

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Reception Autumn Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St Joseph's Reception class! I hope you have all enjoyed the Summer and your children have been looking forward to starting school. Thank you for all your support in ensuring your child arrives in school at 8:45am ready to start their day at 9:00am.

The children have settled really well into Reception and we are pleased with how much they appear to enjoy their school day. I would like to say a big thank you for all your help and support with settling your child into Reception class. It is a pleasure to have your child in the class and I would like to stress that you can speak to me, Mrs Bunn or Miss Carre at any time if you have any worries or concerns.

Miss Wisniewski ☺

Phonics: We have begun our phonic programme this week. It involves learning letter names and sounds, blending (putting sounds together to read words) and segmenting (hearing sounds in words to spell). Children will also begin to learn some tricky words (words with sounds that do not blend together) and many children learn these words by sight. Everyday children are provided with many different learning opportunities to learn how to write their name.

Mathematics: Your child will be developing their skills in counting, recognising numerals and ordering numbers.

RE: In RE we will be learning about Creation and People who care for us through many different, first hand practical experiences that develop knowledge and understanding. We will then move on to learning about Advent and Christmas.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile:

In the Early Years Foundation Stage there are seven areas of 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 are 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 half term we will be focusing upon children's self-confidence and self-awareness, making relationships, developing familiarity of routines, classroom rules and expectations. We will also be supporting the development of children's speaking and listening skills as these are crucial for later learning. Skills involve taking turns in conversation, listening, asking questions, developing comprehension, vocabulary etc. Children will experience learning opportunities and focus activities to promote the development of these skills. Our aim is for all children to speak confidently and clearly. We expose children to an increasing range of vocabulary through reading stories, singing and introducing new and interesting words. We also value your role as a parent and would encourage you to be engaging in reading and singing with your children at home.

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English: The children will be reading lots of stories throughout their time in Reception class to develop confidence through retelling and sequencing stories, discussing characters and learning vocabulary. We will begin to write in short, simple sentences and use story maps to retell stories, too.

Junk Modelling: Throughout the reception year, we continually use a wide range of junk modelling materials, such as; cardboard boxes, cereal boxes, kitchen rolls etc to support children's learning and development. These materials and any resources that can be recycled really benefit children's creativity and we would really appreciate it if you would collect any materials and bring them into school. I do have to make parents aware that due to allergies and hygiene please do not bring in egg boxes or toilet rolls.

Donations: If you have any unwanted items of school clothing that would contribute to our collection of spare uniform and underwear please think about donating it to us. We always need underwear including pants, socks and tights. Any donations will be gratefully received.

Homework:

Your child will be given a homework bag with homework sheets or a phonics/mathematics book as we move further into the term. Each week you will be asked to complete the pages stated on the homework slip. Homework will be given out on a Friday and needs to be returned no later than the following Thursday in order for it to be marked and returned to you by Friday.

Children's Book Bags:

Please make sure your child brings their book bag into school every day as we will use them frequently as means of communication. Your child's book bag will have their home school link book, reading record, reading book and any letters or notices that are to be sent home. Your child will have their reading book changed once a week. Your child will be constantly assessed during phonic sessions and as part of their introduction to our reading scheme they will receive a picture story book or a simple word reading book. We ask that you encourage your child to discuss what is happening in the pictures and build upon their vocabulary. When we are confident in their phonic knowledge and understanding your child will then receive a reading book from our reading scheme. You can help your child by finding a quiet time to listen to them read for a maximum of about 10 minutes as often as possible. Your help can make a huge difference to your child's progression. It would be most helpful if you could keep a record of when you hear your child read in their reading record as this helps inform us of their progress outside of school. We value your comments.



Labelled Uniform and PE kit:

Please make sure all uniform (including coats and shoes) are clearly labelled. All children need a PE kit in school at all times consisting of: black shorts, white t-shirt and pumps or trainers and ensure that the P.E. kit is labelled. This term our PE sessions will take place on a Tuesday and Thursday.

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PE:

During Tuesday's and Thursday's PE sessions this term with Miss Wisniewski, children will learn the importance of warming up and will play lots of warm up games. We will be focusing on throwing and catching a ball, learning how to aim correctly.

Music provision:

Reception class will have weekly music sessions from a music teacher Miss Hopkins from *Dudley Performing Arts*. They will learn how to sing new songs, how to create rhythm and beat as well as creating a small piece of music as a class orchestra!

Important dates for the diary:

- Reception Maths Parent Workshops will be held on Wednesday 5th October and Thursday 5th October. We hope you can join us so you can see what the children get up to during their lessons!
- Reception's very first Class Assembly will be on Friday 1st December all about International Disabled Persons Day.

Reception class will be going on their first school trip nearer to Christmas time. Details will follow shortly!

They will also take the lead in their first school Nativity play in December! We will also send out lots more details about this exciting event closer to the time.



Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus

School Rules:

We will be discussing the school rules with all of the children lots throughout the school year, but especially during their very first term in school. We remind the children to have 'kind hands, kind feet and kind words... like Jesus.'



Theme Weeks:

Each week we will have a different theme which runs throughout Nursery and Reception. We will let you know what the theme is on the Parent Notice Board the Friday before the week begins, so you can discuss this with your child at home.

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. I look forward to the exciting term ahead and all that is to come!

Thank you very much for all your support,

Miss Wisniewski ☺
Reception Teacher

