

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Foundation Stage – Autumn term (2nd half)



Wow! What a busy term we have had so far. We have had so many great learning experiences since we started school – too many to mention here so please have a look on The Foundation Class page on the school website which will show you how busy we been!

<http://www.stjosephsprimaryschool.com/website/foundation>

We are really pleased with the progress the children have made in learning all their letter sounds. The challenge now, is to use this understanding, in their reading and writing. We have been working on our segmenting (sound talking to spell) and blending (using the sounds we hear to read word) skills.

Nearly all children can now blend sounds spoken by an adult into a word **c-a-t = cat, s-o-ck = sock,**


The next step will be to be able to do this independently.

The children have found it more challenging to segment words (a skill they will need for writing) **jam = many say j-am rather than j-a-m. or crash = most children said cr-a-sh** rather than **c-r-a-sh**. Working on these skills at home would be beneficial to them.

Have a look in your child's Home Learning pack for their 'alphabet card.' We encourage your child to always find one of these when they are writing at school. The children are all at different levels when using the alphabet card. Some children will need your support to find the letter that represents the sound they can hear when sound talking. Others will be able to find the letter and record it more independently.



Your child does not need to copy your adult writing unless practising actual handwriting. Giving children the opportunity to sound out their own words is a higher level skill and more important for independent writing. At this stage it does not matter if all the sounds are not there. Spelling becomes more accurate as children progress with their reading. Certain words such as the common exception words do need to be spelt correctly and can be copied from your tricky word bookmark.

For example
Sausage
 may look like:
sosij

Oak Class -			
Subject	Sent home	Due in	Frequency
Oak Class home learning	Friday	Wednesday	Weekly
 Reading	Your child will now be receiving three books each week that should be spread out over the week. This should include – reading, re-reading, discussing and retelling. Keep an eye out for a yellow reading record book which will have more information in it. Please ensure you write in this books to let us know your comments from home. Reading at home is a very important part of your child's education and we hope it will be an enjoyable experience for you all.		

	We have a reading workshop on the 27 th November at 2:30pm. Please come along to find out more about how we teach reading in school and ways to support your child at home.
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Reminders:

<p>School lunch</p> <p>PLEASE</p>  <p>NO PEANUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS</p>	<p>Oak children are entitled to a free school lunch every day. Thank you for selecting your menu choices already. You can send a packed lunch if you prefer. For Acorn children a school lunch can be ordered daily at a cost of £2.35 Please complete a menu choice form available and pay on ParentPay.</p> <p>We promote healthy eating at school and so lunch boxes should not contain more than one chocolate snack and one packet of crisps.</p> <p>Children are welcome to bring fresh fruit or vegetables for a snack at break time. We are a nut free school. We have children with potentially fatal nut allergies in school, therefore no food containing nuts may be sent into school.</p>
Drinks	Your child must have a named water bottle in school every day. Please only send in water, no juice or fizzy is allowed.
Uniform	<p>Please ensure all uniform is clearly named. Grey trousers or shorts, grey skirt or pinafore dress, Black, white or grey socks, grey tights, White polo shirt, Green logo school sweatshirt or cardigan. Warm weather option – green and white gingham dress (dress with shorts instead of skirt is acceptable) Hair past shoulder length must be tied back – please use plain hairbands in green, black or white, not brightly coloured bows. Nail varnish is not allowed. School shoes must be black and no heels, trainers or boots.</p>
PE kit	<p>Green t-shirt with school logo, black shorts, jogging bottoms and trainers. All kit must be named and in a named bag. Ear rings must be removed or covered with tape for PE lessons. Watches must be removed for PE. PE kit must be in school every day.</p>
Wellies	 <p>Please ensure your child has a pair of clearly named wellie boots that can be kept in school this will enable the children to explore outside without getting their school shoes muddy!</p>
Bags	<p>Reception, Yr 1 and 2 children must have a book bag in school. This is so books can easily be checked and letters put in. Children can have a bag or rucksack in school but please avoid the large bulky ones as 30 rucksacks take up a lot of room in the class.</p>
Mornings	<p>Our Foundation Stage doors are open from 8:45am. Please pass on any quick messages then, for a longer meeting please make an appointment. When you arrive in the morning please support your child with sorting their belongings and then settle your child to an activity. The tambourine rings at 9:05am for us to begin our hello circle. Children and parents arriving after 9.00am will be asked to sign in at the office.</p>
After school	<p>Acorn (Nursery) children finish at 3:15pm and Oak (Reception) children finish at 3.30pm. If someone other than yourself is collecting your child please ensure the office has their details. We will not let them leave unless we are sure they are safe. Acorn parents- Please ensure you are on time at 3:15pm as staff have to move through to the Oak room and get things sorted for the After School Club that takes place in the Acorn classroom.</p>

Contact details	Please ensure you contact details and those of other people who may collect your child are always kept up to date. Please see the office asap if you change your phone number or address.
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We hope that you are finding Tapestry an informing learning Journey. It has been nice to see some parents responding to the observations either with a comment or the 'like' button. We really enjoy seeing how children are getting on at home and its lovely to see some people are adding thier own observations from home. We don't expect regular observations just those really special moments that we may not know about. We are looking for those 'WOW' moments. This may be when your child does something for the very first time or learns a new skill like riding a bike or gets a certificate from a club outside of school.

Key dates for this half term:

Friday 15 th November	All day	Children in Need day. Non-uniform day. Children to come in wearing something that makes them smile for £1 donation.
Friday 22 nd November	6 – 8pm	Film night
Sunday 24 th November	11am	New school starters invited to Mass at Church
Wednesday 27 th November	2:30	Parent Reading Workshop FSU and KS1 parents
December		
Thursday 5 th December	9:45	FSU Christmas Nativity
Friday 6 th December	9:45	FSU Christmas Nativity
Tuesday 10 th December	10am & 6pm	Year 1 and 2 Nativity play
Thursday 12 th December	6pm	Year 3 and 4 Christmas service in school
Friday 13 th December	All day	Christmas jumper day £1 donation to Save the Children and 3:30
Tuesday 17 th December	6.30pm	Year 5 & 6 Advent Service in Church
Thursday 20 th December	3.30pm	Children break-up for Christmas

From now on to cut down on paper usage we will only email these class letters out. Please ensure the office has your current email address and let us know if you require a paper copy.

If you are able to support our learning with resources or would like to help in class, please let a member of staff know. We value your involvement in your child's education.

We recognise the importance of passing information between parents and school so please remember our door is always open and you can come and talk to us if you have any questions and concerns.

Yours sincerely,

The Foundation Stage Team.