

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter 7th March

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A message from our Principal



Dear parents and families,

This week we have stepped into spring and as Pilgrims of Hope, we have started our Lenten journey. Father Philip led us in our Ash Wednesday Mass and it was wonderful to see our children being so reverent and also to see so many families and parishioners joining us. Below I will explain our Plans to 'Give' this Lent and truly put our faith into action for the Poor and Vulnerable in our local area and around the world.

Nearer the end of term, we will ask children to donate an item of food to **Stourbridge Food Bank**. This does not need to be brought in yet, but is an important part of our offering for the local community.

We will join with all schools within the Diocese to commit to donating at last £1 for Father Hudson's Caritas. We will do this by joining together in a non-uniform (mufti) day on **Friday 28th March.**

Finally, once again this year we will complete the **CAFOD Big Lent Walk** to raise much needed funds for our global brothers and sisters. Starting in the week beginning **Monday 17th March**, every adult and child in school will walk one lap of the school field per week totalling 4 laps before the end of term and raising a suggested £1 minimum donation per lap.

All donations can be payable through Arbor, and we will share further information next week regarding this - as well as information about our annual Easter garden competition!

This week we also celebrated World Book Day - thank you for joining in with all of the costumes. I trust that the children had a great day and have been inspired to join in the love of reading! Thank you to Mrs Riley for all of her hard work to organise a day that each child in school has the opportunity to enjoy.

Due to the Trim Trail now being able to be used for a different class each day at break and lunchtime - please can KS1 join KS2 and ensure that they have a spare pair of trainers or

wellies in school at all times. Please do not feel the need to buy a new pair; an old pair for running around the trail is perfectly fine!

Finally, on Tuesday this week we welcomed the Year 2 and Caritas Ambassador's grandparents and parishioners into school for a piece of cake, a hot drink and two songs performed by Year 2. What a lovely afternoon it was! I hope that you all enjoyed this special time together and we hope to arrange a similar afternoon in the near future. Thank you for all of the support that you give our school.

Have a great weekend.

Mr. A Wilkes

Principal

By way of an update, at the end of the half term in February my time as Interim Executive Principal over St Joseph's and St Mary's came to an end and I am now fully based at St Joseph's.

Our school website is regularly updated - spring 2 study plans are now added! 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 Life Events 2024-2025</u>

Updates:

Term dates - Term dates and insets are available on the calendar section of the school website St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Calendar

2025-26 Term dates will be announced in the next couple of weeks

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

Thank you to our generous school community

On behalf of all at St Joseph's I wanted to express our sincere thanks for the recent very kind donations that we have received.

The PTA, along with a parent who is a trustee of a charity, donated funding for the trim trail and mud kitchen. This is already in use in school and each class will have the opportunity to use this area as the weather progressively improves in the coming weeks.

Mr Chris Sargent and Mr Pete Trinham kindly purchased the new football kit that both the boys and girls teams in Year 5 and Year 6 have played in this year. The children are so proud

of their new kit, and this will benefit children in school for many years to come. Mr Sargent of course donates a lot of his time to train and coach our boys football team which we are extremely grateful for.

And, a parent generously donated the funding required to install the new fence around the Peace garden at the front of school which I am sure you will all agree makes such a huge improvement to his area of school where we wish to promote quiet, prayerful reflection for our school community.

We are blessed at St Joseph's to have such a kind, caring and generous community. Thank you all so much.











Year of Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope



























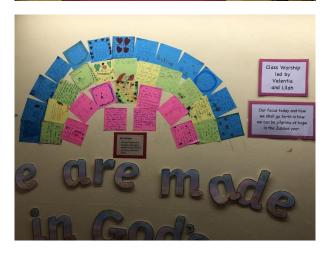
1 - Our new Virtual School Tour - take a look!

Prayer and Liturgy at St Joseph's















2 - Our new peace garden fence!









Catholic Social Teaching

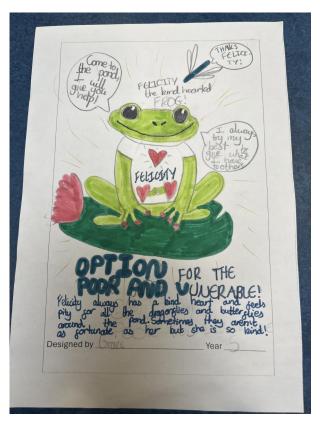


Year group POOR AND VULNERABLE	Spring 2 CST Theological starting points Foverly is defined by CST as being prevented from living a life worthy of the dignity of a human being due to the lack of being able h	
	provide for one's basic needs. Poverty denies people liteir most basic human rights.	
EYFS and KS1	Big Question How can we use our gifts to help others?	
Reception	Luke 4:18 The spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has sent me to bring good news to the poor	
Year 1	Pope Francis (5th June 2013) We have to be courageous Christians and seek out those who need help the most.	
Year 2	Matthew 25: 34-40 What you do for the least among you, you do for Jesus.	
KS2 Big Ques	tion How can we be Christ's voice for those who need us most?	
Year 3	St Teresa of Avila Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.	
Year 4	Isaiah 58:5-7 True worship is to work for justice and care for the poor and oppressed.	
Year 5	St Ambrose said "You are not making a gift of what is yours to the poor man, but you are giving him back what is his. The earth belongs to everyone, not to the rich.	
Year 6	Pape Francis 2016 "Always with an open heart; it is not human to close the door, it is not human to close the heart."	



3 - Grandparents Afternoon Tea

A big thank you to the Caritas Ambassadors and Y2 for leading and organising the Grandparents Afternoon Tea. Y2 sang beautifully and the Caritas Ambassadors prepared the room and served our special guests. A lovely celebration of our community! We were delighted to invite members of the Senior Lunch group from the Parish as well. Thank you Mrs Hayley for supplying the yummy cakes!



4 - Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Well done to Grace (Y5) for designing the winning entry to create our new Catholic Social Teaching mascot for Option for the Poor and Vulnerable this half term. Your design will now be used across the school.



5 - Well done to Flynne (Y6) for designing the winning entry to create our own Catholic Social Teaching mascot for Family and Community! Your design will now be used across the school.













6 - Instagram @STJOSEPHSCATHOLICPRIMARY

Twitter/X @StJoStourbridge

Our Lady and All Saints Church welcomes you! Latest newsletter OLAS-Bulletin-23rd-February-2025-Lent-2025-Service-Sheet.-.pdf

Mass Times - Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8:30am and 11:00am. Scripture Reflection- Scripture-Commentaries-March-2025.pdf



Children's liturgy - Children's liturgy - First Sunday of Lent (Year C)



Jesus goes out into the desert for 40 days to be alone and to pray. He goes to draw closer to God, to listen to what God is asking him to do and to find strength for his work of spreading the good news.

Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Can anyone tell me anything about Lent? How long does it last for? What do we try to do during Lent?

Lent is a time when we try to be a bit like Jesus in the desert. We spend 40 days trying to come closer to God, so that we are ready for Easter. We try to pray more and share more. We try to think less about ourselves and more about other people – our neighbours at home and around the world.

Can you tell me what a desert is?

A desert is a very dry place, where there is very little rain or water to drink. While Jesus was there he had no food and he was probably thirsty as well. How do you think he felt while he was out in the desert?

We talked earlier about Lent being a time for coming closer to God. A time when we pray more and share more. How do you think we can do this?

We can be closer to God by praying, by asking for forgiveness for all the things that we have done wrong, and by trying to live the kind of life God wants us to. We can share with and care for others who need our help. We can give our money and our time to help make the world a fairer place for us all to live in.

We can also pray for all members of our global family who struggle because of a lack of water or food.

God is always with us. Knowing that we are never alone can give us strength to face challenges. And it can lead us to work together with others to make a real difference in our world today.

How will you pray more and share more this Lent?

Closing prayer: God who walks with us and knows what it is to be hungry, teach us to support each other and to work together to overcome the problems in our world. Amen.

Gifts from God



	Gospel values	Good work
Reception	Phoebe	Eduardo
Year 1	Grace	Benjamin
Year 2	Phoebe	Belle
Year 3	Emme	Jamie
Year 4	Isla	Ollie
Year 5	Daniel	Emily
Year 6	Theo	Dan

PE and School Sport



Year 5 and Year 6 boys football training 3:15-4:15pm Tuesday evenings

Boys football fixtures

League Fixture

Thursday 27th February

St Joseph's 6-1 Rufford Primary School

Girls football fixtures

Tuesday 21st January - Girls fixtures (week 1)

Peters Hill 0 v 3 St Joseph's

St Joseph's 0 v 1 Amblecote

St Joseph's 3 v 0 Rufford

St Joseph's 0 v 0 Ham Dingle

St James's CofE 0 v 0 **St Joseph's**

Well done girls! We finished 3rd overall in the league. A great effort and we're all very proud of you!



7 - 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!



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





9 - 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

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 1384 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.

Dr Steve Mann On behalf on the SRFC Committee.



Stourbridge Rugby Club Ltd Stourton Park Bridgnorth Road Stourton DY7 6QZ







Gardening club



Gardening club is supporting the Year groups to make their garden area beautiful for the Springtime! We have planted Bluebells, Daffodils and Alliums to make our school environment colourful and welcoming. Children loved planting them, learning how to care for the bulbs and using their teamwork skills.

- Thank you for your kind donations of the mud kitchen supplies. It is looking well stocked with pots, pans, utensils and cake moulds. Your donation will create awe and wonder for all children to enjoy.
- Thank you for the spring bulbs and seeds that have been donated, hopefully come springtime the school with be full of colourful blooms.

It may have been cold this week in Garden club, but we felt the Spring was on its way.

We planted lots of bulbs ready for the Spring, to brighten up the Key Stage Two playground.

We discussed how filling half a large pot with another pot and leaves helps to save on how much compost is needed.

Lots more Spring blubs to be planted over the coming weeks.

Mrs Bailey and Miss Biniek

Update from Mrs Bailey and Miss Biniek



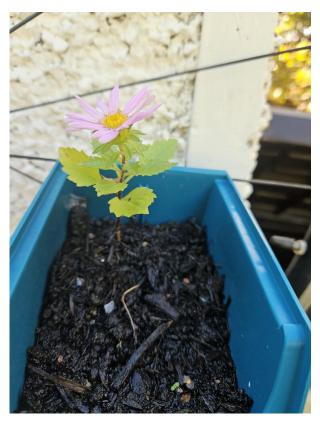














Attendance



Congratulations to **Year 2 & Year 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 98.91%

Here is the attendance for this week for each class:

Year R: 93.9%

Year 1: 99.6%

Year 2: 100%

Year 3: 100%

Year 4: 99.3%

Year 5: 99%

Year 6: 99.3%

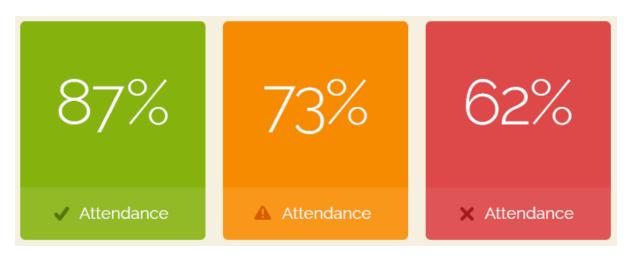
Please make sure your child is in school every day unless ill. Remember illnesses such as colds can be managed well with Calpol and although children can feel unwell first thing in a

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.

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: Emmaus MAC Attendance Policy (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



*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>
<u>Dates 2023-24 and 2024-25 (st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)</u>

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.

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.

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































10 - 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/3KWIxXl93ah9t DahTSvIw/edit?utm content=DAGX5qiwrhU&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

Our PTA Newsletter link



11 - St Patrick's Day Quiz - Friday 14th March 6:45pm-8:45pm



 $12- The\ Wonderdome\ Planetarium\ has\ visited\ school\ today!\ What\ an\ incredible\ experience\ for\ our\ children\ .$



13 - Over £230 raised at the Reindeer dash!





PE Timetable - Spring first 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 - Tuesday & Thursday

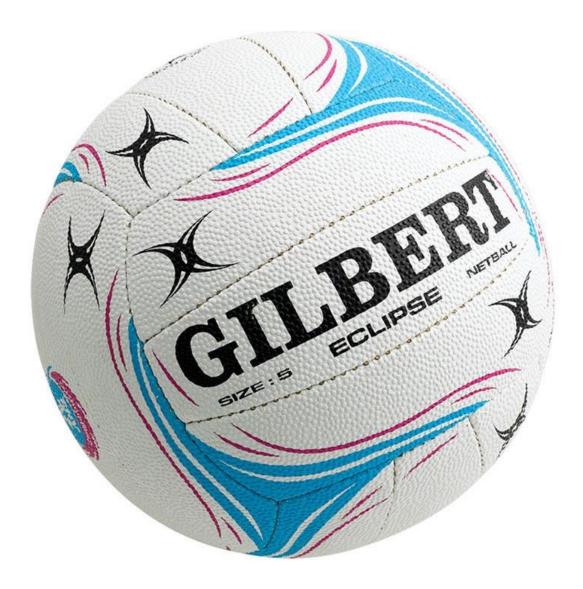
Year 3 - Tuesday & Friday (swimming)

Year 4 - Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 5 - Monday & Thursday

Year 6 - Tuesday & Friday

Clubs



Lunchtime Clubs:

Monday-

Tuesday - Year 5 and 6 boys and girls cross country

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 4-6

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

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

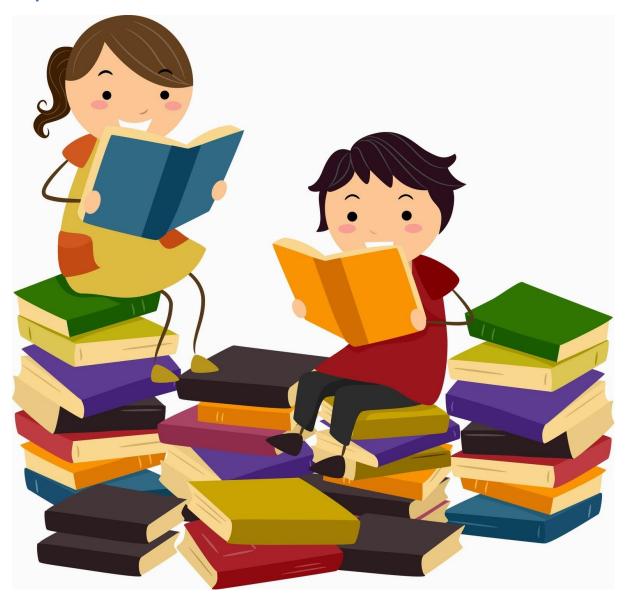








Pupil Premium and Free School Meals



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



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

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



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



15 - 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