ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 23rd October

Our Emmaus and Diocese Mission

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



Dear Parents

It has been an extremely busy half term and I am sure everyone is ready for a bit of a break next week.
Thank you for all your support in this first half term of term; joining us for Mass, stay and prays, curriculum information meetings, phonics workshops, Gifts from God assemblies, supporting with homework, hearing your child read, supporting the new forest school, joining us for the PTA disco *(over £800 raised!)* and so many more! We never underestimate how busy being a parent is and your support, kindness and partnership is very appreciated. Below are a selection of activities that have taken place across school this half term. We look forward to welcoming the children back after half term on **Monday 2nd November at 8:45am** – a busy half time lies ahead!

Year 6
Year 6 have had a busy and successful start to the year. We welcomed our Reception buddies to the school through our Circle of Love assembly and have enjoyed getting to know them. In History and English, we have explored how life changed for civilians during World War II, writing setting descriptions and persuasive letters about evacuation. We also visited Hagley RC High School for a taster day, where we made pizzas, took part in a science chromatography investigation and experienced a taste of secondary school life.



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,
Lea Vale Road, Stourbridge,
West Midlands, DY8 2DT

Tel: 01384 431980
www.st-jo-st.sch.life
Executive Principal: Mr A Wilkes

Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

Private Limited Company of Charitable Status with the Archdiocese of Birmingham
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Our journey with Christ

Year 5

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to the school year! The children have settled in brilliantly and are working very hard, showing great enthusiasm for their learning. We were also incredibly proud to lead our Harvest Festival assembly and help organise donations for Stourbridge Food Bank, demonstrating the importance of kindness and helping others in our community. We have also started our Forest School sessions on Wednesdays and have loved spending time together in the great outdoors. We are looking forward to developing new skills, exploring nature and making lots of wonderful memories together!



Year 4

Year 4 have made a brilliant start to the year. The children have been exploring the special gifts and talents that God has given each of us, celebrating how everyone is unique and valuable. Through our Art topic of pointillism and our RE learning, we have learned that we are all important links in a chain, working together as a team and using our gifts to support and inspire one another. We have also been expressing ourselves through music, learning to play the ukelele!



Year 3

Year 3 have made a fantastic start to the year and have shown themselves to be incredibly curious learners, asking thoughtful questions and making brilliant connections across their learning. From designing pneumatic toys in D.T. and

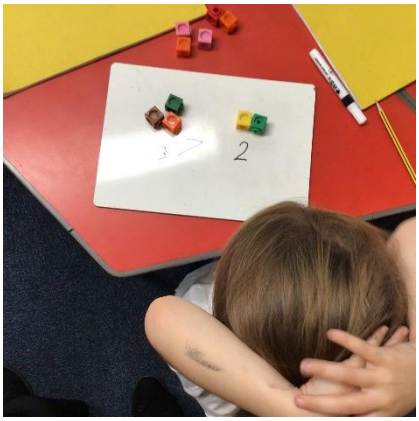
exploring Europe through maps in Geography, to reflecting on the wonder of creation in R.E., and writing imaginative stories in Star Write, the children have approached every opportunity with enthusiasm and creativity.



Year 1

Year 1 have had a busy start to the year, we have explored materials in science, in DT we have created our own phonics slider game. We are showing a love of number, reading and writing by exploring stories such as The Queens Hat, Katie in London and Dilwyn the dragon and practising greater than, less than and equal to. Year 1 also had a fantastic time at forest school, where we explored the outside area, creating nature crafts, making toast and toasting marshmallows.





Catholic Life

Catholic Life at St Joseph's: We are very grateful to our families and parish community for their commitment to joining us for liturgy and prayer throughout the half term. Our school and parish community came together half term to welcome our Reception children into our parish with a special Family mass on Saturday evening. The children sang so beautiful and Father Philip talked about being part of the Family of God in his homily, sharing the important white garments that are used at different sacraments.

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We have enjoyed whole school mass and class masses this half term, along with Key Stage masses and stay and pray opportunities for families and our Prayer Leaders and Caritas Ambassadors have made a great start at leading prayer and Faith in Action across the school. Thank you to Year 5 for their beautiful Harvest Assembly. Our Y6 buddies enjoyed getting to know our new Reception Class and celebrating with them at their Welcome Assembly.

We look forward together to the season of Remembrance and the season of Advent and the further opportunities to put our faith into action in our school, parish and wider community.



Choir

Our new afterschool choir has been an overwhelming success with over 50 KS2 children attending each week! We have been learning some very ambitious songs for Young Voices in January (as well as some fun, new warm-ups) and will start on our festive numbers after half term!

Kind hearts

We had a wonderful turn out of prospective parents at our open mornings last week! Please do continue to recommend our fantastic school to parents of children who will be starting in September 2027 – they are more than welcome to visit us for a tour!

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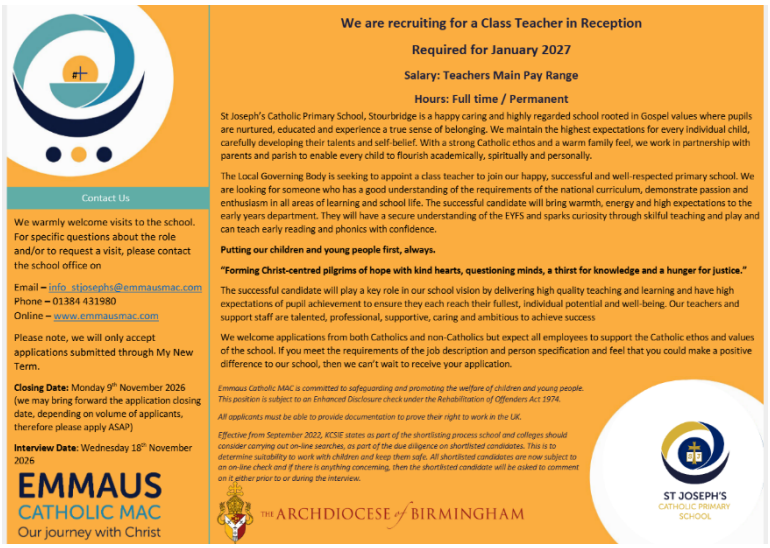
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Questioning minds, A hunger for justice

We're recruiting! Please share this information to anyone who may be interested in joining us at our very special school.



[Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy - Vacancies]

Reminders:

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Before school clubs – Can I remind parents that **no child** Should be left unattended prior to being 'handed over' to either Mr Bennett or Mr Litchfield who lead our before school schools. Over the last few weeks, we have identified where children have 'followed' school staff into school and left unattended in the foyer area. Should this continue, unfortunately we may need to consider their place at the before school club due to the safeguarding concern this raises. As a reminder, before school clubs start at **8am, extra club is available to book from 7:45am** and is separate to school.

Uniform - The children have all returned to school looking very smart. Thank you. As a reminder, our uniform policy can be found here: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Stourbridge) - Policies & Documents

After school clubs

Monday - Netball – 4:15pm,
Tuesday / Wednesday Irish Dancing – 4:30pm
Thursday – Choir – 4:15pm
Friday -History club 4:20pm & Football 4:30pm

School Calendar - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Stourbridge) - Calendar

Pilgrims of Hope
Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

Gospel reflection:

There is a lot of talk about something called a commandment. A commandment is a type of rule that God has given us.
Jesus is asked what the greatest commandment is. Can you remember what he says?

Jesus says the greatest and the first commandment is that we should love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind.
Let's think quietly for a moment about this. When we love someone, we try to show this in the way that we treat them. How do you think you can show that you love God?
We can show that we love God when we pray - by giving thanks and praise to God. And by remembering all that God asks us to do. We can also show our love for God by trying to behave in a way that pleases God. This is where the second commandment comes in. Can you remember what it was?

Jesus asks us to love our neighbour as ourselves. When Jesus asks us to love our neighbour, do you think he just means the person who lives next door? Who else is our neighbour?

Our neighbours are the people sitting next to us right now, as well as all the people in the same street, at school and at church, in our town and in our world. After all, we're all part of the same big global family. And we're all loved by God.
Some neighbours live close to us and some live far away. But Jesus asks us to love them all as we love ourselves. What do you think this means?
Jesus wants us to treat other people as we would want to be treated, to make sure all people are treated fairly and have what they need. How do you think we can do that?

Think about your neighbours close by and those far away. What will you do to help your neighbours and show your love for them in the coming week?

Amen

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Parish Updates



Sacrament of Confirmation

The Confirmation programme will start next term. If your child has made their First Confession and First Holy Communion and wishes to join the sessions, please print the form below, and return it together with a copy of their baptism certificate to Fr Philip. Details/dates of the sessions can be found in the letter below.
Application-form_for-Confirmation-.pdf

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Newsletters
[OLAS-Bulletin-18th-October-2026.pdf]

FIRST CONFESSION SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2026– If you have a child in year 3 or above, who wishes to take part in the sacramental programme starting in the new year please download the letter and application which can be found below.

FIRST HOLY COMMUION SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2027– If you have a child in year 3 or above, who wishes to take part in the sacramental programme starting in the new year please download the letter and application which can be found below. If you have any questions please contact Fr Philip on 01384 395308 or email olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk
Once you have clicked on the link, please click on the letter and it will make it the correct size to read.
Letter to Parents First Confession 2027
Application_form_for_first_forgiveness_and_first_commu

Gifts from God
Gifts from God

Two children form each class are being praised for their 'Gifts from God' linked to our school virtues, values and learning behaviours.

Year group		
Reception	Lucas	Nellie
1	Francesca	Joey
2	Barney	Dinah
3	Reuben	Penny R
4	Jacob	Lilah
5	Alessandro	Maisie
6	Seth	Erin

Attendance – Although our overall attendance is good, there has been a noticeable dip this week. Let's get back to our usual 'near 100%' attendance after half term! Please see the guidance here around attendance and term time holidays School attendance advice | Dudley Council

Attendance	
Whole school weekly attendance	**91.8%**
Whole school attendance (full year)	**96.9%**
National average	**95.4%**
Reception weekly attendance	**93.67%**
Year 1 weekly attendance	**100%**
Year 2 weekly attendance	**87.44%**
Year 3 weekly attendance	**85.52%**
Year 4 weekly attendance	**97.67%**
Year 5 weekly attendance	**98%**
Year 6 weekly attendance	**93.67%**
Well done to Year 1 have achieved the highest attendance this week and will receive an extra play time! Keep it up!	

Kind Hearts, A hunger for Justice

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

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

Questioning minds

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

Questioning minds – Term Dates

The 2026-27 term dates can be found below:

	Starts	Half term	Ends
Autumn Term	Tuesday 1st September 2026	Monday 26th Oct 2026 to Fri 30th Oct 2026	Friday 18th December 2025
Spring Term	Monday 4th January 2027	Monday 15th Feb 2027 to Friday 19th Feb 2027	Thursday 25th March 2027

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Summer Term	Monday 12th April 2027	Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4th June 2027	Wednesday 21st July 2027

The following INSET Days agreed for 2026/27:

- *Tuesday 1st September 2026*
- *Wednesday 2nd September 2026*
- *Friday 2nd October 2026*
- *Monday 4th January 2027*
- *Friday 12th February 2027*
- *Monday 28th June 2027*

Have a great half term break, God bless

Mr A. Wilkes
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