

SCHOOL

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter 6th December

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A message from our Principal



Dear parents and families,

I hope that you are well . On Monday our children and staff wore purple to mark the start of Advent to focus our minds on this time of year when we are getting ready to welcome Jesus. We gathered together in darkness in the hall to light the first candle on our Advent wreath, the Hope candle. I spoke with the children about how we take the message of Hope in our hearts throughout Advent. This is a hope and anticipation of Christ's coming, and the great hope that he brings to the world around us.

Father Philip celebrated Year 4's class Mass with us this week. Father Philip has informed me that Year 4 led Mass beautifully - well done Year 4, we're very proud of you!

Staffing update:

Last week, I wrote to our Year 4 parents to inform them that Miss Gibbons has informed me that she will be leaving St Joseph's at the end of term and embarking on exciting and extremely rewarding Christian Mission work on board the Logos Hope Ship though OM (Operation Mobilisation). This work will entail Miss Gibbons travelling around the Caribbean Islands developing, discovering and applying her God-given gifts to serve our Lord.

We are, of course, very sad to be preparing to say farewell to Miss Gibbons, who has developed at St Joseph's as an Early Career Teacher into a wonderful practitioner in Year 4, leader of Science and choir over the last 3 years, it is also a time to feel pride for the role that Miss Gibbons has chosen to serve others. I am sure that you will join me in offering prayers and well wishes to Miss Gibbons at this time and when she sets sail early in January 2025. I will have a further update for our Year 4 parents very shortly.

Advent and Christmas events:

Earlier this week we sent out the list of upcoming events this December. With a couple of weeks of the term remaining, it starts to get very very busy in school! Do please check your email for this update. All dates can also be found on the school website.

PTA events:

Today in school the children have been treated to a planetarium - The Wondersome! Children in each class have had the opportunity to go inside the dome and learn about the solar system, explore galaxies, the moon landings and life on the International Space Station. What a wonderful, interactive experience! Thank you to the PTA for all of your support throughout the year and being able to provide such great experiences for the children.

I very much enjoyed joining the reindeer dash on Sunday, and the wreath making event sounded wonderful too. Thank you to everyone who came along to support!

News of the PTA Christmas raffle below.

St Joseph's - Carols by Candlelight, Sunday 14th December 4pm

Father Philip has kindly agreed for school to host our very first 'Carols by Candlelight' on Sunday 15th December at 4pm. Thank you to those who have responded to the form to say that you will be attending. If you are able to come, please could your child attend in their school uniform. We will be providing lyrics so that this can be a joyous school community event. Thank you.

Maths Week England: A note from Mrs Hickman

What a great bunch of mathematicians we have at our school! Mrs Hickman would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came to show her, or email her, the extra maths homework our children have been doing over the month of November. The children chose some activities from the maths "menus" from Maths Week England and some even created their own clever maths activities. She really enjoyed looking at them all and the photos! Well done to the winners of our Estimation Station too. This was the first time the guesses were exactly correct in KS2! Remember - Maths is everywhere!

Have a great weekend.

Mr. A Wilkes

Principal

Our school website is regularly updated - including autumn curriculum study plans! Please have a look here - <u>St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Home (st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)</u>

Catholic Life events PowerPoint - <u>St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Catholic</u> <u>Life Events 2023 - 2024 (st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)</u>

Updates:

Term dates - Term dates and insets are available on the calendar section of the school website.

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



1 - Our new Virtual School Tour - take a look!













2 - Limited places are available at our school. Please call the school office to find out more. All children are welcome at our school!

Catholic Social Teaching











3 - Instagram @STJOSEPHSCATHOLICPRIMARY

Twitter/X @StJoStourbridge

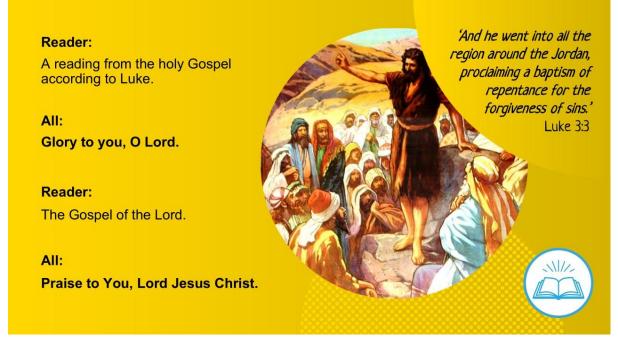
Our Lady and All Saints Church welcomes you! Mass Times -Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8:30am and 11:00am. Latest newsletter OLAS-Bulletin-17th-November-2024.pdf Scripture Reflection - OLAS-SCRIPTURE-REFLECTION-DECEMBER-24.pdf





4 - Parish Christmas Fayre

Children's liturgy - 2nd Sunday of Advent | Year C Luke 3:1-6



God speaks to John while he is in the desert. What does John then go out and do?

John the Baptist goes round to the people and tells them to be prepared for the coming of Jesus. He offers to baptise them so that their sins will be forgiven.

How do you think the people felt when they heard this?

Advent is a time when we think about our actions and try to make sure that we are ready for the coming of Jesus. We think about what we could do better and try to make a change to our lives.

What do you think you could do differently, so that you can try to be ready for Jesus?

CAFOD works with the Church and local organisations all over the world to help people change their lives for the better.

How does it make you feel to know that there are organisations around the world who help children, young people and grown-ups to change their lives for the better?

How will you make a difference to your own lives and to the lives of others around the world this week as you prepare for the coming of Jesus this Advent?

We try to make a change to our lives and the lives of others as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, and so we pray together:

We pray for all the leaders in the world: that they may treat their people and those of other countries with fairness and compassion. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all children around the world: that they may have the chance to change their lives for the better and look to the future with hope and happiness. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our communities, families and friends: that we may care for each other as Jesus taught us, and so change all our lives for the better. Lord, in your mercy

Closing prayer:

Merciful God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the people for the coming of your Son, Jesus. Help us to get ready as well. Lead us to make positive changes in our lives and the lives of others around the world. Amen.

Reflection adapted from Cafod Children's liturgy

The Wednesday Word- Preparation - Magazine - Page 1



Gifts from God



Parents have been informed if their child will receive a certificate next week but we will keep it a surprise from the rest of the school and publish their names here next week!

Gifts from God will return next week.

	Gospel values	Good work
Reception		
Year 1		
Year 2		
Year 3		
Year 4		
Year 5		
Year 6		

PE and School Sport



Year 5 and Year 6 boys football training 3:15-4:15pm Tuesday evenings (club ended for the winter)

Year 5 and Year 6 girls football training - Tuesday lunchtimes



5 - We have been awarded the FA Fair Access Award 2024 for our commitment to ensuring boys and girls have the same opportunities to take part in competitive football!



6 - The Year 5 and Year 6 boys won the Dudley 7-a-side competition and now qualify for the regional tournament. Well done boys!





7 - Our girls braved the wind and torrential rain to perform brilliantly in the Dudley 7-a-side competition. We were so proud of them! Well done girls!





Dear Parents / Carer/ Young Person

Here at Stourbridge Rugby Club, we are keen to spread our love for Rugby, far and wide. We offer Rugby from the year children start school, through primary & senior school , then Adult rugby right up to OAP's ! It really is a sport that you make friends for life !

Our aim is 'everyone playing rugby safely to the level they want to'

We believe we offer a safe inclusive environment for everyone to enjoy what this great sport has to offer.

We are getting in touch with you as we are pleased to offer you **FREE** admission with your children to come and enjoy rugby here at Stourton Park. Take a look at the remaining fixtures for this season.....



All Home fixtures are a 2.30pm kick off, with bar opening and food available to purchase from 1pm. We also offer Pre Match dining in the Clubhouse if you would like to sit down for lunch before the match, just call the office on 01384 395000 for further information or check out our website. www.stourbridgerugby.com for the latest menu.

To get free entry to one of our home games please call the office or email info@stourbridgerugby.com, we just need your contact details and the school that your child attends. We will then make sure your name is down on the "Free entry" list for your chosen fixture.

Thanks in advance for coming to watch this fabulous game, we hope you have a fantastic time.

Kind regards, Dr Steve Mann Stourbridge Rugby Club Ltd Stourton Park Bridgnorth Road Stourton DY7 6QZ

01384 395000

On behalf on the SRFC Committee.



Gardening club



Update from Mrs Bailey and Miss Biniek

The garden club are always in need of donations please, these could be large flower pots, cut offs of weed control fabric, blubs/seeds, wool for birds nests etc. Thank you for all your donations, they are very much appreciated.









Attendance

100%	Attendance Certificate Awarded to for Perfect Attendance!
Date	Signature

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

Attendance for the whole school for this week is 93.49%

Here is the attendance for this week for each class:

Year R: 78.7%

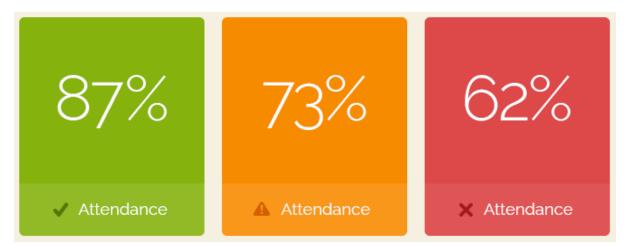
- Year 1: 91.1%
- Year 2: 98.3%
- Year 3: 93.7%
- Year 4: 95.7%
- Year 5: 97.3%
- Year 6: 96%

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.



Persistent Absence

Please note: From August 2024, updated Statutory Guidance Working Together To Improve School Attendance and the National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence issued by the Department For Education come in to effect. Early in September we will share the updates Emmaus attendance policy in line with this code.

Please find the link to our updated attendance policy: <u>Emmaus MAC Attendance Policy</u> (1).pdf (st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)

Attendance:

Updated Guidance from Dudley - including the updated penalty fine information <u>School</u> <u>attendance advice | Dudley Council</u>

Please note - Leave of absence requests cannot be authorised by the Principal (except in limited exceptional circumstances) and may lead to a penalty fine payable to the local authority.

We are seeing an increase in a small number of pupils whose attendance is falling below 90%. Once attendance falls below 90% pupils become Persistent Absentees. As part of our duty of care, parents will be written to highlighting their child's attendance has fallen below 90% and that we will be monitoring their attendance monthly. If your child's attendance continues to remain below 90% we will have no alternative but to refer to ESS (Dudley Education Support Service).

if your child arrives at school after the close of registers at 9.05am, an unauthorised late mark is registered and this will count as an absence.

Please see how absences affect children's learning:-

Above 97%: Less than 6 days absence a year – Less than 30 Hours of Learning Lost

Excellent attendance! These young people will almost certainly get the best levels/grades they can, leading to better prospects for the future. Pupils will also get into a habit of attending school which will help in the future.

95%: 10 days absence a year - 50 Hours of Learning Lost

These pupils are less likely to achieve their target levels/grades and will start to find it difficult to maintain a habit of attending school regularly. Pupils who take a 2-week holiday every year can only achieve 95% attendance.

90%: 19 days absence a year - 95 Hours of Learning Lost

The Government classes pupils in this group as "Persistent Absentees", and it will be almost impossible to keep up with work and achieve their target levels/grades. **Parents of young people in this group could also face the possibility of legal action being taken, including the issuing of Penalty Notices and Fines.**

Please support your child by ensuring they arrive at school each morning on time.

Diary Dates 2024-25

		L C	Cale	end	lar		
s	un	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		13	14	15	16	17	18
	12		21	22	23	24	
	19	20	28	29	3	3	31
	26	27	20	-		-	-

*Please note all term dates are available on the calendar section of the school website. Please look at the link below for the latest diary date.

<u>St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Calendar (st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)</u>

Dudley term dates - 2024/25 <u>St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Dudley Term</u> Dates 2023-24 and 2024-25 (st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)

INSET DAYS 2024/25

Monday 2nd September (1)

Tuesday 3rd September (2)

Friday 4th October (3)

Friday 14th February (4)

Monday 21st July (5)

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)



















8 - St George's Day!





















PTA updates - Please scroll through the images below for a host of updates from our wonderful PTA.



https://www.canva.com/design/DAGX5qiwrhU/3KWIxXI93ah9t_DahTSvIw/edit?utm_conten t=DAGX5qiwrhU&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutt on

Our PTA Newsletter link



9 - The Wonderdome Planetarium has visited school today! What an incredible experience for our children .



10 - What a fantastic event - and nearly £1,000 raised!





PE Timetable - Autumn 2nd half term



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

(Please remember Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 that PE kits remain in school and are sent home at half term)

Reception Class - Tuesday

- Year 1 Tuesday & Wednesday
- Year 2 Monday & Thursday
- Year 3 Tuesday & Wednesday
- Year 4 Monday & Friday (swimming)

Year 5 - Tuesday & Thursday

Year 6 - Tuesday & Friday

Clubs



Lunchtime Clubs:

- Monday- Choir KS2 (Miss Gibbons)
- Tuesday Year 5 and 6 girls football
- Thursday- Mass band Y4/5/6 (Mrs Cangiano)
- Friday Bible group (KS1) Youth Play Leaders training sessions (KS2)

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

Monday 8am - Dodgeball - Years 1-3

Monday 3:15-4.15pn - Netball Club - Years 3-6 - spaces available

Monday 3:15-4:15pm - The Lion King theatre club (Full) Tuesday 8am - KS2 Gymnastics (R&B) -spaces available Tuesday 3.15-4.30 - Irish Dancing (Full) Tuesday 3:15-4:30pm - Year 5 and Year 6 boys football (FINAL SESSION NEXT WEEK) Wednesday 8am - Dodgeball - Years 4-6 (Mark Bennett) Wednesday 3.15-4.30pm - Irish Dancing (Full) Thursday 8am - KS1 Gymnastics (RB) - spaces available Friday 8am - Archery Club - Years 1-6 (Mark Bennett) Friday 3.15-4.45pm - Years 1-4 Football (Your sport)

Our school lunch menu



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.

New school menu for autumn 2 and spring term- beginning on the first week after half term on week 1.



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN 1	Sausage Pasta Bake 🛛 🛛	Quom Loaded Masala & Rice 🗢 👁	Broccel & Cauliflower Cheese with Roast Potatoes	Roasted Gnoochi in 📀 Tomato Sauce	Cheese & Tomato Pizza & Oven Baked Chips
MAIN 2	Pasta Bolognese	BBQ Chicken with Mashed Potatoes & C Gravy	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Vegetable Lasagne	Friday Fish Bar & Oven Baked Chips
VEG			Daily vegetables served		
DESSERTS	Berry Crumble 🛛 🔿 🔿	Fruity Crunch Pot 🛛 🛛	Autumn Fruit 🛛 😵	Spiced Ginger Cake 🛛 😳	Cat & Lemon Cookle
			Fruit & Yoghurt		-

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY
Veggie Sausage with Ø Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	Chinese Noodle Stir Fry Ø	Sticky Tomato Tart & Roast Potatoes	0	Chickpes & Sweet Potato Curry & Rice	0	Cheese & Tomato Pizza & Oven Baked Chips
Pork Sausage with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	Roasted Tornato Pasta	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes & Gravy		BBQ Baked Chicken with Rice	0	Friday Fish Bar & Oven Baked Chips
		Daily vegetables served				
Fruity Sponge Oat O Crumble	Fruit Jelly Pot 🛛 🕐	Apple Yoghurt Cake	0	Pear Upside Down Pudding	0	Chocolate Cockie
		Fruit & Yoghurt		in and a state of the second state of the		

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY
No Metalitah with Marked Potaces & Orsees & Tomato Pezaw Mr Rata & Red Onion Salad Read Protations Red Onion Salad Read Protations Read
Polato Topped Beef Meet Fault Pictor with Roard of the Day with Rear for Beer Works & Macin Cheese Friday Fails & Oren Baked Oxyn & Baked Oxyn Baked Oxyn & Baked
Daily vegetables served
Easiyo Fruit Mousee O Automo Fruit Annie
Fruit & Yoghurt

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 <u>www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals</u>

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



The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) for this school are: Mr A Wilkes (DSL), Mrs R Mitchell (DDSL) and Mrs M Riley (DDSL)







Dudley Early Help Strategy

EARLY HELP STRATEGY | healthandwellebing (dudleyhealthandwellbeing.org.uk)

St Joseph's Early Help Strategy

<u>St Joseph's Early Help.pdf (st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)</u>



11 - National Online Safety

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. I have resent the sign up letter to all parents today.

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. <u>https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/st-joseph-s-catholic-primary-school-8</u> There are lots of resources, guides and webinars to support you to keep your child safe online.



12 - Please scan for our Instagram page.

Twitter @StJoStourbridge



Contact us

Mr Wilkes and Mrs Mitchell 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