



*“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 Spring Term 2023

Welcome back to our second term in Reception.

We hope you all had a rest over the holidays and are ready and raring to go for another short but busy term!

Can we ask that all of you check in with our online communication tool 'Tapestry' regularly. This is where we put any notes to you relating to your child or class activities such as our cooking, tasting and planned experiences. It is a quick way for us to get a message to you. We also publish a mini blog each Friday which explains what we have done in the past week and what is happening in the coming week.

This half term we are looking at Amazing animals! We are looking at areas such as hibernation and how the weather can affect animals locally and in the wild! We shall be researching animals through stories, fact books and maps. Our activities and open ended challenges in class have been changed to encourage the children to develop their thinking about the wider world.

This term in our direct teaching sessions we will be looking at:

RE - We are starting off by looking at the visit to baby Jesus by the 3 Wise Men and what this means in our faith. We will be looking carefully at some of the prayers given to us and thinking about how this helps us to be good people.

Reading - We will be hearing your child read at least twice per week. Please ensure reading books are in their bags every day, even if they have not read at home! We will hear your child extra when we have the chance!

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

Phonics - We are continuing on with our Phase 3 sounds which are the diagraphs. Diagraphs are 2 letters but when put together make 1 sound. (ou, ow, er, oo) Please continue to go over all sounds at home as often as you can.



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English - Our amazing animals theme lends itself beautifully to some great books. We will be reading these in class, making story maps and acting these stories out. We are looking at letter formation, sounding out unknown words, finger space and punctuation.

Maths - We are looking at numbers to 10 in depth. Children will be able to explore the concept of each number and all the different ways a number can be made. We will also be looking at measures, finding how long some things are.

Physical Development - We will continue to have our sessions with Matt on a Monday. Please ensure your child has the correct kit. We are continuing to work on developing independence so encouraging your child to get dressed as much as they can by themselves would be helpful. (We will of course help when needed!)

Homework - Please make sure the homework is done in the folders. The homework is a good way for you to check in and see what your child is doing in school.

Housekeeping

In the morning, please say goodbye to your child at the wooden gate. For child protection reasons, no adults are allowed to enter the building (unless signed in at the office) this includes our cloakroom area. We must ensure that we are fair to each child and their interests are put before all else. Thank you for your support in this.

Mystery reader- thank you to all those parents who have volunteered to be a mystery reader. If you would like to have the chance to come in and read to your child's class then please let us know.

Uniform - Please ensure all uniform is labelled and that your child is aware of what clothing is theirs. We do hold up all spare hats and coats to see if the owner recognises them!

Thank you for all your continued support - if you have any queries please come and see us directly.

King regards,

Mrs McLaughlin and Mrs McElhinney