

SCHOOL

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter 13th January

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A message from our Principal



Dear parents and families,

Dear parents, a very Happy New Year to you all, and welcome back. The children arrived back to school this week full of excitement and keen to share with us the wonderful activities that they experienced over the Christmas break.

As Father Philip reminded us this morning in our Epiphany Mass, we remain in the season of Christmas and have until Sunday to pay homage to our Lord Jesus before the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this morning's whole school Mass, a number of our children performed as part of our Mass band. They performed magnificently - very well done children!

The very cold weather that we have recently experienced has delayed the launch of the new trim trail and mud kitchen. We're hopeful of a thaw in conditions soon and the children will be able experience this new dynamic and engaging environment. There are some great images below of the installation.

Finally, next Wednesday (15th January) is the deadline to apply for a Reception class place for September 2025. The link to follow if you require it or wish to pass on to someone who may wish to join our school in September can be found here -

<u>www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions</u>. A full school really does support us in many ways, and we believe that the birth rate was again low in Stourbridge for the children who will be starting in Reception in 2025. So, please can I ask that you do share this link with anyone you know who it may be of interest. In addition, there are a very small number of places available in KS1 should you know of anyone who may wish to join us.

Have a great weekend.

Mr. A Wilkes

Principal

Our school website is regularly updated - spring study plans to be added shortly! 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 <u>St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Calendar</u>

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



Year of Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

What is a Jubilee?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

What is the theme for the Jubilee Year?

The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope'

Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

When does the Jubilee Year start and finish?

The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6 January 2026.Pope Francis will open the Holy Door on Christmas Eve 2024 to begin the Jubilee year.

The Jubilee Prayer

The official Prayer allows pilgrims from all over the world to use the same words to express gratitude to God for the Jubilee experience and request the grace of forgiveness. The official prayer of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Holy Year, this can be found in other languages on the <u>website of the Jubilee</u>. The Jubilee is an experience of faith and a profound encounter with the Lord.

Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen



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















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

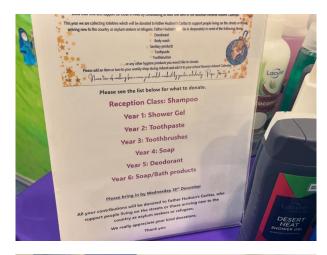
Catholic Social Teaching





3 - Well done to Flynn (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.









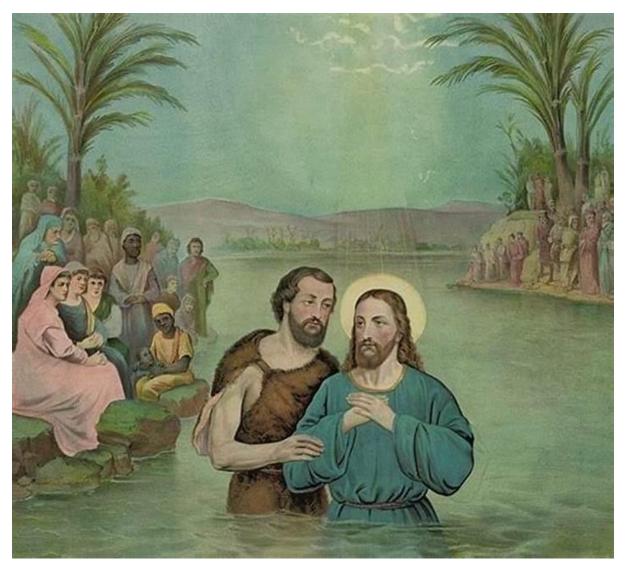


4 - Instagram @STJOSEPHSCATHOLICPRIMARY

Twitter/X @StJoStourbridge

Our Lady and All Saints Church welcomes you! Latest newsletter <u>OLAS-Bulletin-5th-January-2025.pdf</u> Mass Times - Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8:30am and 11:00am. Scripture Reflection-<u>Scripture-</u> <u>commentaries-January-2025.pdf</u>





Children's liturgy - The Baptism of the Lord | Year C| Luke 3:16

We hear about how John the Baptist was baptising people with water. Can you remember what he says?

He says that someone is coming who is more powerful than he is. Who do you think that person is?

John says he is not good enough to untie the strap of Jesus' sandals. What do you think John means by this?

John does not feel that he is important enough to help Jesus. But, Jesus asks to be baptised by John. What do you think this shows us about Jesus?

All of us are important in our own special way, and we are all important enough to serve Jesus. Jesus welcomes us all and sees that we all have special gifts and talents to share.

What happens after Jesus is baptised?

Jesus prays, and while he is praying, the Holy Spirit comes down like a dove. Then a voice comes from heaven. Whose voice do you think this is? What does God say? ("You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you)

Jesus is the Son of God and he is filled with the Holy Spirit. We are all God's children and we are also filled with the Holy Spirit at our baptism.

What difference do you think being filled with the Holy Spirit makes?

The Holy Spirit can help to make us brave and to bring us joy. Just as we can tell that a tree is good because of the fruit that grows on it, we can tell if the Holy Spirit is working in us by the way that we act and how we treat other people.

For instance, we can share what we have with others who do not have enough. We can be kind to others. We can try to make our world a fairer and better place for all people to live in.

Some fruits of the Spirit are love, peace, kindness and generosity. How do you think you can be kind, loving and generous to others? How can you bring peace?

We are all God's children no matter where in the world we live, no matter where we come from or what we look like, whether we are rich or poor. We are all members of the same global family. And so we try to be loving, kind, generous and bring peace to all people. In this way, we hope that others will be able to see the fruits of the Holy Spirit and our baptism in all that we do.

How will you show the Holy Spirit working in you in this coming week?

We pray for all leaders in the world: that they may listen to their people, rule fairly and do all that they can to bring peace to our world. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all members of our global family: that we may all know peace, love, joy and generosity in our lives. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may be filled with the Holy Spirit, serve others who are in need and share love as Jesus taught us. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of all, as we gather at your table, we give thanks for your love. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and help us to show your love to others in all that we do. Amen.

Reflection adapted from Cafod Children's liturgy

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!

	Gospel values	Good work	
Reception	Arthur	Maeva	
Year 1	Bryony	Georgia	
Year 2	Eli	Fia	
Year 3	Harry	Henry	
Year 4	Annie	Jackson	
Year 5	Hattie	Darci M	
Year 6	Jude	Gabby	

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

Boys football - West Midlands County FA regional finals at Vale Stadium, Castle Vale, on Wednesday 15th January

Girls Football - Fixtures to follow in January



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



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.

Update from Mrs Bailey and Miss Biniek











Attendance

100%	Attendance Certif Awarded to for Perfect Attendance!	icate
Date	www.CreativeCertificates.com	Signature

Congratulations to **Year 3,4 & 6** who have achieved the highest attendance this week. You will receive an extra play time!

Attendance for the whole school for this week is 93.55%

Here is the attendance for this week for each class:

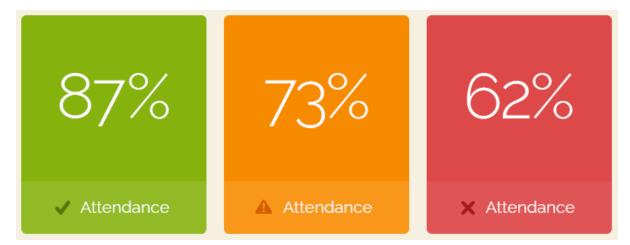
Year R:97.8%Year 1:81.1%Year 2:79.3%Year 3:99.3%Year 4:99.3%Year 5:98.3%Year 6:99.3%

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: <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.

		Cale	end	lar		
Sun	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		29	3	0 1	31
26	27	28			-	-

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.

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

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.

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>



















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 - 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 & Thursday(09.01 & 16.01). From 20.01.25 Tuesday & Wednesday
- 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

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN 1	Sausage Pasta Bake	Quom Loaded Masala & Rice 🗢 👁	Broccel & Cauliflower Cheese with Roast Potatoes	Roasted Gnocchi in 🕐	Cheese & Tomato Pizza & Oven Baked Chips
MAIN 2	Pasta Bolognes e	BBQ Chicken with Mashed Potatoes & Cravy	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Vegetable Lasagne	Friday Fish Bar & Oven Baked Chips
VEG			Daily vegetables served		
DESSERTS	Berry Crumble 🛛 🔊 🕐 Muffin	Fruity Crunch Pot 🛛 🛛	Autumn Fruit Ø Shortbread	Spiced Ginger Cake 🛛 📀	Oat & 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	ø	Chickpea & Sweet Potato Curry & Rice	0	Cheese & Tomato Pizza & Oven Baked Chips
Pork Sausage with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	Roasted Tomato 🗢 😋	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 Orumble	Fruit Jelly Pot 🛛 🔘	Apple Yoghurt Cake	0	Pear Upside Down Pudding	0	Chocolate Cockie
		Fruit & Yoghurt		N allocation and a location 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