



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

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Great Hadham Road
Bishop's Stortford
Herts. CM23 2NL

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

Headteacher: Peter Coldwell B.Ed. (Hons)

Spring Term 2024

Dear Parents,

We have enjoyed welcoming your children back to our new term. We are looking forward to getting busy and learning about the world around us. We are continuing to follow the class rules and routines and playing with our friends. The children have had a brilliant time in the outside garden, including the forest and we are looking forward to spending more time out there this term.

Curriculum

This term we are focusing on two topics, 'Amazing Animals' and 'Growing'. We will continue to carry on our busy fingers and handwriting practise first thing in the morning when the children arrive so we encourage children to arrive on time so they do not miss our morning activities. This half term will be focused on Understanding the World and will be linked to our literacy, maths and expressive art and design. The children will be exploring lots of new activities and will continue to learn through play in what they will know as 'My learning time' (Our Child initiated learning time).

Phonics - We are continuing to learn new sounds through our Little Wandle scheme of work. This half term we will be learning new digraphs. Digraphs are one sound made up of two letters, for example 'th' or 'oa'. We will also be learning trigraphs which are one sounds made up of 3 letters, for example 'igh'. The digraphs we teach each week can be found in your child's homework folder that we will continue to add to weekly and send home.

Maths - this term we are looking at the composition of number. We will be learning to add two numbers together, looking at whole numbers and parts of numbers and learning to break a number up in different ways. We will continue to practise counting accurately and comparing numbers. We will be looking at 2D and 3D shapes and learning to describe their properties. St Joseph's follows a mastery approach which means we stretch the children through investigations and discussions.



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Understanding the World - This term is all about the world around us. We will be looking at seasons, hibernation, animals around the world, life cycles and plants. We will base these lessons on some fun books like 'Don't hog the hedge', 'Lost and Found', 'Rumble in the Jungle', 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and 'Oliver's Vegetables'. We will be observing caterpillars changing into butterflies and planting our own plants.

Expressive Arts and Design- This term we will continue to use different skills in order to be creative such as printing, painting, sticking, cutting, construction and many more. We will have art activities during our learning time to help us develop these skills and they will also be linked to the story or topic we are learning about that week.

Homework

Homework will continue to be sent home in your homework folders every Friday.

Each week your child will be given a new piece of homework.

Some weeks we will be asking you to share what your child has done through our online journal, Tapestry.

Homework will need to be returned by Wednesday of the following week. This should ensure that even if you have a busy weekend you have time in the week to complete the activities.

Reading

Library books- Your child will continue to bring home a library book on Fridays and will have the opportunity to choose a new library book every week. Please ensure all library books are brought back on Wednesday of the following week so that your child can choose a new library book.

School reading scheme - Your child's reading book will continue to be changed every Friday. We ask parents to write and record in your child's reading record so we know that they have read. If we see there is no record of reading we will not be able to change your child's reading book as they need to be able to read at least 85% of this independently as well as being able to talk about the book. Reading every day will help your child to progress further, even if it is only one page a day, it is very important! We can see their confidence grow with each book if they read every day.



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Please continue to take care of these books and ensure no water bottles are left in the reading bags.

Tapestry

Keep checking Tapestry for our weekly updates as we like to share what we have been learning throughout the week and

Tapestry is a great way for us to share with you some of the highlights of the week. It is also a good way of us sharing information. Please keep logging in and checking the messages. If you reply or make a comment of your child's photos, we will share that with them in class!

Housekeeping

Uniform - please can you continue to make sure that all your child's uniform, PE kit and coats are clearly **NAMED** so that we can make sure any lost clothing is returned to the correct child. We have over forty jumpers and cardigans between the 2 classes and it can be a challenge to return them when they are not named.

Allergies - It is very important that you inform us of any allergies / medication that your child has. In Reception we like to go with the interests of the children and often our plans change to suit them. If we are aware of all allergies then we can make sure we have the correct ingredients in school in preparation of this.

PE- Our PE sessions will continue to be on a Friday with our coach Callum. Your child will need the full PE kit. (White t-shirt and dark blue / navy shorts with trainers or plimsolls - Velcro footwear only!) If you haven't returned your child's PE kit yet please make sure it is in school by Thursday 25th January. It is still quite cold outside so we ask every child to have a pair of tracksuit bottoms and a jumper in their PE bag.

Mystery Reader- We would like to invite parents to come in and read the children a story at the end of the day. Mystery reader means that we keep the identity of the reader a secret and the children have to try and guess who you are. If you are interested in being a Mystery Reader please let Mrs Kitchen or Mrs McElhinney know and when you are available. We can



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then organise a good time for your visit. We would like to be able to have a secret reader in both classes once a week if it is possible so please let us know as soon as you can!

If you do need to discuss anything with us then please contact the office to make an appointment.

Diary Dates

Thursday 18th January - Reception health screening

Monday 5th February- Friday 9th February- Mental Health week

Wednesday 14th February- Ash Wednesday

Monday 19th February- Friday 23rd February- Half term

Monday 26th February- Inset Day

Tuesday 12th March- Reception health screening

Monday 11th March- Friday 15th March- Science week (An EYFS workshop is being organised)

Tuesday 19th March- St Joseph's Day

Tuesday 19th March- Parents consultations

Thursday 21st March- Parents consultations

Thursday 28th March- End of term

We look forward to a very exciting and explorative Spring term!

Mrs Kitchen and Mrs McElhinney

Our School Prayers:

Sign of the Cross

In the Name of the Father
And of the Son
And of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Morning Prayer

Heart of Jesus keep us near you all
through the day.
Let us love and trust and hear you
all through the day
Bless each thought and action in it
when we end it or begin it.
Sacred Heart bless every minute all
through the day.

Amen.