

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Dear Parents,

Welcome to all the new children who have just joined our Nursery here at St Joseph's. 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 exploring Phase One of Letters and Sounds, which involves the children listening to sounds, making sounds themselves and learning about simple rhythm and rhyme. This will enable them to develop the listening skills needed for Phase two phonics and beyond. Some children will be exploring Phase Two of Letters and Sounds, 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 counting and basic number rhymes. Children will also be exploring shape, space and measure through identifying simple shapes and talking about patterns.

The story books we are focusing on this term will be The Three Little Pigs and Little Red Riding Hood. We will be reading the story, learning how stories are structured and how to sequence them. Children will role play them and sing songs, etc. This will help develop their learning and deepen their interest in stories. We will also send a copy of the story home, for you to read with your child.

In RE, we will be learning God's Creation of the World, God Our Father Who Cares For Us, Advent and Christmas, through many different first hand practical experiences that develop knowledge and understanding.

In Mark-Making 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.

You will be provided with a blue Home School Link book which will go home with your child every Friday. This book allows 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. We will collect the books in on a Monday, read the comments and respond. We feel positive parental partnership is crucial for children's learning and development.

After the first few weeks 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 ensure that all your children's clothes are clearly labelled, including their coat and shoes. This will enable us to find any clothes that may go missing. Please provide your child with a spare uniform, if possible, which will be kept on their peg during the day, just in case your child needs to be changed. 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

Part of St John Bosco Catholic Academy Company
Registered in England and Wales No. 08608177
Registered office:
Burton Road, Dudley DY1 3BY