do you have? What are you good at?

Do you always make the most of the gifts that you have? Do you always try to be the best person you can be?

Let's do all that we can this week to live our lives to the full – doing all that we can to be the best people we can be and using our gifts and talents for the good of others. And let's do all that we can to help others to live their lives to the full too – people here who we see every day and our brothers and sisters around the world. What will you do this week to live life to the full and to help others to do the same?

Amen.

Adapted from Cafod children's liturgy

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Gifts from God

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Gifts from God will return after Easter.

Year group	Values and Virtues	Good Work
Reception	Beau	Demi
1	Willow	Maeva
2	Marco	Arianna
3	Isabelle	Jacob
4	Harry	Henry
5	Francesca	Vinny
6	Leo D	Isla A

Attendance – Well done everyone, our whole school attendance is excellent!

Attendance	
Whole school weekly attendance	98.4%
Whole school attendance (full year)	97%
National average	94.6%
Reception weekly attendance	96.3%
Year 1 weekly attendance	97.7%
Year 2 weekly attendance	98.2%
Year 3 weekly attendance	97.7%
Year 4 weekly attendance	98.3%
Year 5 weekly attendance	100%
Year 6 weekly attendance	100%
Well done to Year 5 and Year 6 who have achieved the highest attendance this week and will receive an extra play time! Keep it up!	

Kind Hearts, A hunger for Justice

From time to time, there may be occasions that emerge when you need our support. Never hesitate to get in touch should you need our support. I am the DSL in school and Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Riley and Mrs Faux-Conduit are the DDSs. Mrs Mitchell is also our SENCo and Mental Health Leader. School safeguarding information and our Early Help offer can be found at this link on the school website [St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Safeguarding](#)

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In school we are also very fortunate to have Mrs Dulson as our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant and Mental Health First Aider and can support your child in a whole manner of ways to support their wellbeing [St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Mental Health and ELSA](#) . **We're here to help when you need us!**

Questioning minds

Dates for your diary – please keep an eye on the link below while dates are added:
[St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Calendar](#)

Questioning minds – Term Dates

The 2026-27 term dates can be found below:

	Starts	Half term	Ends
Autumn Term	Tuesday 1 st September 2026	Monday 26 th Oct 2026 to Fri 30 th Oct 2026	Friday 18 th December 2025
Spring Term	Monday 4 th January 2027	Monday 15 th Feb 2027 to Friday 19 th Feb 2027	Thursday 25 th March 2027
Summer Term	Monday 12 th April 2027	Monday 31 st May 2027 to Friday 4 th June 2027	Wednesday 21 st July 2027

The following INSET Days agreed for 2026/27:

- *Tuesday 1st September 2026*
- *Wednesday 2nd September 2026*
- *Friday 2nd October 2026*
- *Friday 12th February 2027*
- *Monday 28th June 2027*

In addition to the five INSET Days listed above, a sixth INSET Day is also proposed to facilitate a MAC-wide INSET Day. The proposed date for this INSET Day will be confirmed in due course.

Inset Days

Please note a further inset day has been added. As a Multi-Academy Company, Emmaus are able to use a 6th inset day for staff development and formation. The inset days for the rest of the academic year are as follows:

Friday 26th June

Friday 17th July

Monday 20th July

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ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

As such, school will close for pupils for the summer break on **Thursday 16th July at 3:15pm**

Have a great weekend, God bless

Mr A. Wilkes

Executive Principal

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