



Friday 5th September 2025

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. With such a large transition from Reception to Year 1 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 am 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. Attached is a copy of our 'Topic Web', detailing the learning areas that we will cover this term.

PE will be on a Friday, as well as Wednesday this term. 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. 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.

This year the children will be given English or Maths based homework via TEAMS along with spellings in a green book. If you are unfamiliar with Microsoft Teams or need any support accessing homework, please contact the Admin Team via email at admin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk. Additionally, if you have any concerns or questions, I am available on the playground after school and would be happy to speak with you. 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. Their green spelling books will be sent home following their first spelling test. 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**. 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. To further encourage a love of reading, in Year 1 they will have what is called 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 'Mr Wolf' to read with at home. 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.

We would also like to invite you to our Phonics Information Evening on Tuesday 23rd September at 7.00pm. Reading plays a crucial role in your child's education, laying the foundation for success across all areas of learning. This year, the children will be undertaking the national Phonics Screening Check, so it is especially important that they develop a love for reading and practise regularly both at school and at home to build fluency and confidence. During the session, I will briefly explain the phonics programme we use, Unlocking Letters and Sounds, and highlight the importance of phonics in supporting early reading and writing. The evening will focus on how you can support your child's learning at home, and there will be time to ask any questions you may have. We hope you can join us, please let the Admin Team know.

This year we would love to welcome parent volunteers into the classroom to support reading sessions with the children. If you are able to spare some time, your help would be greatly appreciated and makes a real difference to the children's progress and confidence. Sharing stories and listening to children read not only supports their learning but also fosters a lifelong love of reading. If this is something you would be interested in, please do let me know — we would be delighted to have you involved.

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

Yours sincerely,

Miss Aimee Read