



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and welcome to St Catherine's class! We are named after St Catherine of Siena; a letter writer and Doctor of the Church. I am really excited to get to know your child and teach them this academic year. As you know, Year 5 is the penultimate year at St Joseph's and we start the process of getting your child Secondary ready. This means promoting **confidence, resilience** and independence. We have a lot of exciting new opportunities to facilitate this and much for the children to experience and enjoy!

One of the new opportunities we have is a new PSHE strategy called "Learning for Peace". Through circle time, games and activities, the children will learn about how to be at peace with themselves, each other, our school and our wider community. It encourages the children to show **empathy**, even when conflict arises; and how to defuse conflicts before they escalate. We are the trial class this term, before we hopefully roll it out across the school; so any feedback would be much appreciated.

We are starting off the year learning about Earth, Space, maps and the continent of America. We will be investigating time zones; lines of latitude and longitude; how to read and create maps; and what our Solar system is like. We will weave in **Stewardship** for the children to consolidate their understanding for our wonderful world. This will all tie into our RE unit of Creation and Covenant where we look at the Old Testament and the early promises God made to his people.

Some exciting dates for you this term:

On 2nd October, the children have the first out of two free workshops as part of #RoadtoRIAT (Royal International Air Tattoo). The children get to work with RAF STEM engineers and learn more about aero-engineering.

On 14th October, we have a STEM day at Wycliffe, Stonehouse. This wasn't run last year, but we are really excited to hear that they have managed to put it back on for local schools. More details will be given nearer the time.

Our DEAR time book is: Thief by Malorie Blackman

Things to remember:

- Please continue to read with your child at least 5 times a week, and practice their spellings with them. Consistently reading these with your children really does help enable them to **be the best they can be**.
- PE kit, please can children come to school in their **PE kit** on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays**.
- Homework – this will be set on a Friday and will need to be in the following Wednesday. Please speak to me if printed copies are needed.
- Please ensure your child continues to bring a named water bottle in each day.

As ever, I am always on the playground at the end of the day if you have any questions or concerns. If you need to contact me in another way, please email FAO Mrs Carr via admin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk

Regards
Mrs Carr