



Dear parents/carers,

Thank you for all your support in making the start of school a positive experience for your children. The children are settling in really well. Our teaching assistants this year are Mrs Carr, Mrs Ellis, Miss Lee and Mrs Gill. We are excited to welcome Miss Lee and Mrs Gill to our St Joseph's team!

Kit

PE will be taught on Tuesday afternoons by our teaching assistants. Please ensure **that children come to school in their PE kit** on this day. We ask that **children bring their own pair of wellies** and if possible a waterproof suit to keep in school (see photo for example). Each day your child requires a bottle of **water** and a coat, as the weather gets colder please send in a hat and gloves as we do go outside every day. Please **label all your children's belongings** as these can be easily mixed up or lost. We provide a daily morning snack however, if you wish to send your child with a snack please make sure it is healthy e.g fruit/veg/crackers etc.



Outdoor Learning

We recognise the importance of being outdoors and developing children's understanding of the natural world. The Autumn term is always filled with lots of excitement. During this term we will be focusing on what makes Autumn special and observing the changes around us in our beautiful school grounds. We will be collecting lots of outdoor items to help with our learning such as pinecones, conkers, acorns, leaves and twigs. You can do the same at home!

Topic

Our history/geography focus for the autumn term is 'People Who Help Us'. We will be talking about ourselves, our families, where we live and how to keep safe and healthy. We will be thinking about important people who help us in our community and what their roles include.



Religious Education

In RE we have 3 focus topics as we look forward to Christmas:

Topic 1: Myself

Topic 2: Welcome

Topic 3: Birthdays

Phonics

Phonics is an integral part of the children's learning at school. I will be providing a video presentation in the next few weeks to explain how phonics works at St Joseph's and how you can help your child progress at home.

English

At St Joseph's we teach English through Talk for Writing. Children become great storytellers through learning and performing a variety of different texts. Once the children can retell the text, we make changes to the stories to make them our own. A love of reading is encouraged throughout our school. Children are given daily opportunities to read and have a dedicated story time each day.

Reading

We cannot stress the importance of hearing your child read regularly at home! Reading plays a crucial part in your child's development. We will be sending home reading books and a reading record for you to jot down when you have read with your child. Most children will be starting with picture books to encourage language development and understanding. The books will become increasingly more difficult throughout the year to match the children's phonological understanding. Reading to and with your child **at least 4 times a week for 10 minutes** can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school. In addition to reading school books, children can hear you read a story, help you to read the shopping list, read magazines and booklets etc.





Maths

We follow the White Rose Maths and Numberblocks programmes which allow children to develop a deep understanding of number and pattern. Daily counting at home will be beneficial for all children.

Home Learning

When phonics teaching begins, Reception are asked to read with adults and **practice their daily phonics sound** as often as possible. There will be an **RE and Topic based Knowledge Organiser** given to children in a pink home learning book. Any work completed at home can go in this book.

Class Dojo

Thank you for joining Class Dojo. This is a great app for sharing the children's learning. If you have any queries, please feel free to message me and I will get back to you as soon as possible from the hours 8am-5pm. Please note **that if your child is ill or there is an emergency you must ring the office directly.**

I look forward to getting to know you and your children more as the weeks progress.

Best wishes,

Miss Montgomery