

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 and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to St Joseph's Catholic School. It has been wonderful to begin to get to know your wonderful children, they have settled into school life well and we are so enormously proud of all of them. The children have begun to adapt to our routines, and this will continue throughout the Autumn Term. To support their independence could we ask you to make sure that **everything** (lunchboxes, water bottles, cardigans, jumpers, coats etc) are clearly labelled with your child's name. This helps to the children and staff keep the nursery environment safe and running smoothly.

We are looking forward to an exciting term which will cover all areas of the EYFS curriculum. We will focus on the prime areas of learning (communication and language, personal, social and emotional development and physical development) and also the specific areas of learning which includes literacy and mathematics. Nursery are planning to begin PE lessons after October half-term, and will send out more information about this nearer the time.

Next week your child will take home their "home school link book". In here your child's key person will be identified to you (either Miss Hughes or Miss Newey) and they will write comments about your child's week and some activities they have been up to. Please take time to read your child's home school link book and add comments about the weekend, we use this to form conversations with your child to aid their communication and language.

We are so looking forward to continuing to watch them grow and learn and we are so grateful to be a part of your child's journey at St Joseph's.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask either of us.

Thank you again for your continued support,

Miss Hughes and Miss Newey.

What are we learning about?

We begin our academic year introducing the children to a wide range of traditional nursery rhymes. This is a fun way to help them develop their communication and language skills, broadening their vocabulary and helping them to speak in more complex sentences.

Special days / Dates:

11th September - Year 5 Class Saint Day - wear own clothes
15th September - Mass led by Year 5 (9:15 am)
18th September - Year 2 Class Saint Day - wear own clothes
18th September - Flu Vaccinations
21st September - Mission, Vocation, Values and Prayer Week begins
22nd September - Mass led by Year 4 (9:15 am)

We will introduce them to a wide range of well-loved contemporary and traditional stories, specifically focusing on The Gingerbread Man after October half-term. This will then be used as inspiration for lots of fun learning activities across all areas of the curriculum.

There will be a clear focus on personal, social and emotional development, communication and language and physical development.

In literacy, the children will be encouraged to start giving meaning to the marks that they make and begin to use line to enclose space (for example, drawing circles to represent faces). They will also begin the process of learning to recognise and writing their name.

We are developing children's early phonics skills through Phase 1 phonics. This focuses on speaking and listening, and sound discrimination through seven aspects such as environmental sounds, rhythm and rhyme, and oral blending and segmenting.

In maths, throughout the term we will be developing the children's number sense and mathematical awareness. This will begin through naming and matching colours, sorting objects through size, colour and shape and developing their mathematical reasoning.

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.

Throughout all of our learning, the prime areas of the EYFS curriculum (communication and language, personal, social and emotional development and physical development) will take centre stage.

24th September - Year 4 to Wroxeter City
25th September - Year 6 Class Saint Day - wear own clothes
28th September - Year 6 Road Safety Workshop
29th September - Mass led by Year 3 (9:15 am)

1st October - Year 6 to Alton Castle
2nd October - Lent Harvest Fast Day
6th October - Mass led by Year 2 (9:15 am)
7th October - Reception Teddy Bear Road Safety Workshop
9th October - Mental Health Workshop - wear yellow today
9th October - Joseph's Jigsaw Saints Day - wear own clothes
9th October - Year 4 Assembly (9:15 am)
13th October - Mass led by Year 1 (9:15 am)

16th October - Nursery Class Saint Day - wear own clothes

16th October - Year 6 Assembly (9:15 am)
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
6th November - Year 4 Class Saint Day - wear own clothes
10th November - Mass led by Year 5 (9:15 am)
11th November - Whole School Photographs
16th November - Antibullying, Anti-Racism and Internet Safety Week
17th November - Mass led by Year 4 (9:15 am)
18th November - Year 4 to Motor Museum
24th November - Year 6 to Steel House Lane
24th November - Mass led by Year 3 (9:15 am)
25th November - Year 3 to Dudley Museum

1st December - Mass led by Year 2 (9:15 am)
2nd December - Year 1 to Black Country Museum
3rd December - Nursery to Wonderland
8th December - Bambinelli Mass
10th December - Mini Reports go home today
11th December - Christmas Jumper, Fair and Party Day
14th December - EYFS Nativity Play (2:20 pm)
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
<u>Values for Autumn Term:</u> 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.	<u>The class charity we have chosen to support</u> Our class charity will be UNICEF. They define their mission as:  Every child deserves a safe, happy childhood. For 80 years, that belief has shaped how we work. Alongside governments, communities, and families, we help establish and strengthen the systems and services that enable children to lead brighter futures. Your support can help make that possible for every child.
<u>Catholic Social Teaching & British Values</u> 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.	<u>St Joseph's Way – See our website for more details</u> 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)