

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter 20th December

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A message from our Principal



Dear parents and families,

Dear parents, as we approach the great hope and joy that is brought by the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus at Christmas, we are reminded too of the role played by St Joseph. Joseph protected his family and obeyed the word of the God without hesitation. At Christmas time, let us too ask 'God, who do you want me to be?' This is a question that we regularly discuss with the children, and we can look back with great pride this term at how our children have put their faith in action and used their given talents for the benefit of others. There are many examples of how are children do this, and I have tried to capture some below.

Over 250 items were donated by our families towards Father Hudson's Caritas to support homeless people across Birmingham. This is a wonderful total and adds the over 4,700 items donated by Emmaus schools - truly demonstrating our Emmaus Value of serving together and the Catholic Social Teaching Principle of giving option to the poor and vulnerable.

Over the last term and particularly in the last fortnight the children have used their given talents in so many ways - what stars we have at St Joseph's! The Reception Christmas performance and Key Stage 1 Nativity performances were just magical. To see some of our youngest children on stage, acting, singing and performing is always a very special time and I hope that you enjoyed being in the audience.

Last night our choir performed at the Mayor's Christmas Concert at Dudley Town Hall alongside other schools in Dudley - and what a night they had! They sang with confidence and are so very talented. Thank you to all of our families who also attended, I hope that you enjoyed the show.

A huge thank you to everyone who came on Sunday evening to the Carols by Candlelight to see our choir, Mass band and readers. I hope that you enjoyed the evening, the first time that we have tried such an event, and thank you for your feedback that we have read closely with how the evening can evolve next year. The feedback form was emailed to you earlier in

the week if you would like to complete it. It is also here

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yzpMTB1gnUK8UBkrjXrTK2A-1ki-yT5BlqJCY5RKfq1UNFlwVlVSWkZNMkpRMVRLVjdJQUc1WEtXSC4u We must thank Father Philip for his great support in ensuring that this event was successful. Father Philip also led a beautiful Advent Mass for us all this morning. It was wonderful to see so many children leading parts of the Mass, and the great amount of parents, families and parishioners who attended.

Today we have said 'farewell' to Miss Gibbons who sets sail in early January on the Logos Hope Ship across the Caribbean using her own talents for the benefit of others as a Christian Missionary. Miss Gibbons has truly listened and responded to the role that God has chosen for her. I'm sure that Miss Gibbons will look upon her time here at St Joseph's with pride and take many happy memories with her. We, too, thank her for her great work as a class teacher in Year 4, her subject leadership of science and the very important role that she has played with our choir. Miss Gibbons will be missed by the children and staff and we hope that she keeps in touch - good luck from us all!

Finally, on behalf of the Local Governing Body, staff and children may I take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support over the last year - a very busy and highly successful one at St Joseph's. Each day I am filled with pride at the progress made by our children and the collaboration between staff, parents and children that makes our school so special. Thank you. I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and health and prosperity in 2025. We look forward to seeing all of our families when school reopens on January 6th.

Have a very happy Christmas.

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-jost.dudley.sch.uk)</u>

Catholic Life events PowerPoint - <u>St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Catholic 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 https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/



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

Our new trim trail and mega mud kitchen! Launch day for the children in January 2025!









Collective Worship at St Joseph's

















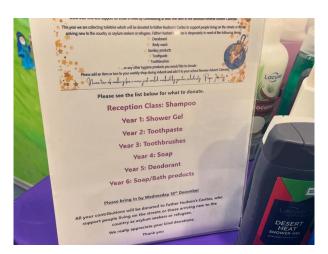


Catholic Social Teaching















3 - Instagram @STJOSEPHSCATHOLICPRIMARY

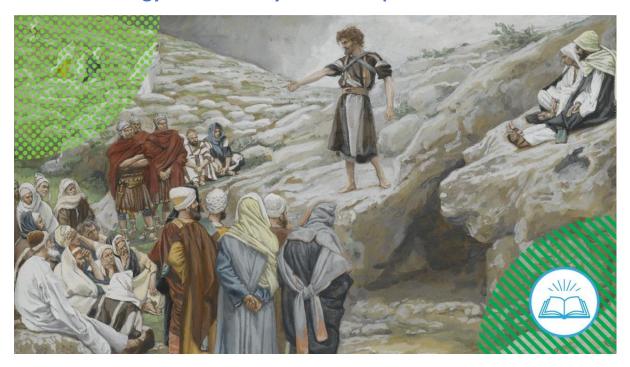
Twitter/X @StJoStourbridge

Our Lady and All Saints Church welcomes you! Latest newsletter

OLAS-Bulletin-15th-December-2024.pdf Mass Times - Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8:30am and 11:00am. Christmas Mass times have been sent home with the children this week Scripture Reflection - OLAS-SCRIPTURE-REFLECTION-DECEMBER-24.pdf



Children's liturgy - 4th Sunday of Advent | Year C Luke 1:39-45



While Mary is pregnant with Jesus, she goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also expecting a baby. As soon as Elizabeth sees Mary she is filled with joy. Why do you think this is?

Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and recognises that Mary's baby will be the Son of God. How do you think Mary feels when Elizabeth says this to her?

Who here has a baby brother or sister? Do you remember when you were told that there would be a new baby in the family? How did it make you feel? How did you feel when they were born?

Babies are special. They need a lot of looking after. Can you think of some things that babies need?

Are there some things that you can do for yourself that a baby can't?

No matter where in the world that they are born, all babies need the same things. They need someone to love and care for them. They need someone to feed them and to keep them warm and clean.

As we remember how Mary and Elizabeth were filled with joy as they waited for their very special babies to arrive, let's pray for all the other babies around the world who are all special too.

God loves us all, even the tiniest baby. Let us remember God's love for us, and for all people, and think about how we can show love to others in this coming week.

How do you think you could show love to others? Either a baby or new parent in your family. Or to another family member, friend, or even to a person that you don't know.

We can show love by visiting someone, sharing things, sending a message, or by helping. We can show love for our brothers and sisters around the world by doing what we can to make the world a fairer place for all people to live and by treating others as we would like to be treated.

What will you do this week to show love for others?

We pray for all parents around the world: that they may be able to give their children a safe and loving home and encourage them to fulfil their dreams. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all babies and children throughout the world: that they may live happy and healthy lives and have hope for a future free from poverty. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be inspired to share God's love with all people, no matter where they are in the world. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of all, fill us with joy at the coming of your Son, as Mary and Elizabeth were filled with joy. Help us to spread your love by caring for all our brothers and sisters around the world. Amen.

Reflection adapted from Cafod Children's liturgy

The Wednesday Word- Christmas Holiday Special - 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 in the new year

Year 6

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

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



4 - 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!



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





6 - 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

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.

Update from Mrs Bailey and Miss Biniek

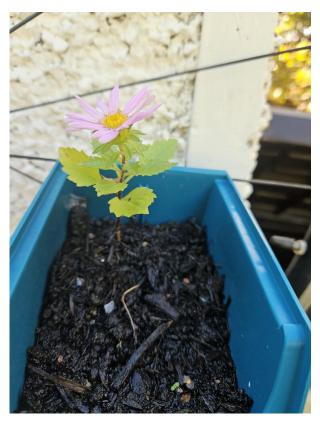














Attendance



Congratulations to **Year 5** who have achieved the highest attendance this week. You will receive an extra play time!

Attendance for the whole school for this week is 93.05%

Here is the attendance for this week for each class:

Year R: 93%

Year 1: 95.2%

Year 2: 92%

Year 3: 93.7%

Year 4: 92.3%

Year 5: 96.7%

Year 6: 88.7%

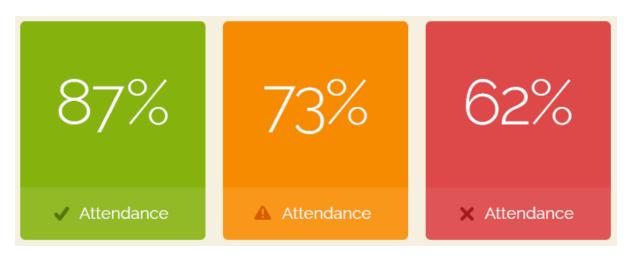
Please make sure your child is in school every day unless ill. Remember illnesses such as colds can be managed well with Calpol and although children can feel unwell first thing in a

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.

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.

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.

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



















7 - 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



 ${\it 8-The\ Wonderdome\ Planetarium\ has\ visited\ school\ today!\ What\ an\ incredible\ experience\ for\ our\ children\ .}$



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



10 - 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 - Wednesday & Thursday

Year 2 - Tuesday & Thursday

Year 3 - Monday & Friday (swimming)

Year 4 - Tuesday &

Year 5 - Tuesday & Thursday

Year 6 - Tuesday & Friday

Clubs



Lunchtime Clubs:

Monday-

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 (Date to restart TBC)

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.









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)



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. 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.



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