ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday 15th September

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 are all well; We have very much enjoyed welcoming back the children back to school in Years 1 to 6 and saying a big 'Hello!' to our new pupils joining us in Reception. We're so pleased with the start that all the children have made.
It has been fantastic to see the older children settle straight back in and enjoy learning with their friends and new teacher. Our youngest children have also made such a positive start, and it has been a pleasure meeting our new families. You are very welcome and if there is anything that you are unsure of, please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher or pop into the school office.

Teachers and children have also been focussing on our Christ Centred Vision as we begin the new year. It has been wonderful hearing the language of our values and learning behaviours being used across school!

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christ-Centred Pilgrims of Hope	*Kind Hearts*	*Questioning Minds*	*Thirst for Knowledge*	*Hunger for Justice*
				
Faith-filled Prophetic 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 3:1–21)*	*The Boy Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41–52)*	*The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1–12)*
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.	Jesus tells of a Samaritan who cares for a wounded stranger when others pass by. Compassion overrides fear, prejudice, and inconvenience.	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.	At twelve years old, Jesus is found in the Temple, listening to the teachers, asking questions, and astonishing them with his understanding.	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 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	**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	**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	**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	**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.

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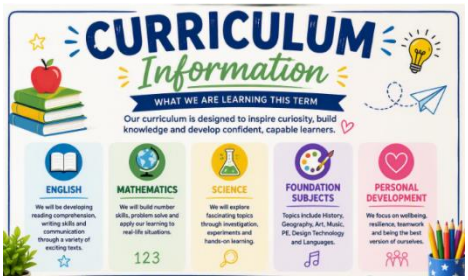
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Principal: Mr A Wilkes

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EMMAUS CATHOLIC MAC
Our journey with Christ

ST JOSEPH'S
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Questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge

Thank you if you were able to join us for our curriculum Information meetings.
If you have been unable to attend, curriculum information can be found on our website:
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Stourbridge) - Curriculum Overview

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.





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 is on Tuesday 22nd September from 9.00-9.45am. It would be lovely to see you there. If you're 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. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family, being outdoors and exploring the countryside, as well as watching football. I look forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks! 😊

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:

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

Parking – With a kind heart, can I please stress to parents to park responsibly and considerately during morning drop off and collection. Unfortunately, I have received two phone calls this week about inconsiderate parking - including where a parent needed to cross into the road with their pushchair on a bend. Please could we all take responsibility for our parking at such busy times of the day. Thank you.

Collecting from clubs – Please not the collection times for our after-school clubs. There have been a few instances where parents have been rather late when collecting. This may result in your child being taken to extra club where a fee may be charged. Thank you.

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

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

Pilgrims of Hope

Gospel reflection: Matthew 20:1-16

A landowner went out to hire some workers for his vineyard. He took on new workers at the start of the day and three more times later in the day. He promised them all a fair wage.
The workers who arrived first expected to be paid more than the workers who arrived near to the end of the day. After all, they were hot and tired and had worked very hard all day, while some of the others had only worked for one hour.
How did the workers who had been hired first feel when they saw that everyone was being paid the same wage?

They thought it was unfair. They were angry and complained. Do you agree with them? Why?

The landowner says that he has paid the first workers exactly what they agreed was fair at the beginning of the day. He says that they have no reason to be cross that he is generous to the other workers, that he can do what he likes with his own money.

Can you think of a time when you felt something was unfair? How did it make you feel? What did you do about it?
Who do you think the landowner in the story is supposed to be? What is Jesus trying to tell us?

Jesus is showing us that God's idea of fairness (sometimes we use the word justice), is different from ours. God's fairness is about making sure that every single person gets what they need, no matter what their situation.
God gives us what we need and not just what others think we deserve. God is generous and created a world with enough for absolutely everyone.
But do you think everyone in our world does have enough money? Or even enough food and water?

How can we help make sure that all people get their fair share of the good things that God has given us?
We can try hard not to take more than we need and make sure we don't waste food, water or energy.
We can be generous with what we have, like the landowner in the story, sharing what we have with others.
And we can try to make a change to our world so that it is a fairer place for all people to live. Sometimes we can make a difference by ourselves.

What will you do this week to try to help make sure that all people around the world get their fair share of the things that God has given for us all?

God loves each and every one of us because we are all special. And so we need to do our best to show our love for all people, not just those who are close by. We are all part of one big global family.
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-13th-September-2026-1-1.pdf

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	*Will start Gifts from God shortly*	
1	Mateo	Obi

2	Bella	Tommy
3	Lily C	Emily
4	Vivienne	Fia
5	Matilda	Soraya
6	Georgie	Fraiser

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

Attendance	
Whole school weekly attendance	**97.96%**
Whole school attendance (full year)	**98.1%**
National average	**95.6%**
Reception weekly attendance	**99.33%**
Year 1 weekly attendance	**98.62%**
Year 2 weekly attendance	**98.26%**
Year 3 weekly attendance	**97.59%**
Year 4 weekly attendance	**96.33%**
Year 5 weekly attendance	**96.67%**
Year 6 weekly attendance	**99%**
Well done to Reception, Reception and Year 6 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

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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
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 weekend, God bless

Mr A. Wilkes
Executive Principal

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