

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after the Christmas holidays and also a very warm welcome to all the new Nursery children who have just joined us in January 2019. During your child's first term in Nursery, whether they are new to our setting or returning, we will be ensuring that all children settle into the daily routine. Please do not hesitate to speak to myself or Miss Link if you have any queries or concerns throughout the term.

In the Early Years there are seven areas which we explore and involve in all of the children's learning. There are three Prime Areas which are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. There are also four Specific Areas, through which the Prime Areas are strengthened and applied. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. The seven areas are as follows:

Prime Areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Specific Areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Throughout this term we will be firstly focusing on the Prime Areas in our Key Person Groups, which are skills the children need to develop prior to exploring the Specific Areas. This will enable children to work closely with their Key Person in small groups and we aim to support children's self-confidence and self-awareness, their management of feelings and behaviour, ability to make relationships, developing familiarity of routines and abiding by classroom rules and expectations. We will also support the development of children's speaking and listening skills as these are crucial for later learning.

In Phonics, we will be continuing to explore Phase Two of Letters and Sounds. The children will be learning new sounds, blending and segmenting with letters and developing their fine motor skills, pencil control, pencil grip and letter formation.

In Mathematics, we will be exploring shape, space and measure through identifying simple shapes and talking about patterns.

In RE, we will be learning about Baptism, God's Family, Lent and Holy Week, through many different practical experiences that develop knowledge and understanding.

In our setting we provide you with a Home School Link book. These books allow you to give weekly updates on your child's progress at home and let us know what you have been up to at the weekend. Your child's Key Person will collect the books in on a Monday, read the comments and respond. Thank you to

those parents who have been bringing in these books and writing in them each week. We feel positive parental partnership is crucial for children's learning and development.

I will be sending one child per week home with Barnaby Bear on a Friday for the weekend to bring back on Monday. He will be coming to your house with a note book so that parents can write about his weekend with your child. On a Monday the children will have a chance to share what they did with Barnaby at the weekend. The aim of this is to develop the children's communication and language skills in addition to increasing their self-confidence.

Please can you send a spare change of clothes (school uniform) with your child, in case they need to be changed during the day. Please ensure that all your children's clothes are clearly labelled, including their shoes. This will enable us to find any clothes that may go missing. Thank you for your co-operation.

If you wish to discuss any of the above or any other matter, please do not hesitate to come into school to arrange a meeting and I will be happy to assist.

Thanking you for your continuing support.

Miss Blanchette
Nursery Teacher

Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus

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