



September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year at St. Joseph's, it has been a while. 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 main topics will be 'All About Me' and 'Autumn'. Please could you send in a photo of your family (with extended members too) at a church celebration. We will be displaying these on our RE boards as part of that topic. 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 is a sheet with this letter. We will also send this electronically so that you can do multiple. We will also be sending out a letter regarding Tapestry, which is a platform where you can share these special moments electronically. We will then share the moment with your child in class and add it to the learning journal. We will also send home a page for you to add at half terms.

Uniform

As part of the uniform the children need to wear comfortable black school shoes.

Thank you for sending in named wellies. These will stay in a box at school. Should your child not have their own wellies at school, they are more than welcome to use one of our school pairs.

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.

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 only.

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. The children will need to know what lunch they are having that day ready for when we do the register. 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. There are lines marked on the floor to support social distancing. This will also help reinforce road safety rules with your child. As it is a slip hazard please remind your children not to walk on the raised curb beneath Beech class window. Once your child is safely with us, or once you have collected your child, please use the one way system which means exiting through the car park which will be monitored for safety.

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 £14 for the term. If you would prefer to pay half termly please speak to your child's teacher. Payment needs to be made via 'School Gateway'.

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. Due to current circumstances, the book will need to be quarantined for 72 hours, so please try and pop it in the box 3 days prior to the big day so that we can share it with the class.

Covid

Please make sure you follow the guidelines related to covid to help keep us all safe. DO NOT send your child into school if they have any covid symptoms. At this time of year children do pick up bugs quickly. If your child needs Calpol or similar medication, they should not be brought into school. Outside the Reception building there will be a box for each class for you to put anything in that you need to hand into school, including any sheets/ books sent home in the future. Please avoid handing anything to the staff in class but let us know if there is anything urgent you have placed in the box.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns please come and speak to us (for a quick chat at a social distance outside of the building) or send an email to admin@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk and we will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely

Reception Team