



Happy New Year. Welcome to the Spring Term of 2022!

The children have already settled back into the routine of the school day after the holidays. We are very proud of how they come in every day with such positive learning attitudes.

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.

Our learning will begin with a topic called 'Near and Far.' This topic will cover many of our **Understanding the World** key skills – similarities and differences between our country and other countries, map work and exploring our immediate environment / local community.

Our **Literacy** will all be linked to this topic using the stories of My Cat Likes to Hide in Boxes, My World, your World and My Granny Went to Market.

We will be learning to 'read/tell' the story (with actions), writing labels, creating lists etc. The Oak children will be writing the story and we will all be inventing our own version of the story.

Next week I will send home the **Little Wandle letters and sounds** information which will show you which new graphemes and tricky words we will be learning this half term.

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 5. 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 distance.

For **Creative Development** we will be using different materials and media with which to explore colour, texture and design.


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 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 -			
Subject	Set on Tapestry	Due in	Frequency
Oak Class home learning	Friday	Wednesday	Weekly
Reading 	Your child will continue to receive their hot and cold reading books - Practise really does make perfect! Please ensure you write in the yellow reading book to let me know how your child is getting on at home. 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.		

Reminders:

School lunch PLEASE  NO PEANUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS	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. We promote healthy eating at school and so lunch boxes should not contain more than one chocolate snack and one packet of crisps. 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.
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	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. 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) 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 (no heels, trainers or boots.)
PE kit	Green t-shirt with school logo, black shorts, jogging bottoms and trainers. School jumpers to be worn over P.E kits please. Earrings must be removed or covered with tape for PE lessons. Watches must be removed for PE. PE kit should be worn to school on a Friday.
Bags	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. 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 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.

Yours sincerely,
The Foundation Stage Team