

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after the Easter holidays and also a very warm welcome to the new Nursery children who have just joined us in April 2018. 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 Foundation Stage Framework (2012) 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 again be 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 One and Phase Two of Letters and Sounds, which involves the children listening to sounds, making sounds themselves and learning about simple rhythm and rhyme and where children will move on from oral blending and segmentation to blending and segmenting with letters.

In Mathematics, we will be developing their number skills in number recognition, counting and number rhymes. Children will also be exploring shape, space and measure through identifying simple shapes and talking about patterns.

In RE, we will be learning about Easter when Jesus came back to life, Mary the mother of Jesus and the Pentecost, through many different practical experiences that develop knowledge and understanding.

In Mark-Making or Guided Writing we will be supporting children's drawing and writing through modelling to ensure that they are correctly and confidently holding their pencil and giving meaning to their marks.

In our setting we provide you with a Home School Link book which will be given to you every Friday. 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. Please can you give the Home School Link book back to your child's Key Person every Monday and this will give them a chance to 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.

We will be having a Mini-beast theme this term where we will be teaching the children about different types of Mini-beasts and the children will also be learning about planting and growing! We will even be having a Mini beast party! Other exciting events include our Victorian week where we have the opportunity to learn about Victorian life and to dress up as a Victorian.

The children have been sent home with a reading book today to support their phonics learning. They have also been sent home with a library book. Their books will be changed every couple of weeks in school. Please can you read with them at home and write in their Reading Record to let us know how they are getting on at home. Please can you send their reading book in a labelled bag into school with them daily so we are able to change their books when needed. You can purchase a St Joseph's blue book bag or bring in one of your own.

Please ensure that your children's clothes are all clearly labelled, including their shoes and bag. This will enable us to find any clothes that may go missing. Please also provide a spare change of clothing for your child to bring with them each day, if possible. Thank you for your co-operation!

Thank you for making sure your child arrives on time between 8.30am and 8.45am / 12.30pm – 12.45pm. This is crucial for us to ensure we start our sessions on time.

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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