



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Great Hadham Road
Bishop's Stortford
Herts. CM23 2NL

Telephone: 01279 652576
Fax: 01279 466519
Email: admin@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk
Web: stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Peter Coldwell B.Ed. (Hons)

“To live, love and learn in a caring Christian Community”

September 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Reception and the family of St. Joseph's. We hope that you have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and the children are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. All the Reception staff are proud of how the children are settling into their new classes and routines.

The children will learn through a broad and balanced curriculum following the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This will develop your child into an effective and motivated learner.

The learning opportunities will be a combination of teacher directed and child initiated learning. There are seven areas of learning in the foundation stage;

Three Prime areas:

- Communication and Language
- Physical development
- Personal, Social and Emotional development

and four Specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive Arts and Design.

Please find attached a copy of our medium term planning. This is an outline of what we will be covering this term. It provides you with opportunities to further reinforce their learning at home.

During the Autumn Term our topic will be about 'Marvellous Me'. As part of this topic we will be looking at classroom and school rules, our names, what we look like, our families, the five senses, emotions. We would like it if all children are able to bring in a picture of themselves as a baby and of their families so we can look at how we grow and change. They will be returned once we have enjoyed looking and talking about them. We will develop our Knowledge and Understanding of the World by naming and learning about parts of the body and how to keep our bodies healthy.

In Communication, Language and Literacy we will be developing confidence in speaking and listening through stories, discussion and role-play activities. We will be learning new skills in letter and word recognition, as well as developing pencil control and beginning to form letters correctly using the cursive style of writing.

The children will undertake a daily phonics lesson using 'Jolly phonics' and 'Letters and Sounds'. It aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare them for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. In school the children will learn the action that goes with each of the sounds. Initially the emphasis is to get your child attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills. When your child is ready, sets of letters are introduced and they will then be encouraged to use their knowledge of the letter sounds to blend and sound out words. As they begin to learn the sounds and start to sound out words, they will then be given a reading book.

When they get their reading books, the first stage in learning to read is by looking at the pictures and discussing the story, please give your child lots of praise for this. When they start to read the words, if there are any words that they cannot read themselves, it is fine for you to read it to them. The 1:1 reading with your child at home is really beneficial- it gives your child a chance to practice what they have learned, build up their reading knowledge and learn about how books work- it is an essential part of their learning. When they have finished the book please write a comment in their planner. Please keep on reading other books to your child as it helps them build up vocabulary, story patterns and knowledge of how books work. Ask them questions about what is happening in the story. Can they guess what might happen next? Ask them to re-tell the story to you. Can they tell you who the characters in the story are? Look for letters and words in the environment.

In Mathematics, we will be familiarising ourselves with numbers to 10 (and beyond as appropriate). The children will begin to count, recognise and sequence numbers to 10 as well as practising writing them correctly. It is important that the children can say the numbers in order to 10 and then to 20.

We will look for numbers and shapes in the environment. Measurement, shape and space will be explored through lots of exciting role play and practical activities linked to our topics and personal experiences.

Please ensure that all your child`s belonging are clearly provide a suitable pair of outdoor shoes for when the weather is inclement as we use our outdoor area in all weathers! These can be left in school under your child`s peg.

To encourage greater independence we kindly ask that you encourage your child to come into the classroom by themselves so that they can begin their morning activities.

If you have any queries or concerns at any time during the year please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office and we will arrange a mutually convenient time to meet with you.

As a team, we want your child to have a wonderful, happy year in Reception. We value the role that parents play in education and by working in partnership with you we can provide opportunities to inspire your child`s learning. We are very much looking forward to working with your child over the next academic year, seeing them grow and develop their full potential.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R. Hunt & Mrs K. Foster
Key Stage Leader Beech Class Teacher