

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 Oak children have made in learning all their letter sounds. The challenge now is to use this knowlegde 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 letter cards and grapheme cards 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 grapheme 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.

The word 'garden' would look like – gn or grn or grdn



Spelling becomes more accurate as children progress with their reading.

Certain words that are called the 'tricky words' do need to be spelt correctly and can be copied from the tricky word flashcards.

Oak Class -			
Subject	Sent home	Due in	Frequency
Oak Class home learning	Friday	Wednesday	Weekly
Reading 	There are two types of reading book for your child this term - A reading practice book - This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. This will be the book allocated on their ebook account. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level based on most recent assessments. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in		

	<p>reading. Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together. Some of the books can be a bit dry at this stage as your child is learning to blend with limited sounds. Please bear with them as they will soon include more sounds, words and sentences.</p> <p>A sharing book for pleasure - these are the books that your child self-selects from our class book box. Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together. In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together. Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters and explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!</p> <p>The yellow reading record book has more information in it. Please ensure you write in this books to let us know your comments from home.</p> <p>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.</p>
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Reminders:

<p>School lunch</p>  <p>PLEASE NO PEANUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS</p>	<p>Oak children are entitled to a free school lunch every day. Please select your menu choices on ParentPay.</p> <p>For Acorn children a school lunch can be ordered at a cost of £2.35, please order on ParentPay. You can send a packed lunch if you prefer.</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>
Snack	<p>Children should bring a piece of fresh fruit or vegetables for a snack at break time.</p> <p>We are a nut free school. We have children with potentially fatal allergies in school, therefore no food containing nuts / Sesame may be sent into school.</p> <p>Please ensure the snacks are named by writing their name on the banana / apple skin and ensuring all pots are clearly named.</p>
Drinks	<p>Your child must have a named water bottle in school every day. Please only send in water, no juice or fizzy is allowed.</p>
Uniform	<p>Now that the uniform has been through the wash a few times please ensure labels are still securely attached or that the pen can still be read easily.</p> <p>Grey trousers or shorts, grey skirt or pinafore dress, 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)</p> <p>Hair past shoulder length must be tied back – please use plain hairbands in green, black or white, not brightly coloured bows.</p> <p>Nail varnish is not allowed.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>School jumpers to be worn over P.E kits please.</p> <p>Ear rings must be removed or covered with tape for PE lessons.</p> <p>Watches must be removed for PE.</p> <p>PE kit should be worn to school on a Friday.</p>
<p>Wellies</p> 	<p>Thank you we now have wellies for all children. We will be using them more and more with winter on its way!</p>

Bags	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 many rucksacks take up a lot of room!
Mornings	Our Foundation Stage doors are open from 8:50am. Please pass on any quick messages then, for a longer meeting please make an appointment. Children and parents arriving after 9am will be asked to sign in at the office. We are very impressed with how independent the children have been this term with sorting their belongings. Thank you for your help with ensuring their snack and bottles are easily accessible and support them with putting on their own coats and shoes.
After school	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.
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.

We have already begun this half term with our topic of Bonfire night. Next week we carry on with more history when we base our learning around Remembrance Day.

Finally we will move onto Advent and the Christmas Story. This year our performance will be with the Key Stage One children and is called 'Bells ring out'. I'm sure you will hear the songs being sung by your child as we start to learn them over the next few weeks!

I've had a few people asking about how children earn Gospel value points and receive certificates. Here is a brief explanation – Our school gospel values are – Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Justice, Humility, Integrity, kindness and Peace. (See over for child speak.) The way the children understand it is when they have demonstrated a gospel value point that makes the adults say 'Wow!' For example today a child noticed that another child had fallen over. They ran straight over, helped them up and checked they were ok – They showed the gospel values of Kindness and compassion.

Once children get 10 gospel value points they get a bronze certificate, 20 for a Silver certificate, 30 for Gold, 40 for platinum, 50 for Diamond and 60 for Rainbow! Please note this is for Oak class up to year 6.

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

Key dates -

Monday 7th November – 3.30pm catch-up photos for any who were away on Friday or for photos with siblings. Please report to the office on arrival.

Tuesday 15th November Bags2School collection

Wednesday 16th November – Assembly and workshops from Bullies Out for Anti-bullying week

Wednesday 16th November – Bedtime Stories event 5-6pm

Friday 18th November – Mufti day for Children in Need. £1 suggested donation

Thursday 1st December afternoon – FSU and KS1 Nativity

Friday 2nd December – PTA Present room

**I am "Walking with Jesus
to be the best I can be" when...**

I show

Peace

I act responsibly around school,
making it a welcoming and
peaceful place for all.



**I am "Walking with Jesus
to be the best I can be" when...**

I show

Courage

I try to do what is right and stand up for
what I believe in, even if sometimes
that means disagreeing
with others.



**I am "Walking with Jesus
to be the best I can be" when...**

I show

Forgiveness

I say sorry, forgive others and use
the opportunity to make things
right.



**I am "Walking with Jesus
to be the best I can be" when...**

I show

Justice

I act in a way that is fair for all;
ensuring everyone has the same
opportunities and supporting
those who face injustice.



**I am "Walking with Jesus
to be the best I can be" when...**

I show

Humility

I show good manners through the polite
way I speak and act.

I say thank you to those who
have helped me.



**I am "Walking with Jesus
to be the best I can be" when...**

I show

Kindness

I am being gentle in my play – having
kind hands and kind words for everyone
– even those I find it hard to
get on with sometimes.



**I am "Walking with Jesus
to be the best I can be" when...**

I show

Integrity

I think about the choices
I have and try to make
the right choice.



**I am "Walking with Jesus
to be the best I can be" when...**

I show

Compassion

I use the gifts and talents given to me by
God, by helping others and taking care
of younger pupils.

