



September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year at St. Joseph's. We would especially like to extend a warm welcome to our new families; we are sure the children will all settle in quickly to a full day!

With this letter is attached an overview of some of the things your child will learn this term. In Reception we always try to plan according to the children's interests so things are subject to change!

Topic

This term our topics will be 'Ourselves'. We will also work on mini topics such as fireworks, Diwali and Christmas. For the first few weeks of the term we will mainly focus on settling the children in and helping them to learn the routine. Attached is some of the curriculum coverage for this half term.

Parent's voice/Learning journals

In the foundation stage we record your child's progress in their own personalised learning journal. If you would like to record a special moment to include from home there are stickers in the cloakroom for you to write on and we will periodically send these home. We will then share the moment with your child and add it to the learning journal. We will also send home a page for you to add at half terms. At various times during the year we will invite you in to share their learning journal.

In class we focus on the next step of your child's learning. On occasions we will send home an information sheet for you so you are aware of your child's particular area we are working on and ways in which you can support this learning. We would appreciate your feedback on how your child gets on, so please do return them to us.

Uniform

Unfortunately during this term the weather changes for the worse. Please be aware that we go outside in **ALL** weathers and bring your child into school dressed appropriately.

Please could you ensure ALL items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's full name, including their shoes.

Children are asked not to wear any jewellery in school. If your child has pierced ears they are allowed to wear plain studs only. These will need to be covered with micropore tape when we start P.E.

The children need to bring in a book bag daily. As these are kept in a box inside the classroom we ask that if your child chooses to have a key ring on it, they limit it to one small key ring.

Lunch

Please make sure you discuss meal choices with your child at home, prior to coming into the classroom, so that they are aware of what they are having and the corresponding colour. For reference see the Reception outside notice board, or school website for the menu.

Safety

Children are **not** allowed to ride bikes or scooters anywhere in the school grounds. Please make sure children dismount at the school gates before they enter and that any scooters or bikes are walked to a safe area to leave them.

For your child's safety we ask that you enter the school via the pedestrian gate and not through the car park. This will also help reinforce road safety rules with your child.

In order to avoid accidents children must not walk on the raised ledge along the side of the building.

If someone else is collecting your child please inform staff in the morning. If arrangements change during the day you will need to phone the office, otherwise we will not allow the child to go until we have heard from you.

Snack

Snack money is £15 for the term. If you would prefer to pay half termly please speak to your child's teacher. The preferred method of payment is 'School Gateway'. If you are paying in cash/cheque please make sure money is sent in with your child's name, class and amount written clearly on the envelope. The office cannot accept any money that is not in an envelope.

Birthdays

When your child has a birthday we like to celebrate with them in school. As part of our 'healthy school policy' and due to allergies in class, we would ask you not to send in anything edible. If you would like to bring anything we would always appreciate a book for the class library.

General

If you are handed a 'please may I speak to you' card please do not worry! At the end of the session we may need to speak to you, for example to let you know about an accident or to share some fantastic work. It is not always possible to catch every parent so we ask if your child hands you one of these cards please wait to speak to a member of staff.

Mrs Rose will be covering PPA across the Reception classes.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns please come and speak to us and we will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Saunders and Mrs Elliott