



*“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)

Dear Parents,

We have had a really busy start to the year and everyone is settling in well. We are learning all about the class rules and routines and making new friends. In class we have been reading books to help us learn about what school is like such as 'Starting School' and 'The Colour Monster goes to school.' The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the classrooms and the garden to find all of the different activities and toys we have to offer.

Curriculum

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!

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.

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, measurement 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 be talking about our families and learning about family trees. We will base these lessons on some fun books like Funnybones, Monkey Puzzle and Elmer. We will be conducting some fun science experiments and getting creative.

Expressive Arts and Design- This term we will be learning 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 play to help us develop these skills and they will also be linked to the story or topic we are learning about that week.



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Homework

Homework will be sent home in your homework folders on Friday 22nd September.

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.

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 have brought home a library book on Friday 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 to come home on a Friday.

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.

Please take care of these books and ensure no water bottles are left in the reading bags. Reading books will not be starting until the October Half term.

Tapestry

Alongside the homework and reading each week you will also receive a short newsletter. This will usually be sent out on Tapestry but we are waiting for a small number of parents to activate their account. A new link will have been resent at the beginning of this week to all new parents who have not yet signed up. Please also check your junk email box as the link is sometimes sent to the wrong folder.

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!



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Housekeeping

Uniform - please make sure the correct school uniform is worn. Trainers are not school uniform. Each child needs a plain pair of black shoes.

Jumpers / cardigan - We do our very best to ensure your child goes home with the jumper they came in. We are encouraging each child to take care of their own jumpers (only 2 of us in each class and lots of jumpers!) If you have taken a jumper or cardigan by mistake please return it! Also ensure that all of your child's uniform are labelled as we have had a few jumpers that have been found with no name.

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- We are starting our PE sessions 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!) 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. Our PE day is on a **Friday**.

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

Diary Dates

Friday 29th September- Reception class photo for local newspaper

Wednesday 4th October- St Francis of Assisi day

Friday 6th October- Individual photos

Friday 20th October- Finish for half term.

We look forward to a very exciting year!

Mrs Kitchen and Mrs McElhinney



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



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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.

Grace before Meals

Thank you for the world so sweet -
hum, hum.
Thank you for the food we eat -
yum, yum.
Thank you for the birds that sing
aling aling.
Thank you God for everything.

Amen.

End of Day Prayer

God our Father, I come to say,
Thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family
and all the friends you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night
and in the morning send your light.

Amen.

