



Friday 2nd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, I hope you are all feeling rejuvenated from the Easter break and the lovely sunshine we have had. This sunny weather and transition to summer will hopefully see our **aspirations** realised with all we aim to grow over the next 2 terms. This term's topic will be 'All Creatures Great and Small', where we will be exploring our local environment - and the creatures that live there, at school and beyond at **Slimbridge Wetlands Centre** for our class trip on **Friday 9th May 2025**.

Our REACH activity this term will be to complete our woodwork projects, where we will continue to use our **resilience** when sawing wood - it requires steady strength and precision - brilliant for developing our fine and gross motor skills.

As a team, we all love reading, and cannot emphasise enough the benefits and impact taking time to listen to your child read, and reading to them has on their development. Sadly, last term *only 20%* of our families are consistently reading 5 times, or more with the children in reception. During these final terms, it would be amazing to see your children **REACH** their full potential with reading.

We do lots of gross and fine motor skills work in the classroom, which really helps children to develop their **confidence** with a tripod grip, please do prompt and encourage your child to use the correct pencil grip for all their mark marking, writing and colouring in. The tripod grip, specifically, is a development goal within the Early Foundation Stage Prime Areas -

'Fine Motor Skills ELG Children at the expected level of development will: • Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing - using the tripod grip in almost all cases'

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Handbook, 2024

Things to remember:

- **PE kit** - to be worn on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays**.
- **Homework** - like with previous terms, a booklet will be provided with a weekly focus.
- **Water bottles, sunscreen and hats** - please ensure your child has what they need to help protect them as the weather warms up.
- **WOW! Vouchers** - please continue to share these amazing achievements from home. We love hearing about all the ways your child **REACHes** at home.
- **Reading and Flashcards** - please read with your child at least 5 times a week, and practice their flashcards with them. Remember to encourage children to spot their CEW (common exception words - flashcard words) in their books and be reading fluently. Please use the flashcards as a resource for games, such as '*flashcards bingo*', or '*touch and run*' (placing flashcards around a room and calling out the word for the children to run and touch the correct flashcard).

As usual, if you have any questions about your child's learning journey or matters within the letter, please do not hesitate to speak to me at collection at the end of the day, or via email FAO Mrs Daly via admin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Mrs Catherine Daly