



ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 9th 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

I hope that you have all now settled back into school life. This week I have spotted the first signs of autumn as the leaves started to fall from the London Plane tree outside of my office window in the garden of hope at the front of school. Although inevitable, it seemed a distant thought in the hot summer days we were experiencing only a few weeks ago. Just as the summer days also came to an end, the sight of the leaves falling reminded me that at the start of the academic year, it is important for us too to shed our worries and anxieties about how incredibly busy things are at this time of year to be ready and prepared for the year ahead.

As the leaves fall from the trees, they appear to be dying, yet the tree is not diminished. By releasing what is no longer needed for the season ahead, the tree prepares itself for renewal, growth, and new life in the spring. In the same way, God often asks us to let go of comforts, successes, worries, disappointments, or even cherished plans so that He can prepare us for something greater.

Of course, this week we have 'Brightened up' for the Harvest and World Mental Health Day reminded ourselves of the importance of seeking a **Hunger for Justice** and **empathising** with the needs of others. Thank you to everyone who donated towards Stourbridge Food Bank and of course Year 5 who led us in our annual Harvest festival. A wonderful demonstration of how we think of others and aspirational when considering how we can support those in need.

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

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Christ-Centred Pilgrims of Hope	Kind Hearts	Questioning Minds	Thirst for Knowledge	Hunger for Justice
Faith-filled Prophetic Intentional Hopeful	Loving Compassionate Intentional	Curious Discerning Eloquent & Truthful	Learned Attentive Wise	Active Grateful Generous
Positive and Resilient	Empathetic and Collaborative	Curious and make Connections	Aspirational and Independent	Respectful and Responsible
The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)	The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)	Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3:3-21)	The Boy Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)	The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)
After Jesus' death, two friends leave Jerusalem feeling sad and confused. Jesus comes alongside them on the road, listens kindly, tells them about God's story, and is known to them during the breaking of bread. Why this fits the vision: o Jesus is at the centre of the journey, even when unrecognised o The disciples move from hopelessness to renewed faith o It is a story of pilgrims walking with Christ	Jesus tells of a Samaritan who cares for a wounded stranger when others pass by. Compassion overrides fear, prejudice, and inconvenience. Why this fits the vision: o Kindness is shown through practical, sacrificial action o Love crosses boundaries of race, religion, and status o Jesus defines neighbourly love as active mercy	Nicodemus, a teacher of the law, comes to Jesus at night full of questions. Jesus welcomed his curiosity, listened kindly and helped him understand how to believe in God and begin again. Why this fits the vision: o Faith begins with honest questions o Jesus does not dismiss doubt or uncertainty o Learning is presented as a journey, not instant certainty	At twelve years old, Jesus is found in the Temple, listening to the teachers, asking questions, and astonishing them with his understanding. Why this fits the vision: o Learning is portrayed as attentive listening and questioning o Wisdom is nurtured through dialogue and study o Jesus models intellectual curiosity and a love of learning	Jesus teaches that God's blessing belongs especially to the humble, merciful, and peace-making—even when they suffer—because God's kingdom will ultimately lift them up and reward them. Why this fits the vision: o Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right. o Blessed are the merciful: justice is lived through compassion. o Blessed are the peacemakers: they repair harm and bring fairness.

Kind hearts

A full school greatly impacts upon the amount of funding that we receive. As such, with a kind heart could I please urge you to share details of our Open Mornings to those with a child starting in Reception in September 2027. They can book a place on the form on the school website.



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A hunger for justice

'Hello from our new Senco, Mrs Taylor-Round'

Hello! I would like to introduce myself, my name is Mrs Taylor-Round and I am delighted to be joining St Joseph's as SENDCo. I work in school on Mondays and Tuesdays and am looking forward to getting to know the children, families and wider school community.

A reminder that our Meet the SENDCo session was on Tuesday 22nd September from 9.00-9.45am. If you were unable to attend, I am usually on the playground at the end of the day when I'm in school, so please do come and say hello, or contact the office if you'd like to arrange a meeting.

Kind Hearts, A Thirst For Knowledge

New Website

Our school website has had a revamp over the summer. Thank you for your patience while the updates are being completed. We hope you like the more modern look of the website and it should be far more user friendly when accessing on a mobile phone.

Reminders:

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 clubs. 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 reflection: Matthew 22:1-14

Today Jesus tells us another parable to try and explain what the kingdom of heaven is like.

The king's son is getting married. He invites lots of people to the party, but when the day comes and the king sends out his servants to fetch the people they do not come. He tries again, but the people just aren't interested in coming.

How do you think the king feels about this? What does he do next?

The king sends out his servants to stand in the middle of the street and invite everyone they can find to the wedding. So they do, and the wedding hall is filled with guests. They all take part in the big feast.

The king in Jesus' story represents God and the wedding is the kingdom of heaven. What do you think that Jesus was trying to tell us with this story?

We are all invited by God to enter into the kingdom of heaven. It is a place where everyone is welcome. But we have to be ready to go.

When we go to a wedding, or any party, we tell the person who invited us that we are coming. We get out our best clothes and make sure we are clean and tidy. Can you think of anything else that we do to get ready for a party?

How do you think we can answer God's invitation and get ready for the kingdom of heaven?

We can listen to God's word and try to follow what God asks us to do in our lives. What do you think God asks us to do?

God asks us to be kind, to be welcoming and invite others to share in what we have, to bring peace, to stand up for what is right, to care for and respect one another and to love our neighbour, wherever they are in the world.

Can you think of anything else that God asks us to do?

By answering God's invitation and being kind and generous, welcoming and fair, by loving our neighbour, we can help to reflect God's kingdom here on earth. We will help other people to see that we care for everyone, no matter who they are or



where they come from, and the world will become a better, fairer place for all people to live.

Let's all try really hard this week to listen to what God wants from us and to say yes to that invitation in the way we behave in the coming week.

You could give the children an example from your own life e.g.: I think God is inviting me to be more generous and share what I have. I will say yes to that invitation by sharing the vegetables from my allotment with my elderly neighbour/sharing some of my time volunteering to help others/taking my old clothes to the charity shop/raising money for CAFOD etc.

How does God want you to live your life? And how will you answer that invitation this 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](#)

Newsletters

[OLAS-Bulletin-4th-October-2026.pdf](#)

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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 COMMUNION SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2026– If your child has celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation and wishes to take part in the First Holy Communion programme, starting after Easter 2026 please download the letter below for further details.

[First Holy Communion 2026 Letter to parents.carers](#)

Gifts from God

Gifts from God

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

Year group		
Reception	Amelie	Archie
1	Olivia	Frank
2	Matilda	Maeva
3	Sam	Orlaith
4	Noah	Belle
5	Frankie	Fionn
6	Ollie	Anouska

Attendance – Well done everyone, a strong start to the year.

Attendance	
Whole school weekly attendance	96.91%
Whole school attendance (full year)	97.8%
National average	95.6%
Reception weekly attendance	98.33%
Year 1 weekly attendance	93.79%
Year 2 weekly attendance	95.65%
Year 3 weekly attendance	95.52%
Year 4 weekly attendance	98.33%

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Year 5 weekly attendance	99.67%
Year 6 weekly attendance	96.67%
Well done to Year 5 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 1 st September 2026	Monday 26 th Oct 2026 to Fri 30 th Oct 2026	Friday 18 th December 2025
Spring Term	Monday 4 th January 2027	Monday 15 th Feb 2027 to Friday 19 th Feb 2027	Thursday 25 th March 2027
Summer Term	Monday 12 th April 2027	Monday 31 st May 2027 to Friday 4 th June 2027	Wednesday 21 st 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

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- Monday 28th June 2027

Have a great weekend, God bless

Mr A. Wilkes

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