



Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a relaxing festive break and are looking forward to the engaging and explorative term ahead.

This term will see us embark on our new Geography topic 'Investigation of the Nation' where we will be naming and exploring the geographical features of the four countries which make up the United Kingdom. If you and your child have visited somewhere in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, please email admin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk with the location name FAO of Miss Read. I will be adding these destinations to our map on the display board in the classroom. You are welcome to include or send in a photo from your trip for your child to talk about too!

Throughout this term, we will be looking at Flora and Fauna to create our very own Mini beats collage. We will be extending our creativity into our Music learning as well as English, where we will be exploring the fairytale 'Little Red Riding Hood' and diving into contemporary fictional stories including one of my personal favourites 'Owl Babies'. Developing our scientific enquiry, we will be exploring 'what, why and how' objects are made and the materials they are made from. With our young minds loving, learning and understanding more about the world around us. PE will now be on a Thursday and a Friday for spring term 1.

Similar to last term, the children will be given English or Maths based homework via TEAMs along with spellings in a green book, unless requested otherwise, please speak to me if you need a paper copy provided. 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, to make it clear the specific sounds will be highlighted. 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 be advised that book change days may vary this term due to adjustments in group reading arrangements. Attention to any changes is appreciated and I would encourage you to check the front of your child's group reading diary books for updates. Thank you for your understanding.

This term, the children have also been introduced to alien words as part of their preparation for the Phonics Screening Check in June. These nonsense words help pupils apply their phonic knowledge to unfamiliar combinations of sounds, supporting accurate segmenting and blending. The class have absolutely loved meeting the silly aliens and seeing the funny faces they make! It is vital that the children blend independently, as during the actual check they cannot be reminded to do so and must apply their phonics skills on their own. Practising this early helps them feel secure, confident, and proud of the progress they are already making. To reassure you, this is approached as a fun activity, there is never a mention of a test!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via the Admin Team or catch me on the playground after school.

Warm regards

Miss Read