



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

**St. Joseph’s Catholic
Primary School**

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**Headteacher: Peter Coldwell
B.Ed. (Hons)**

Reception Newsletter Autumn Term 2022

Welcome to Reception,

We have had a busy first few weeks settling the children into new routines but they are doing very well! Thank you all for your support so far. This termly newsletter lets you know what we are learning this term.

This term we are focusing on the areas of personal, social and emotional development, building up their confidence and resilience, especially in a new environment with so many new things to learn.

You can continue to help your child with this transition by being on time and ensuring your child has all that they need and that they recognise their own items!

School dinners - Remember school dinners need to be chosen in advance of the school day. You cannot change or add any dinners after 8am each morning. You know your child best so it is important you pick a meal that they will eat and they know what they are having each day.

Once the door is open the children can come in freely - please don't think that you need to queue every morning!

If you need to speak to us please drop an email to the office or hand us a little note. Our priority must be the children and getting them in or out of the classroom safely. Thank you for being patient while we learn all the new adult faces!

Homework and Reading will start throughout this term.

RE - We will be sending home the school prayers for you to share at home. At the moment we are working with the children on sitting still and thinking for a few minutes.

Reading

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



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books your child has read. There is room on the card for you / your child to make a comment.

School reading scheme - The second book your child will get is a school reading book - we do expect your child to be able to read at least 85% of this independently as well as being able to talk about the book. The books they get depend on where they are in their phonic knowledge. To start off with most children will get a book with no words - this is so they can use talk to discuss the pictures, get a sense of what might happen and whether they can make up their own story to go with the book.

Phonics - At St Joseph's we use a phonic scheme called Little Wandle. Each sound has an image and phrase to go with it. These phrases can be found in the front of the homework folder. We look at 4 sounds per week and these will be sent home for you to revise with your child.

Homework - You will be getting your homework folders very soon. Folders will go out on a Friday and need to be returned by Thursday 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.

Each week your child will be given a new piece of homework (a focus on phonics to start with!) Some weeks we will be asking your child to draw / make a picture and some weeks we will be sending games for you to share at home.

Maths - this term we are looking at knowing what numbers mean e.g. the number 4 is 4 objects or sounds. We will look at subitising where the children learn to know how many is in a set without individual counting. We will also be looking at colours, direction and the properties of 2d shapes. St Joseph's follows a mastery approach which means we stretch the children through investigations and discussions.

Understanding the World - This term is all about the children! We will be looking at body parts, emotions, the senses. We will base these lessons on some fun books like



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Funnybones, Owl Babies and Elmer. We will be conducting some fun science experiments and getting creative making Elmer elephants!

Housekeeping

School uniform - Please ensure your child has the correct uniform. In particular the correct footwear (no trainers) and correct hair colours. We also have a few cardigans that have no name so we cannot return them to the correct people. If your child comes home with the wrong uniform please return it as soon as possible.

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.

Book bags - your child will need the small school book bag. These can be ordered and paid for on the school communication app.

PE We are starting our PE sessions with our coach Matt. Your child will need the full PE kit for after half term. (White t-shirt and dark blue / navy shorts with trainers or plimsolls - Velcro footwear only!) Preferably in a draw string bag, space in our cloakroom is tight! Everything labelled please.

Spare clothes - please ensure your child has spare underwear in their PE bag in case of accidents.

Wellies- We try to get outside as much as possible, even in the wetter weather. Please ensure your child has a pair of wellies that can be left in school.

Tapestry - If you are new to our school you will have received an email to log into Tapestry our EYFS communication app. Please keep checking in for updates on what your child is getting up to!

Celebrate your child! - At some point this term we will be inviting you in a small groups with your children after school to have a look at the classroom and your child's work.



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This will be a lovely opportunity to celebrate how well your child is doing. These are informal sessions and are not parents evening. (This after school event will be later in the term) As there will be a few families it is not possible to discuss any personal information relating to your child.

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

We are looking forward to getting to know you all

Mrs McLaughlin and Mrs McElhinney