



Happy New Year. Welcome to the Spring Term of 2023!

The children have already settled back into the routine of the school day after the holidays. We were very proud of how the children went to church and showed fantastic St Joseph's behaviour.

This term we welcome new children and their families into both Oak and Acorn class. We hope you will settle in quickly and soon feel part of our Foundation Stage at St Joseph's.

We have lots of fun learning planned for this half term which we will continue to upload to Tapestry. Here is a brief overview of what's instore!

Our **Literacy** learning will be based around the quality stories of Ruby's worries, Lost and Found. After half term we will look at Non fiction.

We will be learning to 'read/tell' the story, writing labels, creating lists etc. We will be writing aspects of the stories and focussing on the vocabulary that is within each book.

Look out for the **Little Wandle letters and sounds** information sheets which will show you which new graphemes and tricky words we will be learning. These will be weekly as part of the children's home learning.

In **Mathematics** we will continue to follow our Power Maths scheme where we will explore the following objectives - have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number. Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 10. Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts. We will also explore some measure in the forms of length, height and weight.

For **Creative Development** we will be using different materials and media with which to explore colour, texture and design. As we celebrate Chinese New Year this will generate many craft activities. We will also be completing a unit of work around painting and mixed media.

We will also continue to be **physically** active with our outdoor play, using bikes and trikes, obstacle courses, P.E sessions as well as movement and music.

Our **Funky Fingers** sessions will continue to develop our letter formation as well as the fine motor activities from tweezers to pegs and threading beads/cheerios onto different strings. 'Dough disco' will continue to be a regular feature in our learning!


Our **Understanding the World** learning where we continue to be scientists will look at seasonal changes through Winter and into Spring. Maybe we get some snow and ice this term! In which case this will lead our learning.

We will also be historians this term and look at our class ambassador – Florence Nightingale and other heroes in our community today.


Our topics for **Religious Education** will be Community focusing on Celebrations, Islam and Eucharist.

We encourage the children to feel proud when they can achieve things by themselves. It has been lovely to see such an increase in independence when sorting their belongings and getting ready to go home at the end of the day.

Most children need to continue working on using a knife and fork more independently. They should hold both a knife and fork when eating and be encouraged to cut food their up.

| Oak Class - | | | |
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| Subject | Set on Tapestry | Due in | Frequency |
| Oak Class home learning | Friday | Wednesday | Weekly |
| Reading  | <p>Your child will continue to receive their ebook and pleasure books- Practise really does make progress! See the yellow reading book for more information. Please ensure you write in the yellow reading book to let me know how your child is getting on at home.</p> <p>Get them writing! Encourage your child to write independently using their growing phonic skills. They could write shopping lists, cards, post-its, notes, messages, letters, little books and postcards – anything at all. It's all great practise.</p> | | |

Reminders:

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| School lunch  NO PEANUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS | <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 | <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 (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>Earrings 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> |
| Bags | <p>Reception, Yr 1 and 2 children must have a book bag in school every day. This is so that the children can change their reading for pleasure book.</p> <p>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!</p> |

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| 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 supporting 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. |
| 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 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.

Important dates for this term –

18th Jan – Author visit on line – I Love Chinese New Year Storytime and activity.

1st February – cultural awareness day

1st February – Forest school 10am – 12noon

Please keep a close eye on Tapestry and parent pay for updates on these and other events.

Kind regards

The Foundation Stage Team