



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Diocese of Clifton

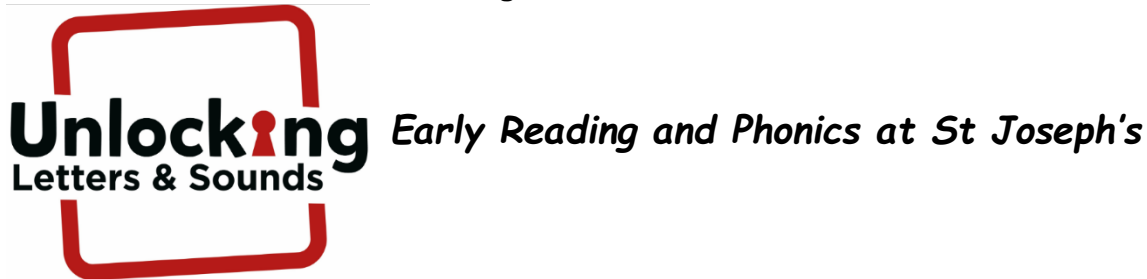
Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through
Faith, Hope, and Love

Front Street, Nympsfield, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 3TY
Telephone/Fax No: 01453 860311 Email: SLT@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk
Website: www.st-josephs-nympsfield.com

Acting Headteacher: Mrs Clare Howells



With St Therese as our guide we do little things with much love to make a big difference for everyone.



Dear parents and carers

We are delighted to be able to share with you our new Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) programme when teaching Early Reading and Phonics - 'Unlocking Letters and Sounds' (ULS). Through ULS, children will learn the 150+ graphemes that are represented by the 44 phonemes of the English Language along with common exception words (CEWs) in a planned, progressive way. This is achieved through daily phonics lessons, reading practice using fully decodable books matched to the child's phonic knowledge and daily handwriting practice.

We begin teaching phonics in the first few weeks of term 1 in Reception and children make rapid progress in their reading journey. Children begin to learn the main sounds heard in the English Language and how they can be represented, as well as learning 'Common Exception' words for Phases 2, 3 and 4. They use these sounds to read and write simple words, captions and sentences. Children leave Reception being able to apply the phonemes taught within Phase 2, 3 and 4.

At St Joseph's, we promote a 'phonics first' approach in both our group reading sessions at school and in the books children take home. Texts are very closely matched to a child's current phonics knowledge so that every child can experience real success in their reading. In these crucial early stages of reading we primarily use books from Ransom Reading Stars Phonics to ensure complete fidelity to the Unlocking Letters and Sounds progression we follow.

Each child will bring home two books from school along with their ULS reading record. One of these books will be fully decodable, closely aligned to the Phonics teaching they have had in school and therefore, should be able to read with 95% accuracy. The other will be a high quality picture book to share with you, where they can listen to the key vocabulary used and

discuss the pictures. The fully decodable book should be read at least three times before it is changed.

1st read - Your child should *read to decode*. This means that they can sound out the words and may need a little support in doing so.

2nd read - Your child should *read for fluency*. This is the second time they have read this and will therefore mean that your child will begin to read more fluently. Please encourage your child to read as if they are sharing a story for others, using a 'storytelling voice'. This will include reading with expression and reading with a confident delivery.

3rd read - Your child should *read for comprehension*. This means that by now, your child can confidently read the text and therefore talk about the storyline and the characters. You may want to ask your child questions about the characters thoughts and feelings. Please record every time that you read/share a book with them in their reading record.

We will share further information about the systems and structures in school and ways to support your child as they learn to read at our reception phonics evening on **Tuesday 26th September 7pm**.

After October half term, we will introduce the school reading award scheme. In order for your child to collect reading points they need to read at home five times a week on five different days. This will be their book three times and for you to share the high quality text twice during the week. This will gain 1 reading point. As you read with your child please number the reads as you go - it makes it much quicker for us to check. When we are changing your child's books, we will look for 5 reads, we will initial their reading record to show that the point has been awarded. The awards will be presented in celebration assembly.

Detailed below are the reading awards and how many points your child needs to have to achieve each award. If you have any questions about the reading award then please do not hesitate to ask.

25 points - Certificate with bookmark



50 points - bronze book worm badge



75 points - silver book worm badge



100 points - gold book worm badge



150 points - Reading Superstar - achiever cup badge.



Furthermore, we really value any parental support that you are able to offer. If you are able to volunteer some time to help listen to the children read (20/30 minutes any morning at school drop off), this would be greatly appreciated. Please let me know of any time that you are able to help. Thank you for your support.

Finally, if you have any questions about early reading, please do not hesitate to ask.

N. Guoite

Mrs Natalie Guoite
Early Reading and Phonics Lead