



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Part of St Gabriel the Archangel Multi Academy Trust

HILLCREST ROAD, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, DY2 7PW

Principal: Mrs S Chapman B.Ed Hons

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and I hope you all had a lovely and holy Christmas break. Thank you for you all for your generosity and wishes. Thank-you for your continued support and I hope this term will be a successful one.

Could we ask you to make sure water bottles, cardigans, and jumpers etc are **clearly labelled with your child's name or initials**, this will be greatly appreciated, as we have lots of items with no names that go missing.

We have external Music lessons which are delivered by Dudley Performing Arts weekly, this will take place on a Wednesday.

Your child will have weekly PE lessons every Thursday, we ask that your child could have a labelled PE kit in school (see uniform policy for details). We will be continuing getting changed independently, if parents could please encourage their child to independently change at home too, this will help with your child's development. Children will be sent home every Friday with homework, which consists of a maths worksheet and a page from our phonics book and their Home School Link Book. Could we ask these bags are back into school by Wednesday please. It is important that you send your child's reading book and reading record into school each week so staff are able to read with your child.

Please if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask us, we always hear to listen and help.

Thank you again for all your support so far in Reception, the development the children are making is fantastic and we appreciate all your help.

Miss Bate and Miss Giovenco

<u>What are we learning about?</u>	<u>Special days / Dates:</u>
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This Term our topics are:

The story of our half term is Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Children will continue with their recognising letters and move onto reading simple sentences.

We will be describing key characters, writing recognisable letters and develop sentence building.

With the change of seasons, Reception will be focusing on all things winter. Looking at how our environment changes and how we can protect ourselves during winter.

Friday 20th March: Reception's first assembly

Wednesday 14th and 15th January; Writing focus parent workshop.

WB 23rd February: Brilliant in Britain Week

Other information and dates will be sent out throughout Spring term.

In RE we are focusing on Baptism, looking at what it means to belong to God's family. Later in the term, we will be focusing on Lent and beginning our Easter unit.

Values for Autumn Term:

Curious and Active- before half term

Curious: Being curious means wanting to learn more about the world, asking questions, and wondering about God, people, and how things work.

Active: Being active means getting involved, helping others, and using your gifts to make a positive difference at school, at home, and in the world.

Intentional and Prophetic- after half term

Intentional: Being intentional means trying to do the right thing on purpose, making good choices, and thinking about how your actions can show love and kindness.

Prophetic: Being prophetic means standing up for what is right, speaking kindly but bravely, and showing God's love by caring for others, especially those who need help.

Catholic Social Teaching & British Values

Throughout the curriculum and beyond children learn about the 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching - Working in Solidarity, Care for Creation, Community & Participation, Dignity of Workers, Help for the Poor & Vulnerable, Human Dignity & Solidarity and how they link to British Values – Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Respect & Tolerance.

The class charity we have chosen to support

In Reception we have chosen to support CAFOD for our charity, CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) is the official Catholic aid agency. They work through the local Church to reach people and places that others can't.

Across the world they bring hope and compassion to poor communities, standing side by side with them to end poverty and injustice. CAFOD work on long-term development as well as responding to emergencies.

St Joseph's Way – See our website for more details

At St. Joseph's we develop children's character through the 'St. Joseph's Way' curriculum. In order to build character, we define the behaviours and habits that we expect students to demonstrate. We want to support our pupils to grow into adults who are polite, respectful, grateful and who put others before themselves. We believe that, as pupils practise these behaviours over time, they become habits that positively shape how they feel about themselves and how other people perceive them. As philosopher Will Durant states, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." (1926)