



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



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

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Howells

Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

A warm welcome back to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School! We hope you all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed spending time with your family. We want to take this opportunity to express how proud we are of the children. They have settled into Year 1 beautifully, embracing all the changes with resilience and enthusiasm. The hard work they have put in this week has truly impressed us, and I am excited to see how they continue to grow and flourish throughout the year. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each of them, and I'm looking forward to all the wonderful experiences ahead.

Throughout the year, we will keep you updated on our topic themes and your child's learning. Our first topic for the year will be 'Home Sweet Home'. In English the children will be focusing on the story 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?'. As geographers, we will be focusing on the local environment of the school in Nympsfield and as scientists, we will be focusing on seasonal change. Overleaf is a copy of our 'Topic Web', detailing the learning areas that we will cover this term.

PE will continue to be on a Friday, as well as Wednesday up until Christmas. Please make sure your child arrives in their school PE kit on both PE days so that they can make the most of their PE time, house colours will continue to be worn on a Friday. All items of clothing should be clearly named at all times - even socks! Items of clothing that are not named and that the children cannot identify will go straight into lost property. Additionally, please ensure that all clothing remains in line with the school's policy.

Similar to last year, the children will be given English or Maths based homework via TEAMS along with spellings in a green book. Homework will be set on a Friday and will be due in on the following Wednesday so that it can be marked. Please note that homework that is not handed in on this day may not be marked. 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 practises 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 but on a separate piece of paper. Please note that the children's new book-changing days are now written on the labels on the front of their Unlocking Letters and Sounds reading diaries, just **underneath their names**. Please ignore the book-changing days from last year. To ensure a smooth process, please make sure their reading diaries and both books are returned on these days.

At St Joseph's we really value the importance of daily reading at home. Rewarding those children who read 5 times per week with a reading point will continue throughout Year 1 and will be awarded on your child's Group Reading day. Your child's reading books will be changed weekly, on the day that is marked in their reading diaries. This term, we will be reading a selection of wonderful books in class, including *Beegu*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Avocado Baby*, *Elmer*, as well as other exciting books. If you would like to purchase any of these or

borrow them from the library, they are great choices to support your child's learning and enjoyment at home. Furthermore, in Year 1 they will also have a "Star of the Day". Each day, a child who has gone above and beyond the expectations in the classroom will be chosen to take home an additional book of their choice along with a special teddy bear to read with at home. This will also further encourage the children's love of reading. Please ensure that the book and bear are returned the next day so that other children have the opportunity to explore additional books of their choice.

Finally, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. I am looking forward to spending this year as your child's Class Teacher.

Yours sincerely

Miss Aimee Read