

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

Principal: Mrs S Chapman B.Ed Hons

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

We hope all our children, families and staff had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to our Alternative Provision and see them settling in, reconnecting with familiar faces and beginning the new term with such a positive attitude.

The start of a new academic year brings fresh opportunities, new goals and plenty to look forward to. We are incredibly proud of how well the children have returned and adapted to their routines, and we are excited to support them as they continue to develop their confidence, skills and achievements throughout the year.

Throughout this first half term, the children will continue to build on their learning and development through the exciting theme of **nursery rhymes**. Each week, we will explore different rhymes and use them as a starting point for a wide range of engaging activities and learning opportunities.

Through familiar songs, stories, sensory experiences, creative activities and play, the children will be supported to develop their communication and language, literacy, numeracy, physical skills and personal, social and emotional development. Using nursery rhymes also gives us lots of opportunities for repetition, anticipation and shared enjoyment, helping children to build confidence and make meaningful connections in their learning.

We are looking forward to seeing how each child engages with the different rhymes and celebrating their progress throughout the half term.

Alongside our themed learning, each child will continue to experience a **personalised curriculum** that is carefully planned around their individual strengths, interests and areas of need.

Children will have access to a wide range of targeted interventions and learning opportunities designed to support their communication and overall development. These will focus on key areas including **attention and listening, play and interaction, understanding of language, use of language, and speech**.

Through consistent, supportive and meaningful experiences, we aim to help every child make progress at their own pace, develop their confidence and build the skills they need to engage more fully in learning and everyday interactions.

Thank you for your continued support — we look forward to working together throughout the term and celebrating the children's achievements along the way.

Please don't hesitate to speak to myself or a member of staff if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support.

Many Thanks

Miss Oakley

What are we learning about?

Our focus this half term is Nursery Rhymes.

In RE this term we are learning about Creation and Covenant. We will be learning that "God made me, the world and everything in it" and emphasising how we can look after the world and ourselves. We will be exploring this through various learning activities and exploring our environment inside and outside the classroom.

Each child will receive personalised teaching and learning opportunities through dedicated 1:1 support to help develop their mathematical understanding, phonic knowledge, literacy skills and overall confidence in learning.

Speech and Language support is thoughtfully woven throughout each day to help develop the children's communication, interaction and confidence.

Through nurturing adult support and engaging activities, we encourage every child to find their voice and build positive connections with others.

We will be implementing a number of focused interventions to help support attention, sustained engagement, understanding of language, speaking and listening and fine motor skills.

Special days / Dates:

18th September - Flu Vaccinations

21st September - Mission, Vocation, Values and Prayer Week begins

17th October - Reception Teddy Bear Road Safety Workshop

9th October - Joseph's Jigsaw Saints Day - wear own clothes

17th October - School Parish Mass, Church 6:00 pm

19th October - Black History Week begins

19th October - Tin Donations for Harvest requested

19th October - Parents' Evening

20th October - Harvest Mass led by Year 6 (9:15 am)

21st October - Whole School Enrichment Day - Fencing

21st October - Reception Snowman, Birmingham Rep

23rd October - Teacher Day - School closed to pupils

26 - 30 October Half Term

2nd November Teacher Day - School closed to pupils

3rd November - School Re-opens

11th November - Whole School Photographs

16th November - Antibullying, Anti-Racism and Internet Safety Week

25th November - Year 3 to Dudley Museum

11th December - Christmas Jumper, Fair and Party Day

14th December - Carol Concert, Church 5:00 pm

15th December - KSI Nativity Play (2:20 pm)

16th December - Year 3 The Annunciation and Visitation (9:15 am)

16th December - Year 4 The Birth of Christ (2:15 pm)

17th December - Year 5 The Story of the Shepherds (9:15 am)

17th December - Year 6 The Story of the Wise Men (2:15 pm)

18th December - End of Term Celebration Assembly (9:15 am)

18th December - Carols and Readings Around the Tree (2:30 pm)

18th December - End of Term - School closes for Christmas

Your child will bring home a reading book and reading record to share with you at home. These will be changed weekly to support their developing love of reading and early literacy skills. Please ensure your child brings their reading book and record into school every day so we can continue to support their reading journey together.

Your child will also bring home a Home-School Link Book each week containing comments and updates about their week in school. This book is an important communication tool between home and school, and we warmly encourage you to share any comments,

Values for Autumn Term: Compassionate and Loving– before half term Compassionate: Thinking about one another and showing love and kindness. Loving: Showing love to everyone as Jesus teaches us to. Faith-filled and Hopeful- after half term Faith-filled: Be guided by faith and all of Jesus’ teachings. Hopeful: Having hope in Jesus and the Trinity and the power they hold.	St Joseph’s Way – See our website for more details 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)
Catholic Social Teaching & British Values 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.	