



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

## Reception Newsletter Summer Term 2023

Welcome back to our third term in Reception. It is hard to believe we are here already. Thank you for all your lovely Easter gifts. We really do appreciate it all.

We hope that you had a restful Easter break and are ready for the last term in Reception. Summer term is always fun but it is our busiest term!

Some of the enrichments this term will be an afternoon tea party to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles, St George's Day, our year group visit to Lee Valley farm and our open day for parents and of course our sports morning.

This half term we are completing the 'Amazing Animals' theme with our butterflies and stick insects. We are then looking at the theme 'Places we go.' This theme looks at the different places in the world and how it compares to where we live. We will be looking at past and present and how life has changed over the years.

This term in our direct teaching sessions we will be looking at:

**RE** - We are continuing the Easter story leading up to the Ascension and eventually Pentecost. Our second topic looks at the way we can live our lives to be loving and kind just as Jesus wanted us to be. We also look at people around us today who still live out these virtues.

**Reading** - The children have done amazingly well with their reading and we hope to continue the momentum so that they are ready for Year 1.

Library books - Each Friday your child will bring home a book from the *library* that they have chosen. These are books to share at home and we do not expect your child to be able to read by themselves. Please keep the library card with the book so we know what books your child has read. There is room on the card for you/your child to make a comment.

**Phonics** - We will continue to revisit phase 3 sounds but our focus will be on phase 4 sounds and words. The number of tricky words the children learn really does speed up this term.

**English** - This term we will be looking at some more high quality stories such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, *Farmer Duck* by Martin Waddell and *Lucy and Tom* by Shirley Hughes. We will also have a big focus on fact books and how they are different to fiction books.

We are continuing to look at letter formation, sounding out unknown words, finger spaces and punctuation. We will also be encouraging children to use the amazing words they read in their writing.

**Maths** - We start off by looking at number bonds to 10 and 20. We will use tools such as the part whole models, bar models and practical activities to support this learning. We will be looking at shapes within shapes and weighing.

**Physical Development** - We will continue to have our sessions with Matt on a Monday. Please ensure your child has the correct kit. We are continuing to work on developing independence so encouraging your child to get dressed as much as they can by themselves would be helpful. (We will of course help when needed!)

**Knowledge and Understanding** - We are thinking about past and present and how the world has changed. This is linked to our farm trip, the Kings Coronation and our traditional themed sports day!

**Homework** - Please make sure the homework is done in the folders. The homework is a good way for you to check in and see what your child is doing at school.

### **Transition**

This term we will also be liaising with Year 1, this is so that the children feel comfortable with the transition between the two key phases. This will involve visits to Year 1 and getting used to the bigger playground in small groups so the children still feel secure. More details to follow.

### **Housekeeping**

**Mystery reader**- Thank you to all those parents who have volunteered to be a mystery reader. If you would like to have the chance to come in and read to your child's class then please let us know.

**Uniform** - Please ensure all uniform is labelled and that your child is aware of what clothing is theirs. We do hold up all spare hats and coats to see if the owner recognises them!

Please continue to keep in contact with us via Tapestry (weekly blog) and school email. There will be lots of extra events this term that you will need to keep up to date with!

Thank you for all your continued support - if you have any queries please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Kind regards,

Mrs McLaughlin and Mrs McElhinney