

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Foundation Stage – Autumn term (1st half) 2021



Welcome to the Autumn Term!

After a happy and busy first week in Foundation, we hope you and your child are beginning to feel settled and very much a part of this year's Foundation Stage at St Joseph's School. Your children have been amazing and we are so proud of the way they have coped with another unusual start to the term. Our main priorities for the next few weeks are to ensure that everyone settles in well, friendships are built and that we have lots of fun exploring together. The children will learn about the expectations and routines of Oak Class.

Our topics will evolve over time and progress in line with the children's own interests. The Foundation Class page on the school website will show you how our topic develops.

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

Without you coming into the classroom your child is having to be more independent when sorting their belongings. Though they will have some adult support, we shall encourage the children to feel proud when they can achieve things by themselves. This includes taking responsibility for their own possessions. We are establishing routines whereby children are able to ensure snack pots, water bottles and book bags find their place in the classroom. From time to time things may be forgotten or misplaced please ensure that your child's belongings are very clearly named. This helps the adults to quickly identify lost items and return them to your child.



To support your child with independence, please encourage them to put on their coats and shoes by themselves and to learn to eat independently at meal times (when ready using a knife and fork.)

Acorn Class –	
<p>The children have been very engaged during story time and sharing books is an essential part of developing communication and language skills. Through stories children can express their own thoughts and emotions, learn new exciting words and build the foundations for language development.</p> <p>All of the children should have their own book bag and they are very welcome to choose a new book each time they are at Nursery.</p>	

Oak Class -			
Subject	Sent home	Due in	Frequency
Oak Class home learning	Friday (Starting October)	Wednesday	Weekly
Reading 	At the moment we are carrying out our Baseline assessments. Once these are complete we will then issue reading books. Meanwhile we will continue to issue story books for you share with your child each day.		

	<p>Keep an eye out for a yellow reading record book which will have more information in it. This is where you will be able to record 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>
--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Reminders for all -

<p>Wellies</p> 	<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>
<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. 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> <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>
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.</p> <p>Instead of bringing in rucksacks daily, please provide a change of clothes (in a bag) that will stay in school and left on your child's peg in case of accidents.</p>
Mornings	<p>Our Foundation Stage doors are open from 8:50am. Please pass on any quick messages then, for a longer chat please email or leave a message at the office.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Contact details	<p>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.</p>

New for 2021:

Reception (Oak Class) Baseline-

The reception baseline assessment, or RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin in school. It will be undertaken with your child's class teacher and will measure your child's progress from reception to year 6. The school, the teachers and you, as parents will not be shared and the data will only be accessed by the DFE. The teacher will be able to spend quality 1-1 time with your child, getting to know them and if they need any further support in certain areas. When your child reaches year 6, you will be able to see the progress your child has made throughout their school journey. If you wish to read further on the reception baseline, then you can find a useful parent booklet here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

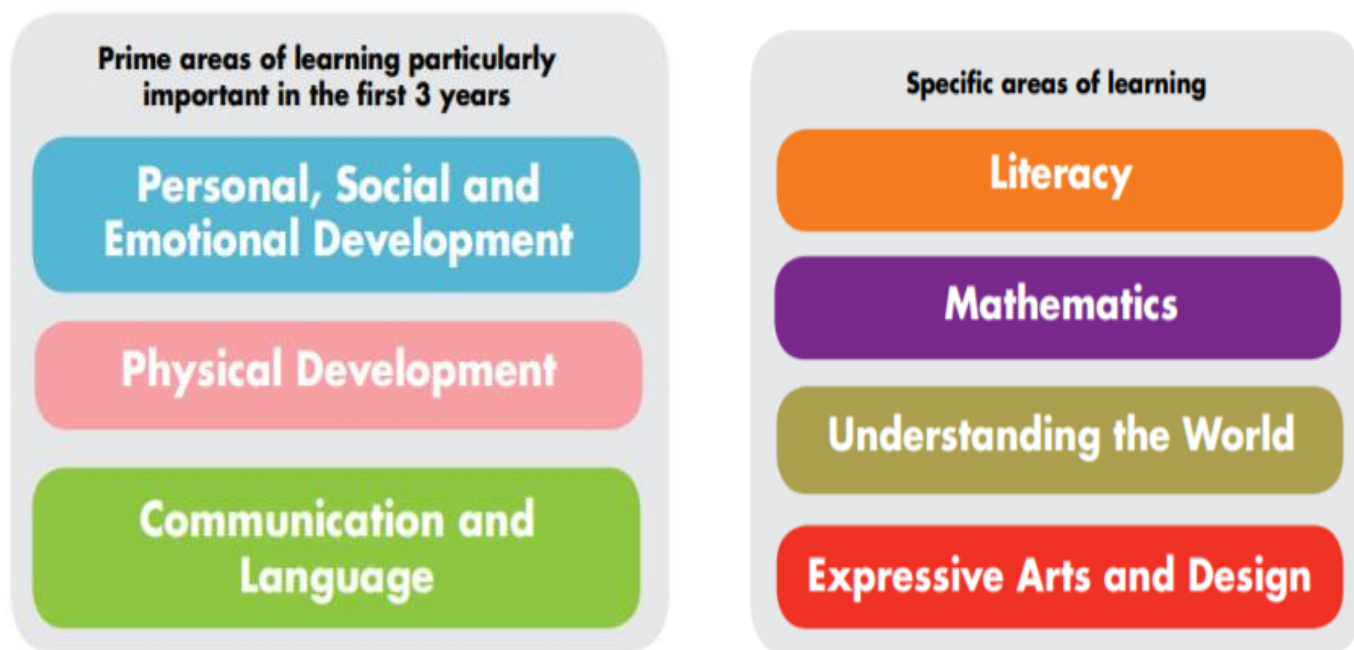
New Early Years Framework -

As you may already be aware, the DFE have introduced a new EYFS framework, commencing September 2021. The school became an early adopter of these changes in the last academic year and we are familiar and aware of the changes and have already put lots of changes into place ready for this academic year.

What does this mean for your child?

Your child will follow the updated EYFS framework and will be monitored if their learning and development is 'on track' for their age. In Oak class the children will work towards final assessment at the end of the year, using the new ELGs (Early learning goals). These goals are short statements that teachers assess your child against at the end of the Reception year.

The 7 main areas of learning remain the same. These are;



As part of the changes to the new framework there are some of the key points from the new EYFS reforms that include relevant changes:

- Early Years staff will be spending less time on large amounts of written observations and assessments for evidence collection, meaning we, as adults, can spend more time with your child getting to know them and having those quality interactions.
- There is an emphasis on improving pupil's language and vocabulary through increasing opportunities for conversations, reading of a wide range of books and holding discussions around activities in other areas of learning.
- The new framework is also more aligned with the KS1 curriculum, further ensuring your child's educational journey from reception to KS1 is building upon previous knowledge.
- Pupils will no longer be assessed against statements from an age band category. Instead, staff will use their experience and knowledge to monitor if a child's learning and development is '**on track**' for their age.
- There is no longer an exceeding judgement at the end of Reception. Pupils will instead be challenged to have a greater depth and understanding of ideas.

- Safeguarding and welfare of pupils is still of upmost priority, with the added mention of teaching pupils about the importance of good oral health and how to keep teeth clean and healthy.

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.