



9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a peaceful and restorative Christmas break. I am so excited for the new term and our new topic EXPLORERS! It is a wonderful topic allowing the children **REACH** and explore new heights in all areas of their learning.

This term we will be putting our fine motor skills to work with some weaving activities, and are excited for some new exploration challenges involving our St Joseph's Teddy Bears you had with the passports over the summer. I will update you soon on when they will be needed in school for the special projects. Before you send the bears back in, please ensure each bear is named to help the children retain their own special bear.

We cannot wait to get back outside in our learning environment which includes, our big dig, water play, wild kitchen and potions kitchen, alongside more Outdoor Learning. Please ensure all children have their waterproofs and wellies back in school. It is essential in these winter and early spring months that children have clothing to keep them warm when outside, including coat, hat, scarf and gloves.

We love sharing when children have been learning a new skill at home, so please do continue to send children in with their WOW! vouchers. Thank you for continuing to support and encourage your child(ren) to use the tripod grip with **confidence** for all their mark making, writing and colouring in.

The Mystery Readers have been hugely popular with the children, thank you to everyone that has signed up (or already been) a Mystery Reader. I do still have some spaces for the terms ahead, if you would like to book in please let me know.

Things to remember:

- Please continue to read with your child at least 5 times a week, and practice their flashcards with them, consistently reading these with your children really does help enable them to **be the best they can be**.
- PE kit, please can children come to school in their **PE kit** on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays**.
- Homework – this will continue to come home as a pack to be completed weekly in line with our learning.
- Please ensure your child continues to bring a named water bottle in each day.
- During this term, we will be making an offering of gifts to show how we can care for those in need within our community – this will be to Stroud Kids Stuff, therefore, if following Christmas you are having a sort out, we would be grateful if you can hold on to those lightly worn children's clothing, books and toys, so the children can share those within the community. I will send out the date for donations to be brought in via the Admin Team in the coming weeks.
- Please could children bring in a shoe box, a child's shoe box would be the ideal size, so not too big, to allow them to create their diorama during this term.

Finally, I am sure you have seen Mrs Guoite has returned from Maternity Leave, and we are so excited to welcome her into St Peter's Class on Thursdays.

I look forward to speaking to you all in more detail about your child(ren)'s learning journey at Parents Evening in the coming weeks, however, if in the meantime you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to me at collection at the end of the day, or via email FAO Mrs Daly via admin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk

Regards
Mrs Catherine Daly