



**ST JOSEPH'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY  
SCHOOL

**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**

Newsletter March 31st 2023

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## A message from our Principal



Dear parents,

As we arrive at the end of the Spring term I would like to thank you as parents for the support that you provide to your children and our school. The partnership between home and school is invaluable and we are blessed at St Joseph's that this is strong. In school this week it has been a very busy one with our moving and emotional Year 5 Stations of the Cross assembly, our Year 3 children receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, the two information evenings for end of KS1 and KS2 assessments, our visit from the fascinating micro-artist Graham Short about his work and Father Philip celebrated a beautiful whole school end of term Mass this morning that was attended by parents, governors and parishioners. Along with, of course, a focus on Holy Week in our RE lessons and all of our usual learning and growing - phew! We'll all be ready for a bit of a rest I feel!

In addition to this, our Lent fundraising and activities have been greatly supported - thank you.

### **During Lent we have raised:**

**The Cafod Big Lent Walk - £2,557.87 raised**

**Ups and Downs (A Down Syndrome charity) - £306.53 raised**

**The Year 2 cake sale towards our sponsored children in The Gambia - 313.50 raised**

### **Donation of food and Easter eggs to Stourbridge food bank**

I have spoken with the children how this fundraising meets our Lenten promise and will support a range of people across the world as well as achieving our school mission and putting our faith in action. This Lent the children have truly 'Followed in the Gospel values of Jesus and loved, learnt and respected one another' demonstrating solidarity and the common good.

Holy Week is now almost upon us when we join Jesus as he was welcomed by crowds of people into Jerusalem, before the same crowds of people were calling for His crucifixion. The events that lead up to Jesus's death fill us all with a deep sadness, but, as Father Philip told us this morning, Jesus did this willingly because he loves us so much and we can all share in this joy on Easter Sunday when we celebrate the Good news that Jesus has risen!

I wish you all a restful, peaceful and blessed Easter, and I look forward to your continued support and partnership as we approach the summer term which is always full and busy with lots of activities and events to come.

Have a great weekend and Easter break.

Mr A. Wilkes

Principal

Thank you for joining us at family Mass each Saturday at 5pm at OLAS, it is a great success!



1 - Instagram [@STJOSEPHSCATHOLICPRIMARY](#)

Twitter [@StJoStourbridge](#)

## Children's liturgy – Palm Sunday (Matthew 26:14 – 27:66)



Today is a special day, called Palm Sunday. Today we heard two gospel readings. The second gospel reading is called the Passion and tells the story of how Jesus was arrested, tried, crucified and buried.

What do you remember from the first gospel reading?

In the first gospel reading we heard how Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The donkey was a very humble animal – not very special for such a special person like Jesus. Why do you think he chose a donkey?

If Jesus were to arrive here today, do you think he would ride on a donkey? What would he ride or drive?

All of the people were so happy to see Jesus that they laid their cloaks on the floor and cut branches from palm trees to lay before him to show their respect. This is why today is called Palm Sunday and why we wave palms. They shouted to show their joy and praise for God.

Why do you think the crowds were so full of happiness and praise for Jesus? What would you have done if you were in the crowd?

Think again about what it would be like if Jesus arrived here today. What would you do to welcome Jesus if he arrived here today?

God made all of us, no matter where in the world that we come from. Jesus is in all of us. So every time we meet someone and we welcome them, we are welcoming Jesus.

Jesus is in all people, so we should treat all people with the respect, love and kindness that we would show to Jesus. We should try to welcome all people into our lives and treat them as we would like to be treated.

Can you think of a time you welcomed someone else, your class, your game? What did you do?

Or have you ever been welcomed by others? What did they do to make you feel special and welcome?

This week let's try to welcome all people as we would welcome Jesus.

As we welcome Jesus into our lives, we pray together...

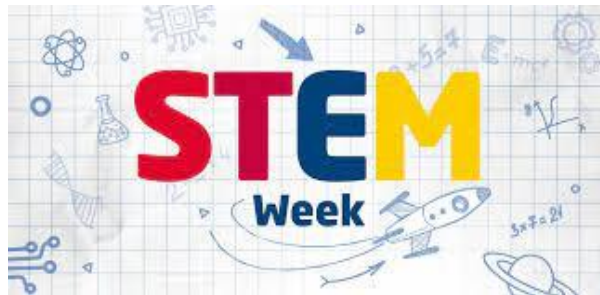
We pray for world leaders: that they may be inspired by Jesus' example to care for all people, especially those who are poor. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world: that we may look for Jesus within them and treat each other as we would wish to be treated. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may welcome all people with respect and love as Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of truth, we thank you for sending us your Son Jesus. Open our hearts so that we may welcome him in others and bring us together to make the world a fairer place. Amen

*Reflection adapted from Cafod children's liturgy*



*2 - Calling all parents: Do you have a career that involves science, engineering, art or maths? Would you be interested in talking to the children about how you use these skills in your job? During our 'STEAM' week (5th-9th June), we would love for parents to come in and chat to the children about their jobs. Please don't worry if you are not available on these dates, you could always send us a video. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Freeman or Mrs Cangiano to find out more information. We can't wait to hear from you.*

*\*Please note - due to the great feedback from parents so far who wish to talk to the children we have moved the date back a little to ensure that everyone who wishes to talk to the children will have the chance to inform us and the opportunity to do so.*



## Curriculum



Have you seen the curriculum area on our school website? It is full of information about the progression of key knowledge and skills that our children learn throughout their time at school. Our curriculum is designed to ensure that the precise knowledge and skills are learnt and reinforced so

that the children develop a wide schema (web of knowledge) and are able to know more and remember more during their time at school and are prepared for their next stage in education.

Ofsted agreed that we are continuing to develop an ambitious curriculum so that in all areas the children are able to achieve well and use the techniques that they have been taught to tackle a variety of challenges. Our curriculum is rooted in the teachings of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teachings so we make links with the children's learning to areas such as caring for our world, the dignity of workers, developments for the common good and more.

To bring the curriculum to life, we also plan for educational visits and visitors that enrich learning further.

You can view your child's learning in all areas at the link below.

[St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stourbridge - Curriculum Plans \(st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk\)](http://st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)

We have completed CAFOD's Big Lent Walk!



Our school community joined with thousands of others to help fight extreme poverty.

We walked a total of 5 kilometres during the last two weeks. Well done everyone! Thank you for all of your sponsorship money - we raised a magnificent £2,557.87

By continuing to put Catholic Social Teaching into action, we are showing our commitment to living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor and creating a legacy for the future.

CAFOD is an international development charity and the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Further details at [cafod.org.uk/walk/](http://cafod.org.uk/walk/)





3 - Our Easter Gardens .

*The children have used sustainable materials to represent the crucifixion and Resurrection in the form of an Easter garden. They are wonderful and displayed in the school entrance. We have had so many positive comments about them and I hope that you enjoyed supporting your child to make them. Each child received a special treat and two children were chosen as the winners of the competition and received an Easter egg and a book.*

## Lent fundraising updates



There are a number of fundraising activities that are taking place in school this Lent. Below is a brief update. Thank you so much for your donations. It has been wonderful to see our pupils leading the fundraising efforts, truly bearing witness to their faith!

The Cafod Big Lent Walk - £2,557.87 raised

Ups and Downs (A Down Syndrome charity) - £306.53 raised

The Year 2 cake sale towards our sponsored children in The Gambia - 313.50

Donation of food and Easter eggs towards the Stourbridge food bank

FAITH IN ACTION!

## Gifts from God



The following children have been awarded certificates in our Gifts from God assembly this afternoon and will be invited to 'Brew with Mr W' on Tuesday afternoon to discuss their achievements. Well done children for your hard work and commitment to our school values.

Year group	Gospel values	Good work
Reception	Joseph	Samuel
Year 1	Jamie	Louie
Year 2	Whole Class	Katie W
Year 3	Whole Class	Grace
Year 4	Theo	Flo & Jude
Year 5	Rose	Annie

## Diary Dates - Spring term



### **Please note the following diary dates for Spring**

Friday 31st March - End of spring term

Monday 17th April - School opens for the start of the summer term

Monday May 1st Bank Holiday - school closed

\*KS1 Assessments begin in May

Monday 8th May - Bank Holiday for the King's Coronation - school close

Tuesday 9th May - Friday 12th May KS2 SATs week (Year 6)

Wednesday 14th June - Friday 26th May Year 5 residential at Alton Castle

Friday 26th May - End of half term

Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June - Half term break

Monday June 5th - School opens for the second half of the summer term

Monday 5th June - Friday 9th June - STEAM Week in school

Wednesday 14th June - Friday 16th June - Year 6 residential at Pioneer Centre

Wednesday 21st June - Emmaus Year 5 sports event at Hagley Catholic High School

Friday 25th June - School closed for inset day

Saturday 1st July - St Joseph's Summer Faye

Tuesday 25th July - Final day of the summer term

\*Further dates to be added (including all Masses for the summer term)

## PTA updates



We are very lucky to benefit from such an active and passionate PTA - thank you for your ongoing support to our school!

<https://bearbookshop.co.uk/shop>



WE NOW HAVE A WISHLIST OF BOOKS HELD BY BEAR BOOK SHOP. THE LIST FEATURES TITLES OUR TEACHERS WOULD **LOVE** TO ADD TO THEIR BOOKSHELVES!

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO CONSIDER PURCHASING A BOOK FOR OUR SCHOOL COLLECTION, PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW.



## PE Timetable



Please take note of your child's PE days for this half term.

Reception Class - Friday

Year 1 - Tuesday & Friday

Year 2 - Monday & Tuesday

Year 3 - Thursday & Friday

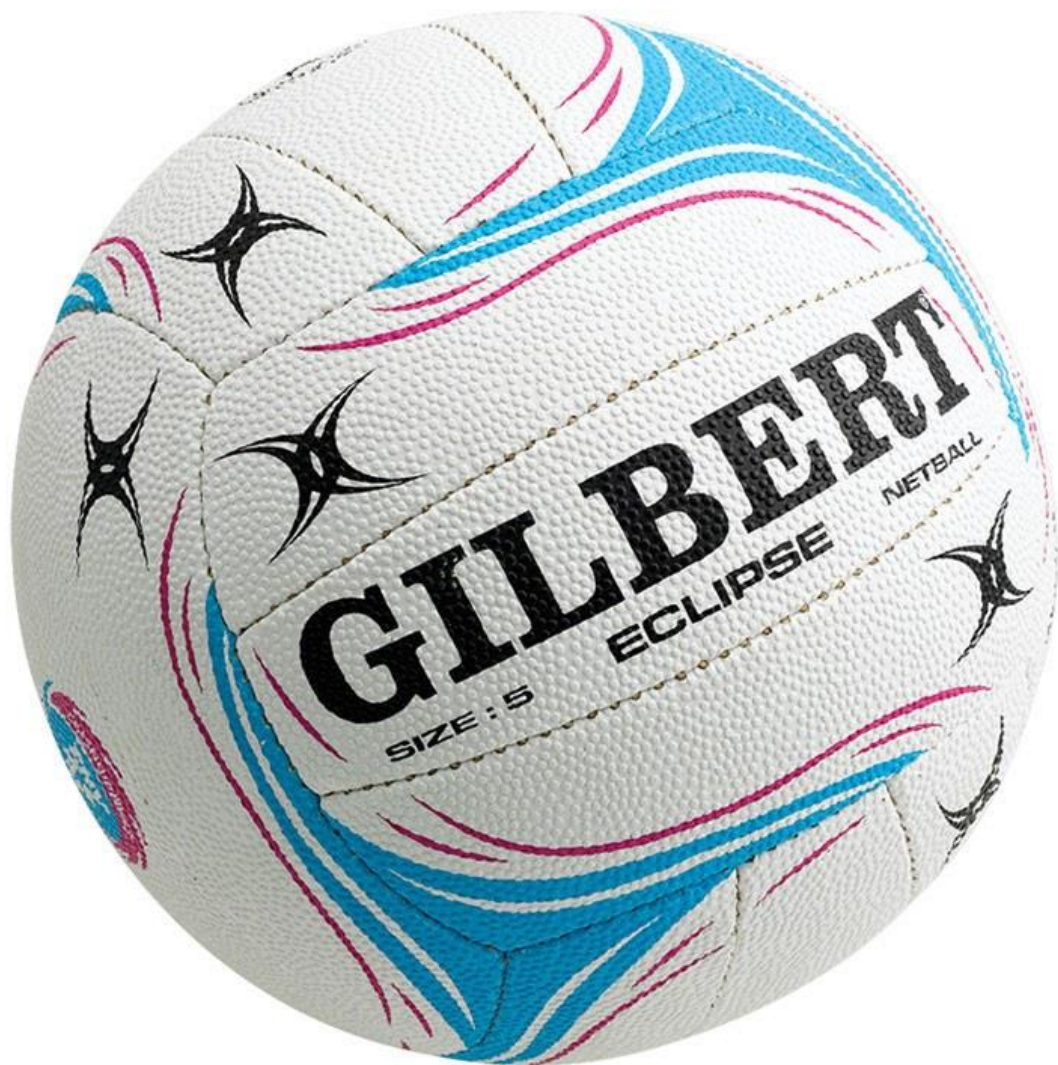
Year 4 - Thursday (Swim) & Friday

Year 5 - Wednesday & Thursday

Year 6 - Monday & Wednesday



## Clubs



### Lunchtime Clubs:

Monday - KS2 Choir (Mrs Cangiano)

Tuesday - Cross country training - Years 4/5 & 6

Tuesday - Y6 leading 'Mindfulness group'

Thursday - Football training with Mr Wilkes - Years 4/5 & 6

Friday - KS1 Choir (Mrs Cangiano)

If your child is interested in joining any of our Before & After school clubs, please contact the school office for more details.

Monday 8am - Dodgeball

Tuesday 8am - KS2 Gymnastics (spaces)

Wednesday 8am - KS2 Multi-skills

Thursday 8am - KS1 Gymnastics(spaces)

Thursday 3.15-4.15 - Year 5&6 Netball

Friday 8am - Archery Club

Friday 3.15-4.45pm - Years 1-4 Football

Tuesday & Wednesday 3.15-4.30pm - Irish Dancing

## Our new caterers and lunch menu



The children have been delighted with our new lunch menu at school. Parents can continue to order their children's meals through ParentPay. Meals can be pre-ordered daily or weekly on the new School Food United app, details were emailed out to all parents on Monday 27th February. Please remember to order before 8am. Pupils in Reception & KS1 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. Dinners for KS2 pupils are £2.30 per day.



School Menu - Summer term



**WEEK 1**

Allergy information available on request

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Main</b>				
Veggie Wholemeal Pizza (v)	Mild Beef Chilli con Carne with Brown Rice	Braised Chicken with New Potatoes	Pork Sausage Pasta Bake	Fish Fingers and Chips
<b>Vegetarian</b>				
Chickpea and Spinach Curry with Rice (v)	Lentil Cottage Pie (v)	Cheese and Potato Pasty (v)	BBQ Vegan Meatball Wrap (v)	Veggie Nuggets and Chips (v)
<b>3rd Options</b>				
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Pasta with Lentil Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Pasta with Lentil Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw
<b>Deli</b>				
Baguette with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Baguette with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Baguette with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Baguette with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Baguette with Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese
<b>Vegetables</b>				
Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables
Lemon Drizzle Cake	Fruit Jelly	Mousse	Vegan Ginger Cake	Fruit Turnover
Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt

Fresh seasonal salad and bread available daily. Fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily as an alternative to the dessert of the day.

17th Apr, 8th May, 29th May, 19th Jun, 10th Jul, 4th Sep, 25th Sep, 16th Oct



**WEEK 2**

Allergy information available on request

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Main</b>				
Macaroni Cheese (v)	Butter Chicken Curry with Brown Rice	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Bolognese with Pasta	Fish Fingers and Chips
<b>Vegetarian</b>				
Sweet Potato and Bean Chilli with Jacket Wedges (v)	Veggie Enchilada (v)	Vegan Sausage with Roast Potatoes and Gravy (v)	Roasted Vegetable and Mozzarella Tray Bake with Rice (v)	Onion Bhaji with Chutney and Chips (v)
<b>3rd Options</b>				
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Pasta with Lentil Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Pasta with Lentil Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw
<b>Deli</b>				
Wrap with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Wrap with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Wrap with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Wrap with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Wrap with Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese
<b>Vegetables</b>				
Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables
Summer Cake	Fruit Jelly	Fruit Flapjack	Vegan Chocolate Kale Brownie	Fruit Mousse
Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt

Fresh seasonal salad and bread available daily. Fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily as an alternative to the dessert of the day.

24th Apr, 15th May, 5th Jun, 26th Jun, 17th Jul, 11th Sep, 2nd Oct, 23rd Oct





Allergy information available on request

1st May, 22nd May, 12th Jun, 3rd Jul, 24th Jul, 18th Sep, 9th Oct

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Main</b>				
Cheese and Bean Slice with Wedges (v)	Chicken, Leek and Sweetcorn Pasta	Pork Meatball and Tomato Bake with New Potatoes	BBQ Chicken with Rice	Fish Fingers and Chips
<b>Vegetarian</b>				
Roasted Tomato and Basil Pasta (v)	Veggie Biryani (v)	Vegan Sausage with New Potatoes and Gravy (v)	Broccoli and Cauliflower Cheese Rice Bake (v)	Samosa and Chips (v)
<b>3rd Options</b>				
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Pasta with Lentil Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Pasta with Lentil Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Salmon Mayo or Coleslaw
<b>Deli</b>				
Sandwich with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Sandwich with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Sandwich with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Sandwich with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese	Sandwich with Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese
<b>Vegetables</b>				
Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables
Fruit Shortbread	Iced Carrot Cake	Jelly	Vegan Summer Loaf	Fruit Cheesecake
Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt

Fresh seasonal salad and bread available daily. Fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily as an alternative to the dessert of the day.





## Attendance



Congratulations to Year 1 who have achieved the highest attendance this week. You will receive an extra play time!

There have been a number of illnesses across school this week that have impacted on our whole school attendance - I hope that everyone is now feeling much better.

Attendance for the whole school for this week is 92.75%.

Here is the attendance for this week for each class:

Year R: 92.8%

Year 1: 95.7%

Year 2: 91.3%

Year 3: 94.3%

Year 4: 90.1%

Year 5: 92.9%

Year 6: 92.1%

Please make sure your child is in school every day unless ill. Remember illnesses such as colds can be managed well with Calpol and although children can feel unwell first thing in a morning they do

tend to brighten up during the day. We will always contact you if we are concerned that your child has become unwell throughout the day.

If there is no reason provided for your child's absence an unauthorised code is marked in the register. This will impact your child's overall attendance. Please contact school before 8.55am where possible and leave a message . If we are not aware of why your child is not in school we will try and contact you, if we are unable to contact the parent/carer we may call one of the other contacts on your child's records.

Please try to be as punctual as possible, we have noticed a small number of children are arriving late to school. If your child arrives after the close of the registration period (9.05am) this again is recorded as an unauthorised absence on the register and will affect your child's overall attendance figure. If your child arrives at school after 8.55am they MUST be accompanied by a parent/carer for signing in purposes.

In line with Government guidance all pupils who test positive for COVID-19 are recorded as ill in the register.

## Parent Governor Vacancy



The Articles of Association and Scheme of Delegation requires that the local governing body must include 2 parent governors who have been elected by the parents of registered pupils of the school and who are themselves parents of registered pupils of the school at the time of their election.

There are currently 2 vacancies and you are therefore invited to take part in the election of 2 parent governors for this school who will serve on the local governing body for 4 years unless they resign the post in the interim.

A nomination form was emailed to you this week and must be returned to the school office (for the attention of Mr John Coyne) no later than 5:00pm on 30 March 2023. Should 2 or fewer nominations be received by the official closing date, the candidate(s) will be duly elected unopposed. In the event

of there being 3 or more nominations an election will take place between 17 April 2023 and 21 April 2023. Information on voting arrangements will be sent to you at a later date.

Please note that you should not participate in more nominations than there are vacancies. Each nomination requires two proposers. This is a great opportunity for two of our parents to support the leadership of our school!

## Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Lunchtime Supervisor - Monday to Friday 12.00pm-1.20pm term time only.

If you are interested or know of anyone who would be interested please contact the school office for more details.

## Pupil Premium and Free School Meals



If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,

We get an extra [£1,385 (for primary schools) / £985 (for secondary schools) – these figures are for the 2022/2023 financial year] for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

For example, we've previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Universal infant free school meals

Currently, pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You shouldn't confuse UIFSM with free schools meals and the pupil premium.

If your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

Does my child have to eat the free school meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

How do I register?

You only need to register once at the school.

To register, please go to [www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals)

If you need further information, you can contact the Free School Meals Teams by:

Telephone - 01384 814988

Email - [freeschoolmeals.benefits@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals.benefits@dudley.gov.uk)

More information

For more information about pupil premium go to our website, which contains details of how the pupil premium has been spent in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year.

## Safeguarding





You can reach out to Mr Wilkes, Mrs McCole or Mrs Riley or any member of staff in school.

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) for this school are:



**Designated Safeguarding Lead**  
**Mr A. Wilkes**



**Designated Safeguarding Lead**  
**Mrs J. McCole**



**Designated Safeguarding Lead**  
**Mrs M Riley**

# Dudley Early Help Strategy





#### 4 - National Online Safety

*This week we have emailed you with information on how to sign up for resources, courses and webinars around online safety using the National Online Safety platform. I will shortly add suggested resources to your parent 'watch list' which I believe will be of great support to us all as we keep our children safe in an ever changing environment online. Please do sign up to this fantastic resource which we also use regularly in school. All schools within Emmaus have been provided with this opportunity to support online safety of our children.*

*Within school, we are able to see which courses that you have completed, but not any other details. Please ensure that you select the 'parent/carer' user group when you sign up.*



*5 - Please scan for our Instagram page.*

*Twitter @StJoStourbridge*

## Contact us



Mr Wilkes and Mrs McCole are available at the start and the end of the school day and can usually be contacted by telephone throughout the school day or a meeting arranged with a senior member of staff.

You will always receive a warm welcome at St Joseph's!

If you have any concerns or worries, no matter how small, please let us know so we can do everything we can to make things better and resolve your concerns. Never hesitate to get in touch. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Telephone-01384 431980

Email - [info\\_stjosephs@emmausmac.com](mailto:info_stjosephs@emmausmac.com)