



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Diocese of Clifton

Faith, Hope, Love

Front Street, Nympsfield, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 3TY
Telephone/Fax No: 01453 860311 E mail: slt@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk
Website: www.st-josephs-nympsfield.org



Acting Head Teacher: Mrs Clare Howells

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

A big welcome to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School! I am looking forward to getting to know each child and their families and working with you, to provide the best education for your child, to ensure they thrive during their time at St Joseph's. I hope you have had a lovely summer - I would love to know what you've been up to!

I just wanted to let you know of a few opportunities I'd like to involve you in, so that we can work together to support your child's learning and development.

Firstly, I will keep you regularly updated on our topic themes via topic webs which will be sent to you. Overleaf is a copy of our topic for this term, 'Marvellous Mel'. This is a topic, predominantly focusing on your child, their likes and dislikes, why they are special, their family and where they live, which will lend itself to a local area visit. As we are looking at houses and homes, please could you send your child into school, or email in, a picture of their house for a classroom display so the children can recognise and talk about their local environment. Also this term, we will be spending lots of time in our outdoor learning environment. Please can all children bring in **waterproofs and wellies** so that these can be worn during wet weather. These need to be clearly labelled and will be kept in school for the whole year so that the children have access to them.

You will notice WOW vouchers in your child's reading folder. I strongly encourage parents and carers (or siblings!) to contribute to your child's learning journey with a WOW voucher. If your child has achieved something special at home, fill out one of our WOW vouchers and send it to school with your child! If you have an example of something they did or a photograph, please send that along too! We will then celebrate these achievements together as a class.

Reading

Throughout the school day we will develop your child's love for reading and introduce them to a wide variety of books and new vocabulary by reading at least 3 books a day. Please continue to support your child's love for reading by reading a selection of bedtime stories and talking and singing with your child. As children learn to read, their vocabulary develops and they gain a greater understanding of the meaning of words. This also develops children's listening and attention and allows them to be more expressive in their spoken language. Strong oral language is the basis for literacy development and will help with the teaching of phonics. Rhythm and rhyme play a hugely important role. This is because children's early literacy skills are about listening and speaking rather than reading and writing, so stories that rhyme also play a key role during reading time.

Show and Tell

'Show and Tell' will be on Tuesday afternoons. The children will be on a rota for this. Please ensure your child only brings **one item** when it is their turn. Their show and tell day, is the only day that children are expected to bring in a toy. All other toys are to stay at home so that they do not get lost and to ensure our classroom stays as clean as possible. **'Show and Tell' will start on Tuesday 26th September.**

Wheelie Wednesday

'Wheelie Wednesday' will be on a Wednesday afternoons. This will be an opportunity for the children to bring in either a scooter or bike from home, with their own helmet to develop their physical skills. The children will be on a rota, similarly to Show and Tell, and the bikes/scooters will be stored in Reception's outdoor area for safety. **'Wheelie Wednesday' will begin on Wednesday 27th September.**

PE

This term, PE will be on a Monday and Friday. Please send your child to school dressed in their PE kit. They will then stay in their PE kit for the whole day. PE kits includes coloured house top, black or navy shorts, a navy school hoodie and black plimsolls.

Homework

Each Friday your child will be sent home with a pink homework book with work to be completed in it. The book needs to be handed in by the **following Wednesday**. Homework will be phonics based and should be completed in pencil. Please read the instructions on the inside front cover of homework books. Please support your child with their homework but allow them to complete it independently. **The first homework will be set on Friday 22nd September.**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask me, or alternatively if you do need to contact myself or the school please email slt@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk. I am really looking forward to working with you all over the coming year.

Yours sincerely

Miss Jessica Berry
Reception Class Teacher