ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 6th November

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

Welcome back to school! I hope that all our families had an enjoyable half time as well as a bit of a rest as we enter one of the busiest half terms of the school year. Thank you to all parents who have attended parents evening with just a few parents left to see their child's class teacher. We really do appreciate you support and partnership. I do hope that the consultations were beneficial and have support you to know how your child is progressing so far, this academic year and any targets that you can support them with at home.

This Sunday of course is Remembrance Sunday and in preparation we have been supporting the Royal British Legion by raising money through poppy and wristband sales this week. Next Wednesday, Year 2 will lead us in our Remembrance assembly and silence.

I have included a few short updates below.
Have a lovely weekend.

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!

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

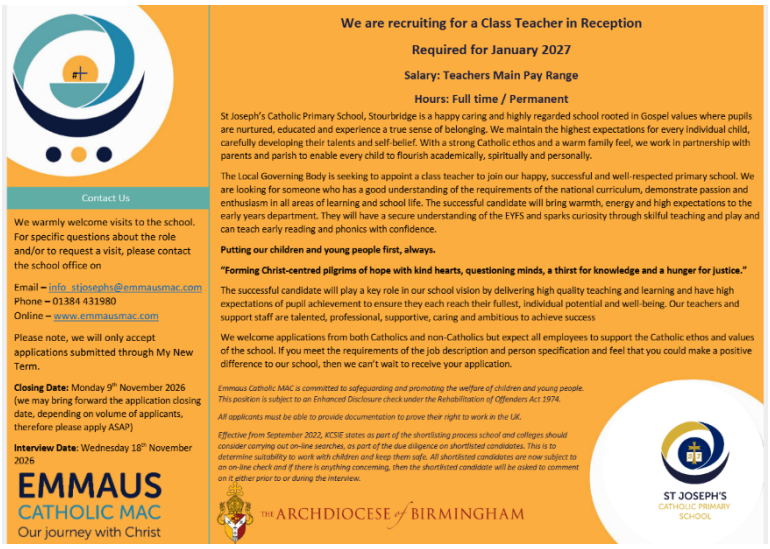
Private Limited Company of Charitable Status with the Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered in England and Wales Company No 09174154

EMMAUS CATHOLIC MAC
Our journey with Christ



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:

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 25:1-13
Jesus tells a story about ten women who are waiting at a wedding for the bridegroom to arrive. It is dark and so they all have lamps with them to light the way. But what did five of them have that the other five didn't?
Five of them were sensible and took extra oil with them, so that if the bridegroom was late they would still be able to light his way. They were prepared. What happened next?

The bridegroom was very late. It was after midnight before the women were asked to go out and meet him and five of them no longer had enough oil for their lamps. They were not prepared and ended up being left outside the wedding. How do you think they felt about being left outside?
Sometimes things happen that we don't expect and we realise that we are not ready for them. Can you think of a time when this has happened to you? What happened? How did you feel?
Can you think of a time when you were ready for something? When you were well prepared? What happened? How did you feel?

They have helped the teachers at Karisimbi Primary school to plan a safe place for everyone in the school to go to if the volcano erupts, and they have made sure that even the youngest children know the way to get there. They practice with "evacuation drills" a bit like you might do a "fire drill" in your school. They have also taught the children how to look after each other if they get hurt.
Christian is 11. During an evacuation drill at his school, he heard the volcano warning sirens, and rushed to collect his little brother. They listened carefully to what the

headteacher told them, then walked to the safe place. Christian carried his little brother when he got tired.

So, if there was ever a real volcano eruption Christian and his brother would know what to do. Being prepared in this situation can help save lives.
Jesus also asks us to be ready and prepared to be kind and loving to others whenever we have the chance. Are you ready to try and help people when they need some support?
How do you think you can show you are ready to help others?

Let's try our best to be prepared in this coming week to be loving, kind and generous. Let's do our best to be ready to help others at home, at school, in the local community and around the world.

Gospel reflection:

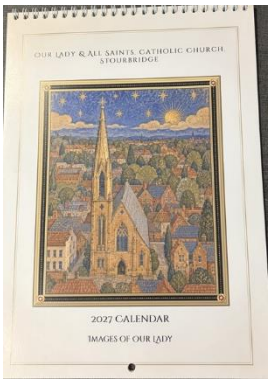
Amen

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

Parish Updates



Please click the link below your Parish Calendar 2027
Our Lady & All Saints 2027 Calendar
Deadline for orders is the 22nd November 2026.



ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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-1st-November-2026-.pdf

FIRST CONFESSION 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 using the links below. Please can this be returned along with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate before the meeting for parents on Wednesday 6th January in the parish centre. If you have any questions, please contact Fr Philip on 01384 395308 or email olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk

Application_form_for_first_forgiveness_and_first_communion – Our Lady and All Saints

Letter to Parents First Confession 2027 – Our Lady and All Saints

FIRST HOLY COMMUION SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2027– If your child has celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation and wishes to take part in the First Holy Communion programme, starting after Easter 2027, a letter with session dates will be available in the new year.

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.

ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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	*Amelia*	Harper
1	Demi-Leigh	Ryan
2	Willow	Rex
3	Elsie	Billie
4	Finn	Issy F
5	Noah	Darcy
6	Zara	Lucy

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

Attendance	
Whole school weekly attendance	96.5%
Whole school attendance (full year)	96.9%
National average	95.4%
Reception weekly attendance	98.67%
Year 1 weekly attendance	96%
Year 2 weekly attendance	95.17%
Year 3 weekly attendance	94.83%
Year 4 weekly attendance	96.98%
Year 5 weekly attendance	99.33%
Year 6 weekly attendance	97.78%
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

ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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
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 week, God bless

Mr A. Wilkes
Executive Principal