



ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter December 8th 2023

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ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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A message from our Principal



Dear parents,

As we continue our journey in Advent towards the birth of Christ, we have spoken this week in school about 'hope'. The hope we have as we watch for Christ's second coming. The children enjoyed watching the lighting of the first Advent candle, the change in colour of areas for prayer to purple and the One Life music liturgies that they have taken part in each morning. A wonderful start to Advent.

Our music and mince pies event on Wednesday was sensational! The children left us all in awe of their talents. Many are at different stages in their musical journeys yet demonstrated such passion and confidence. We were all very proud of the children who took part. We offer a huge 'thank you' to Mrs Cangiano for preparing and leading this event, and to the PTA for serving refreshments.

Thank you all for donations of cakes as well as the money raised for Crisis. We have managed to raise **£411.32** towards this extremely worthy charity. There is still time to donate if you have not done this yet.

As Catholics, it is our duty to care for those less fortunate and to be stewards of God's creation. As such, this week we have launched our new 'Caritas Ambassadors' in school. The ambassadors are a social action group who are aiming to tackle local, national and global issues that they are concerned about. Further information can be found in the Catholic Social Teaching section below.

There are, of course, many more Christmas events coming up. Please do check the diary below so that nothing is missed. We will also send further messages regarding some of the larger events in school.

Parent survey:

This week we have emailed a link to a parent questionnaire to gain your views at the end of the first term of the academic year. Thank you so much to those who have completed the questionnaire so far - over 60 parents. Your views and recommendations are very important to us and I can assure you that I read each completed questionnaire. There are already actions that have been put in place following recommendations that I have received this week. The link is below; please do complete a questionnaire for each child who attends our school. Thank you.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yzpMTB1gnUK8UBkrjXrTK2A-1ki-yT5BlqJCY5RKfq1UNTRKNV3TVRQT0hJNIIQWFVVRjc1UUZFUY4u>

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 December 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

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

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



Some children around the world cannot go to church because there is conflict.

You are invited to go to an extra Mass for a child who cannot go because of conflict in their country.



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-3rd-December-2023.pdf](#) and December scripture reflection [OLAS-COMMENTARIES-DECEMBER-2023.pdf](#)



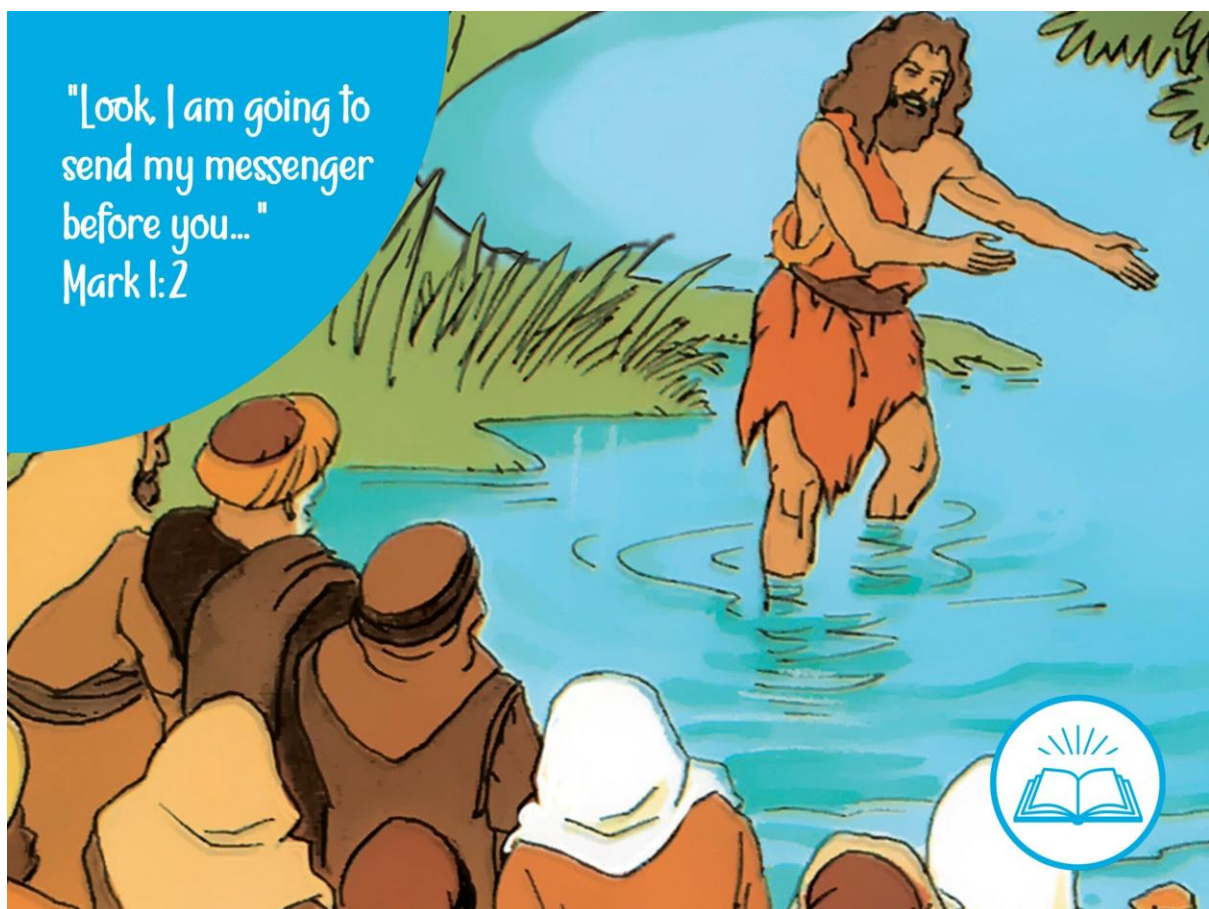


2 - Instagram @STJOSEPHSCATHOLICPRIMARY

Twitter @StJoStourbridge

Children's liturgy - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Mark 1: 1-8



Today we hear about John the Baptist and how he was a messenger for God, preparing people for the coming of Jesus. What do you remember about John in this reading?

What does he wear? What does he eat? What does he do in the river?

How do we prepare during Advent?

We put up a Christmas tree and decorate it. We buy presents for other people and we wrap them up.

When John the Baptist began to prepare the way for Jesus, it wasn't just for his friends and family. His message was for everyone who would listen.

When we prepare for Jesus we can also remember people who are part of our worldwide family.

Do you know how people prepare during Advent in any other countries around the world? Have you ever been to another country during Advent or for Christmas?

Prayer is a way that we can prepare for Jesus too. We can also try to be kind and generous to other people and say sorry for all the things that we've done wrong. We can say sorry in prayer to God, and also we can say sorry to the people we have hurt by our actions.

We can get ready to welcome Jesus by making sure our hearts are full of love and care for other people and by not doing things that hurt others. Whether that's not saying unkind things or making sure we share. We can also make sure that we don't hurt others by taking care of the world so that it's a nice place for everyone to live. We can make sure that we only buy what we need so that there is enough for others. And we can make sure we pay a fair price so that those who grow our food, or make our clothes, or our toys, can earn enough money for themselves and their families.

Can you think of other ways we can prepare for the coming of Jesus?

When you are preparing for Christmas this week, why not think about all the other people around the world who are also getting ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Maybe you could say a prayer for them this week.

John the Baptist asks us to get ready for Jesus and so we pray together for God's help:

We pray for all people around the world who are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus: that we may not forget those who need our help at this special time. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all people who are poor, hungry, sick or alone: that they may be filled with the joy and peace of Christ. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish community, family and friends: that we may be kind and generous to others as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer:

Generous God, as we prepare for the coming of your Son Jesus, help us to remember all our brothers and sisters in our global family and to share your love with them. 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.

	Gospel values	Good work
Reception	Huey	Bella
Year 1	Emily & Eli	Fia
Year 2	Florence	Frankie
Year 3	Lucy	Poppy
Year 4	Chloe	Albert
Year 5	Louis	Seb
Year 6	Holly	Joe

Attendance



Congratulations to Year 4 who have achieved the highest attendance this week. You will receive an extra play time!

Attendance for the whole school for this week is 97.58%.

Here is the attendance for this week for each class:

Year R: 95.6%

Year 1: 98%

Year 2: 96%

Year 3: 98.7%

Year 4: 99.7%

Year 5: 96.7%

Year 6: 98.3%

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)

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

Wednesday 13th December - Year 5 Stay and Pray 9:10am (Year 5 parents invited)

Monday 18th December - Reception Christmas carols 2:30pm (Reception parents/families invited)

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 (tickets available on parent pay from Tuesday - 2 per child)

Friday 22nd December - Whole school Mass 9:10am (families and parishioners welcome), Christmas carols 2:45pm (families welcome)

Friday 22nd December - School closes for Christmas

Monday 8th January - School reopens for the spring term

Future date for the diary:

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

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

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:

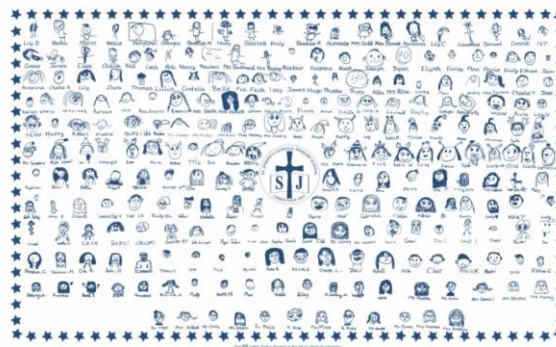
TBC

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

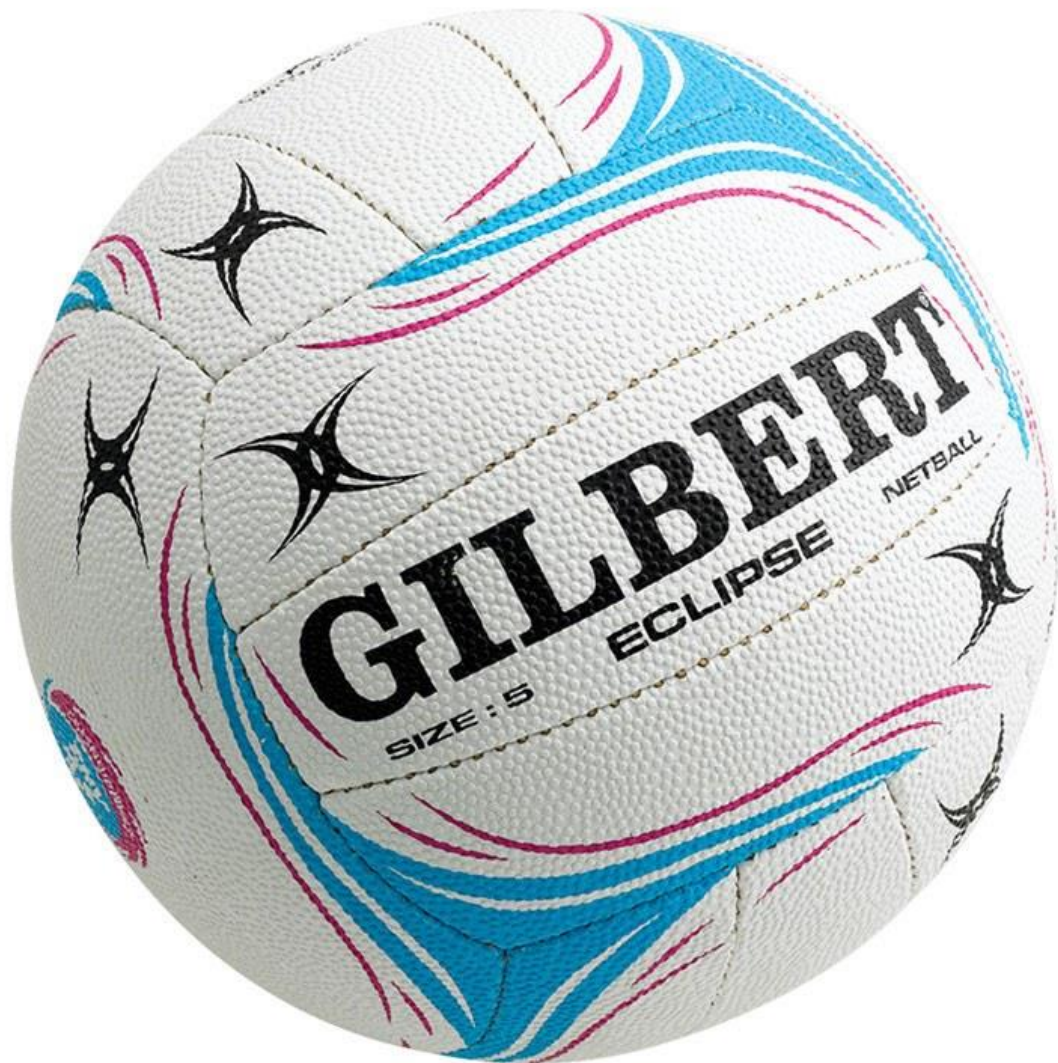
Year 3 - Tuesday & Thursday

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