



ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Newsletter December 22nd 2023

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ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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A message from our Principal



Dear parents,

While typing my final message of the autumn term, I have reflected back on the calendar year that we have spent together in school - my first here at St Joseph's as Principal. Where has the time gone?! I am incredibly proud of the hard work and progress that has been made at our school. From our inspection back in February, the success of our Year 6 children, the beautiful Masses and performances that we have celebrated together, the trips and visits, the Coronation celebrations, our visit from Jude Bellingham and of course the magical Nativity performances this week among many many other events and occasions that are memorable for the children. Most importantly, St Joseph's is a happy and nurturing place for the children and community that we are proud to serve. There is lots to be excited about at school!

Thank you, parents and families, for your support throughout this year and beyond. There is a strong sense of community and partnership here at St Joseph's which we are extremely appreciative of and recognise how beneficial this is for the children.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the parent survey. We had 90 responses which is a great sample to be able to analyse. I have read and analysed each survey and will provide a summary early in the new year. I'm delighted to say that the surveys were overwhelmingly positive .

This week has been understandably incredibly busy. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 performed their carol concert and Nativities beautifully for the school community this week. We were all so impressed with their delivery of lines, singing and dancing. Thank you parents and families for coming to watch and also supporting the children at home. The children absolutely loved the Christmas pantomime - thank you to the PTA for organising this special treat for us all. And today, Father Philip celebrated our final Mass of the term. Let us all take Father's message with us as we continue along our Advent journey to the birth of Jesus - 'Christmas is about sharing and receiving. The most important gift of all is Jesus Christ who we all share in his love. The presents that we receive are all great, but we must remember that this is once per year, whereas Jesus is available for us each and every day.' We were also treated to live music throughout our Mass today. Below I managed to catch an action shot of Mrs Addis (LGB member), Mrs Cangiano and Father Philip mid rehearsal! Thank you to each, it made for a wonderful experience for us all.

On behalf of the children, staff and local governing body I wish you all a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas, and we will see you all back in school on Monday January 8th.

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 Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Home (st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)) *Please note, the termly study plan and all curriculum plans are available on our website.

Updates:

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

God bless

Mr A. Wilkes

Principal



Catholic Social Teaching



Please see the below initiatives that are led by our new Caritas ambassadors in school!

Reverse Advent Calendar 2023

Reverse advent calendar

Thank you for your generous donations for this year's Reverse Advent Calendar. Donations will be shared between 'Project Gambia' and the Stourbridge food bank.



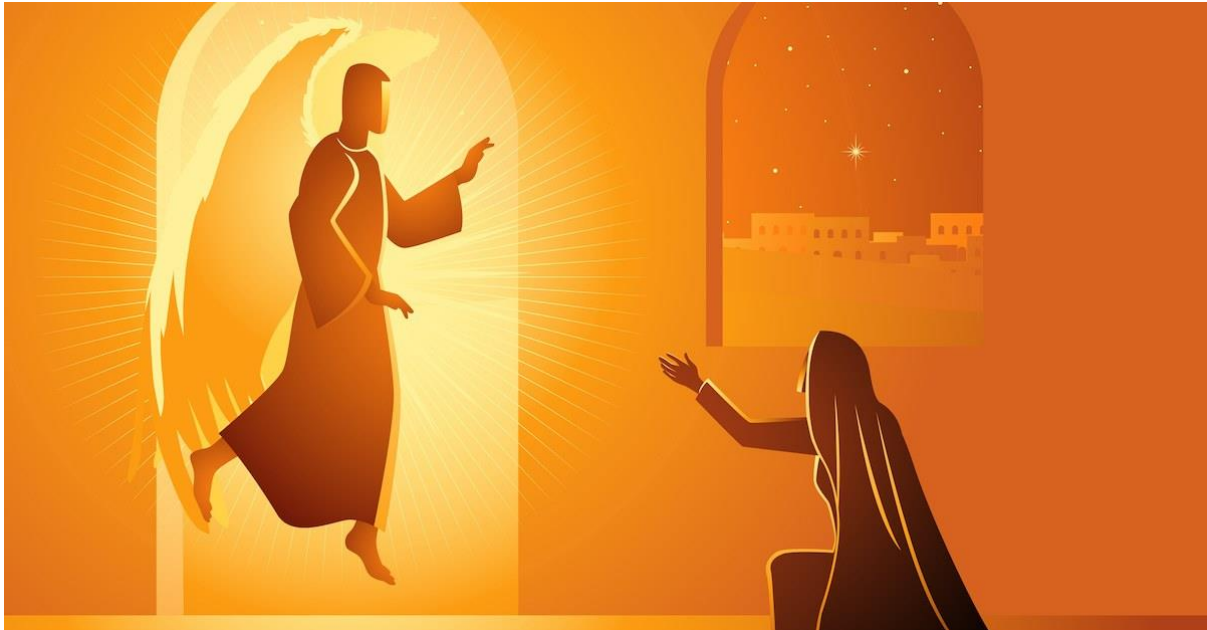
1 - Our Caritas Ambassadors wish to invite you to go to an extra Mass for a child who cannot currently go due to conflict taking place in their country.

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-17th-December-2023-1.pdf](#) and December scripture reflection [OLAS-COMMENTARIES-DECEMBER-2023.pdf](#)



2 - Instagram [@STJOSEPHSCATHOLICPRIMARY](#)

Twitter [@StJoStourbridge](#)



The angel Gabriel comes to tell Mary that she will have a very special baby, that he will be the Son of God and will be called Jesus.

How do you think Mary felt when she heard this news?

Mary was frightened at first. Her life was going to change forever. But she trusted in God and said “yes” to all that God asked of her.

The angel Gabriel is God’s messenger to Mary and he brings some very important news.

Have you ever been told a very important piece of news? Who was the messenger? Was it someone in your family, a teacher or a friend?

What did they tell you? For example was it about a new baby brother or sister, or was it that someone was coming to visit? Or something else?

How did you feel? Were you happy, excited, sad or frightened?

God wants us all to be his messengers in the world. To share the message that God loves everyone and that we are all part of one global family.

What do you think it means to be a global family? It means that we believe that people all over the world are our brothers and sisters, wherever they live, whatever they believe. That is a message that God wants us to share.

This is especially important at this time of year with Christmas coming so soon. Even though we are very busy and excited, we should take time to think about the true meaning of Christmas - that God loves all of us, rich or poor, happy or sad, big or little.

This week, could you be a messenger of good news to someone in your family, local community or around the world? Will you share God’s message of love by loving others?

Christmas is nearly here. Spend some time today remembering why Christmas is so special. That we are celebrating God’s love for us which he showed by sending his Son Jesus to live among us.

And let's remember all our brothers and sisters around the world in our prayers this week, because we are all part of one global family.

We want to be like Mary and answer "yes" to God when he calls us, spreading God's message of love and peace to all, and so we pray together:

We pray for our Church all over the world: that she may carry God's message of love by helping everyone in need. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for people in our world who try to share God's message of peace and love with others: that they may find strength to carry on even when it is difficult or dangerous. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may listen to God's message and share it with others in our words and in our actions. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer:

God of love, help us to be your messengers on earth, showing your love for all people in everything that we do. Amen

Reflection adapted from Cafod children's liturgy

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.

There will be no Gifts from God this week. The children will be enjoying Christmas parties in their classrooms & we will end the term with a Carol Service in the hall.

Gospel values

Good work

Reception

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

Arts Ambassadors



Arts Ambassadors

Mrs Cangiano had an overwhelming response for these new roles with over 80 applications! Thank you to all pupils who applied. We are pleased to announce that we have elected 12 Arts Ambassadors with representatives from each class from Year 1 to 6. The Arts Ambassadors will help to plan, promote and prepare arts events, feedback to Mrs Cangiano about arts events and lessons and collaborate to develop the arts further at St. Joseph's.

Arts Ambassadors:

Year 1 – Tommy and Charlie A

Year 2 – Frankie and Flo

Year 3 – Peony and Bethan

Year 4 – Eliza and Grace

Year 5 – Minie and Isabella

Year 6 – Frankie and Amelia

Active Play Leaders



Our new Active Play Leaders have made a great start organising games at break and lunchtimes for our Key Stage 1 children. The children have designed their own code of conduct and new exciting games. Well done children, it is great to see our young people taking on more and more leadership roles within school in a whole range of areas.

Thank you to Coach Mark Bennett for training our play leaders!

Attendance



Congratulations to Year 2 and 3 who have achieved the highest attendance this week. You will receive an extra play time!

Attendance for the whole school for this week is 95.85%.

Here is the attendance for this week for each class:

Year R: 94.8%

Year 1: 94.7%

Year 2: 98%

Year 3: 98%

Year 4: 97.3%

Year 5: 96.3%

Year 6: 91.7%

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.

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)

Friday 22nd December - Children's Christmas parties (school uniform and the PTA will provide treats)

Friday 22nd December - School closes for Christmas at 3:15pm

Monday 8th January - School reopens for the spring term

Future date for the diary: (Future Mass and class assembly times to be added)

Saturday 6th January -1st session for First Confession 4pm in the Parish centre followed by Enrolment Mass for Preparation for First Confession (Year 3) 5pm OLAS

Thursday 18th January - PC Andrews to see Year 6 to support Y7 transition

Friday 2nd February 6:30pm - Year 6 Confirmation at Our Lady and All Saints Church

Monday 5th February - 7pm - Year 5 performing in the Hagley pyramid concert 'Electric Dreams' at Birmingham Symphony Hall (tickets available - school office have emailed parents a link to purchase tickets)

Thursday 8th February - final day of the first half of the spring term

Friday 9th February - School closed to children (Inset day)

Monday 19th February - school reopens for the second half of the spring term

Thursday 14th March - Y4/Y5 taking part in 'Sugar Swap'

Tuesday 12th March - 3:30pm-5:30pm Parents' evening night 1

Wednesday 13th March - 3:30pm-5:30pm Parents' evening night 2

Tuesday 19th March - St Joseph's Day

Friday 22nd March - final day of the spring term

Monday 8th April - School reopens for the start of the summer term

Monday 13th-Thursday 16th May - Y6 SATs week

Wednesday 22nd May - Friday 24th May Year 5 Alton Castle retreat residential

Friday 24th May - school closes for the end of the first half of the summer term

Monday 3rd June - school reopens for the second half of the summer term

Thursday 27th June - Y6 , Y1 and Reception smoothie making

Thursday 27th June - 5:30pm new Reception parents (September 2024) induction evening

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

Friday 19th July - school closes for the summer holidays

Monday 22nd July - School closed for children (Inset day)

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)

PTA updates



Two very important updates from our PTA below. Thank you to all parents who have contributed to the fundraisers that have taken place over the last few weeks. All of the money raised will greatly benefit our children!

Upcoming events:

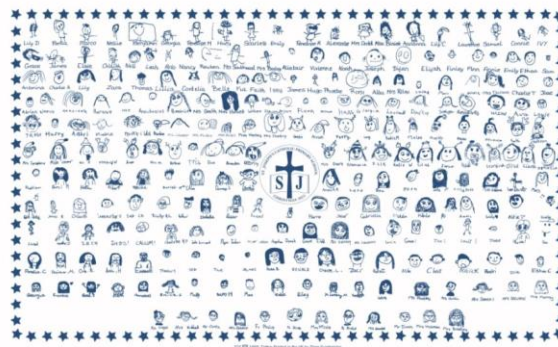
TBC

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

Thank you so much to our fantastic PTA!



3 - Thank you SO much to all the local businesses and individuals that have helped us with our amazing 2023 raffle prize haul! Get your tickets on Parent Pay now! Please feel free to offer tickets to friends and family to help your PTA raise as much as possible for our school this year! Tickets will be drawn on 20th December, good luck!



4 - Thank you to everyone for your tea towel orders (and to the children for their amazing portraits!) You've helped us raise a wonderful £275 which we'll be using to purchase books and other items requested by our class teachers. The tea towels are now being printed and will be with you by the end of term. PTA have purchased a few extras, so if you've missed out please speak to your class rep.

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

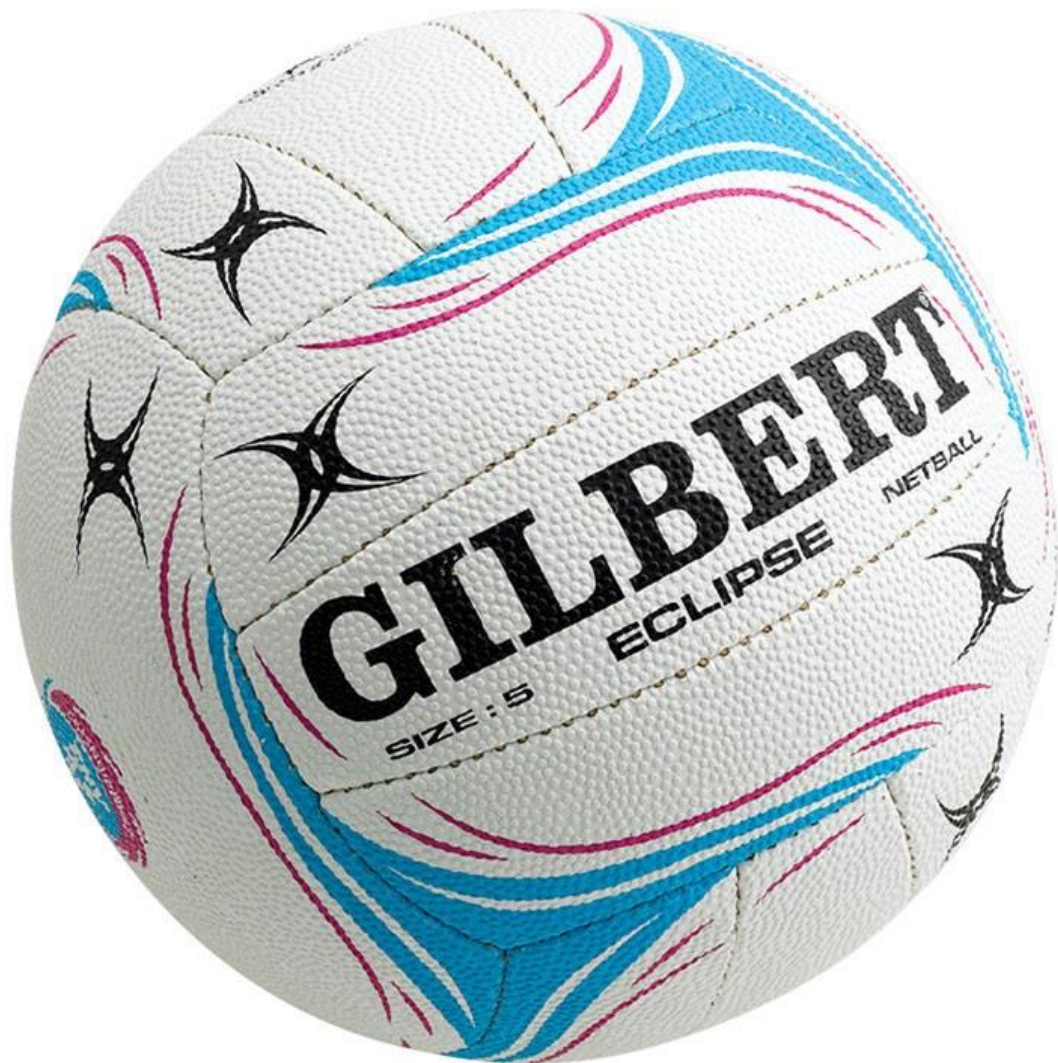
Year 3 - Tuesday & Thursday

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 (RB) - 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

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.



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





5 - 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.



6 - 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