



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Diocese of Clifton

Inspiring everyone to REACH through
Faith, Hope, Love

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Acting Head Teacher: Mrs Clare Howells

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

A big welcome back to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School! I hope you have had a lovely summer and managed to have a rest. Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to say how proud I am of all the new Year 2 children. They have settled into Year 2 remarkably well and have taken all the challenges in their stride! The children have listened beautifully and have worked incredibly hard in their first week back to school. I would also like to thank all of our families in supporting us in providing the children with the correct uniform - they all look very smart!

Throughout the year, I will keep you updated on our topic themes and your child's learning. Our first topic for the year will be 'Planet Earth', which will cover the first half of the Autumn Term. The children will be completing their first DT unit, which will specifically focus on Wheels and Axles. They will be planning, making and evaluating transport to support their learning. Towards the end of this term, we will ask you to kindly support your child by providing them with various sized empty food cardboard boxes (that would usually go into the recycling bin), so that they will be able to make their modes of transport. Please see below for examples. We will send a follow-up reminder nearer to the time. Also attached is a copy of our 'Topic Web', detailing the learning areas that we will cover this term.



This year, the children will have their PE lessons on Mondays and Fridays. Please make sure your child arrives in their school PE kit on these days so that they can make the most of their PE time. Items of clothing and waterproofs should be clearly named at **all** times - even socks! Items of clothing which are not named and that the children cannot identify will go straight into the lost property.

Throughout Year 1, the children were given English or Maths based homework along with spellings. As expected, this will continue throughout Year 2. Homework will be set on a Friday and will be due in on a Wednesday so that it can be marked. Please note that homework that is not handed in on this day *may not* be marked. All homework will continue to be set on TEAMS. Please do speak to SLT directly if you have any difficulties in accessing your child's TEAMS account. Similarly to last year, spellings will be set based on the sounds or rules learnt throughout the week. These will not be unfamiliar/new words and will be practised within their daily Phonics session. It is expected that your child practices these in preparation for a spelling test on a Thursday which will be monitored throughout the year. Please **do not** practise these spellings in your child's green spelling book, this is for their test only.

At St Joseph's we really value the importance of daily reading at home. Last year, we rewarded those children who read 5 times per week with a reading point. This will continue throughout Year 2 and will be awarded on your child's Group Reading day.

The Key Stage 1 staff at St Joseph's would like to listen to every child read, every day to help to accelerate the progress in Reading. However, this is just not possible! We are delighted to be able to invite our fantastic parent volunteers back into school to help listen to children read. Volunteers who commit to reading with the children in school for 20 minutes from 'drop off' allows our children to be listened to more frequently in school. If this is something you would like to support us with, please do contact Mrs Guoite directly either after school or via the SLT email - just once a week would be a huge help! Equally, we have also been fortunate enough to have parent helpers who have been incredibly supportive by coming into school and supporting Class Teachers with various tasks such as laminating and interventions on a 1:1 basis. Again, if this is something you would be interested in, please do contact Mrs Guoite directly.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. I look forward to spending this year as your child's Class Teacher!

Yours sincerely

R.White

Miss Rebecca White
Year 2 Teacher