



**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**  
**Diocese of Clifton**

**Faith, Hope, Love**

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**Acting Head Teacher: Mrs Clare Howells**

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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 closely 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 home with your child. Attached is a copy of our topic for this term, 'Knock, Knock!'. This is a topic, predominantly focusing on houses and homes which will lend itself to local area visits. As we are looking at houses and homes, please could you send your child into school with 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 so 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 diary on Tapestry with a WOW voucher. If your child has achieved something special at home, fill out one of our WOW vouchers and I will add it to Tapestry! If you have an example of something they did or a photograph, please send that along too!

#### DEAR Time

'DEAR Time', stands for 'drop everything and read'. 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 begin to 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 learning of phonics. Rhythm and rhyme also 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 in DEAR 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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, similar to Show and Tell, and the bikes/scooters will be stored in Reception's outdoor area for safety. **'Wheelie Wednesday' will begin on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September.**

## PE

PE will always be on a Friday. Please send your child to school dressed in their PE kit, they will stay in their PE kit for the whole day so their school uniform is to stay at home. PE kits includes coloured house top, black or navy shorts, grey 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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