



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Diocese of Clifton

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

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

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Howells

Dear Parents and Carers

8th November 2024

A very warm welcome back to school, I have enjoyed hearing all about your autumnal adventures this half term.

Firstly, a huge thank you for encouraging your children to work so hard on their Phase 2 Sounds for their homework, we were delighted to see that so many of the children have been using this resource at home to consolidate their learning. The Phase 3 Sounds Homework Booklet will follow soon.

The biggest change for Autumn 2 is that winter uniform should now be worn until Easter. Full details of this uniform is on the website. The key change trousers/skirts/pinafores should be worn with shirt and tie. No shorts, polos or summer dresses. I know many children were already wearing this ahead of half term, thank you for sending your children ready for learning.

Autumn Term 2 is a very exciting term with lots of fun learning centring around our new topic 'Let's Celebrate'. This will predominantly focus on the Early Learning Goal of Understanding the World, where we will explore the similarities and differences of People, Culture and Communities, considering how and what we celebrate around the world.

Please continue to send your children in their PE kit on Tuesdays and Fridays so they are ready for Outdoor Learning and PE.

- **WOW Vouchers**

The children love sharing their WOW moments from home, please continue to send these in to school across the term. The children have worked together to decorate the post box for these with lots of gold stars!

- **Homework**

Homework will continue to be sent home as a termly pack, to be completed in **pencil** and handed in at the end of term.

- **Reading**

Your children have already made a brilliant start to their reading life in the school, and are working towards their Reading Certificate. Reading Points are earned by reading 5 times a week (on different days). We recommend 3 reads from the children using their phonetically decodable reading books and 2 reads from an adult using the High Quality Texts.

- **Mystery Reader**

Thank you so much for the brilliant response for signing up to a slot for the Mystery Readers. Mrs Howells has expressed disappointment she will have to wait her slot until later in the year! We still have

a number of spots available later in the year, please do see us to sign up. The children adore the surprise of who it will be.

- **Outdoor Learning Environment**

We are often learning in our outdoor learning environment and the weather changes quickly in Nympsfield, as winter draws near, please ensure your child has a (hooded) **warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves**. We will continue to keep the waterproofs in school, and will send home those that need a wash as and when throughout the term.

Just to remind you, as the children learn new sounds in school, they are posted on the website to help you to support your child at home. These early stages of learning to read are vitally important, the more the children practise, the better they become! Daily practise of their flash cards - common exception words - also secures these words more quickly.

Finally, this time of year is a very busy period in school and is also a time for lots of coughs and colds. Please continue to encourage your child to wash their hands, sneeze into their elbows or a tissue and cover their mouths when coughing to prevent the spread of any unwanted germs. We are continuing to wash hands regularly throughout the school day.

As always, I am available at the end of the school day to discuss your child's learning journey in school, or you can contact the office to arrange a meeting.

Mrs Daly
Reception Class Teacher