

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Part of St Gabriel the Archangel Multi Academy Trust

HILLCREST ROAD, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, DY2 7PW

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Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to wish our families a warm welcome back to Nursery at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School and a very Happy New Year. Welcome also to the new families that are joining our class in January. We hope you and your child will be very happy starting your Nursery school journey with us.

I should also acknowledge that I am starting here this January as the new Nursery Teacher (working alongside Mrs Newey) and I am very much looking forward to getting to know you and your children over the next coming weeks. It is an exciting time for all of us and I am sure we will continue to work, learn and grow together throughout this Spring term.

A polite reminder particularly to new families, to label the children's belongings (lunchboxes, water bottles, coats, jumpers/cardigans etc) so items do not get lost in school and are easy to find at collection time.

I look forward to working together with you.

Miss Hughes.

What are we learning about?

This Term our topics are:

This half term the children are diving into the classic story Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children will be exploring this well-loved tale and using it as inspiration for lots of fun learning activities across all areas of the curriculum.

Stories like *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* help children develop language skills, storytelling abilities, and social understanding. It's a wonderful way to build confidence and creativity through play-based learning.

We will be exploring this story by

Role Play: Reading different versions of the story and retelling it using props, puppets, and costumes. We will be exploring the characters.

Maths Fun: We will compare sizes — big, medium, and small — just like the bowls, chairs, and beds in the story. The children will also practise counting and matching bears to their belongings.

Creative Activities: We will be creating bear masks, porridge bowls, and story settings. The children will be encouraged to talk about what they're creating and describe the characters.

Special days / Dates:


Friday 13th February – Break up for half term


Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026 – Half-term


Monday 23rd February 2026 – School Reopens

Friday 27th March 2026 – End of term (school closes for Easter)

Ideas to try at home:

 Read different versions of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* together and talk about what happens.

 Act out the story as a family — you might even have a 'porridge breakfast' morning!

<p>Personal, Social & Emotional Learning: We will be been thinking about feelings and making good choices and talking about how Goldilocks could have acted differently when she found the Bears' house.</p> <p>Cooking Opportunity: The children will be making their own porridge — deciding whether it was <i>too hot</i>, <i>too cold</i>, or <i>just right!</i></p> <p>We will continue to have a big focus on the 3 prime curriculum areas; Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development.</p> <p>In RE we are focusing on Baptism, looking at what it means to belong to God's family. Later in the term, we will be focusing on Lent and beginning our Easter unit.</p>	<p> Encourage your child to sort toys or household items by size — big, medium, and small.</p>
<p><u>Values for Autumn Term:</u></p> <p>Curious and Active— before half term</p> <p>Curious: Being curious means wanting to learn more about the world, asking questions, and wondering about God, people, and how things work.</p> <p>Active: Being active means getting involved, helping others, and using your gifts to make a positive difference at school, at home, and in the world.</p> <p>Intentional and Prophetic- after half term</p> <p>Intentional: Being intentional means trying to do the right thing on purpose, making good choices, and thinking about how your actions can show love and kindness.</p> <p>Prophetic: Being prophetic means standing up for what is right, speaking kindly but bravely, and showing God's love by caring for others, especially those who need help.</p>	<p><u>The class charity we have chosen to support</u></p> <p>In Nursery we have chosen to support Young At Heart. Young At Heart are a small local registered charity, founded in 1982, offering help and support to families of babies and children diagnosed with heart defects. All of these children and their families have spent many weeks/months in hospital undergoing major heart surgery.</p>
<p><u>Catholic Social Teaching & British Values</u></p> <p>Throughout the curriculum and beyond children learn about the 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching - Working in Solidarity, Care for Creation, Community & Participation, Dignity of Workers, Help for the Poor & Vulnerable, Human Dignity & Solidarity and how they link to British Values – Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Respect & Tolerance.</p>	<p><u>St Joseph's Way – See our website for more details</u></p> <p>At St. Joseph's we develop children's character through the 'St. Joseph's Way' curriculum. In order to build character, we define the behaviours and habits that we expect students to demonstrate. We want to support our pupils to grow into adults who are polite, respectful, grateful and who put others before themselves. We believe that, as pupils practise these behaviours over time, they become habits that positively shape how they feel about themselves and how other people perceive them. As philosopher Will Durant states, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." (1926)</p>