

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM



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,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to St Joseph's Catholic School. It has been wonderful to begin to get to know your wonderful children, they have settled into school life well and we are so enormously proud of all of them. The children have begun to adapt to our routines, and this will continue throughout the Autumn Term.

Could we ask you to make sure water bottles, cardigans, and jumpers etc are clearly labelled with your child's name, this will be appreciated.

We have external Music lessons delivered by Dudley Performing Arts weekly this term and PE lessons will be on a Wednesday morning.

Starting in the next couple of weeks, children will be sent home every Friday with a piece of homework. This will be a handwriting letter formation booklet, completing a sound a week. Could we ask these are back into school by Wednesday at the latest.

Today, your child has gone home with a home school link book. In here your child's key person will write comments about your child's week and some activities they have been up to. Please take time to read your child's home school link book and add comments about the weekend, we use this to form conversations with your child to aid their communication and language.

From next week, your child will be sent home each day with reading folder, which will consist of a reading book and reading record, please date and comment when you have read with them at home. We kindly ask you to make sure your child has their reading record and book in school each day, so we can read with the children also. Until children move through the phonics scheme, they will have picture books.

We are so looking forward to continuing to watch them grow and learn and we are so grateful to be a part of your child's journey at St Joseph's.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask either of us.

Thank you again for your continued support,

Miss Millard and Miss Giovenco

What are we learning about?

We begin our academic year introducing the children to a wide range of traditional nursery rhymes. This is a fun way to help them develop their communication and language skills, broadening their vocabulary and helping them to speak in more complex sentences.

We will introduce them to a wide range of well-loved contemporary and traditional stories, specifically focusing on

Special days / Dates:

21st September - Mission, Vocation, Values and Prayer Week begins

2nd October - Lent Harvest Fast Day

7th October - Reception Teddy Bear Road Safety Workshop

9th October - Mental Health Workshop - wear yellow today

9th October - Joseph's Jigsaw Saints Day - wear own clothes

17th October - School Parish Mass, Church 6:00 pm

19th October - Black History Week begins

The Gingerbread Man after October half-term. This will then be used as inspiration for lots of fun learning activities across all areas of the curriculum. There will be a clear focus on personal, social and emotional development, communication and language and physical development. In literacy, the children will be encouraged to start giving meaning to the marks that they make and begin to use line to enclose space (for example, drawing circles to represent faces). They will also begin the process of learning to recognise and writing their name. Phonics will be taught daily and children will begin to learn sounds of letters, oral blending for early reading skills and segmenting for early spelling skills. In maths, throughout the term we will be developing the children's number sense, fluency and mathematical awareness. This will begin through naming and matching colours, sorting objects through size, colour and shape and developing their mathematical reasoning. There will also be a focus on counting, number recognition and subitising. In RE this term we are learning about Creation and Covenant. We will be learning that "God made me, the world and everything in it" and emphasising how we can look after the world and ourselves. We will be exploring this through various learning activities and exploring our environment inside and outside the classroom. Throughout all of our learning, the prime areas of the EYFS curriculum—communication and language, personal, social and emotional development, and physical development—will take centre stage, while the specific areas of learning will be carefully woven into our activities and experiences, allowing children to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in a meaningful and engaging way.	19th October - Tin Donations for Harvest requested 19th October - Parents' Evening 21st October - Whole School Enrichment Day – Fencing 21st October - Reception Snowman, Birmingham Rep 23rd October - Teacher Day – School closed to pupils 26 – 30 October Half Term 2nd November Teacher Day – School closed to pupils 3rd November - School Re-opens 11th November - Whole School Photographs 16th November - Antibullying, Anti-Racism and Internet Safety Week 10th December - Mini Reports go home today 11th December - Christmas Jumper, Fair and Party Day 14th December - EYFS Nativity Play (2:20 pm) 14th December - Carol Concert, Church 5:00 pm 18th December - End of Term Celebration Assembly (9:15 am) 18th December - Carols and Readings Around the Tree (2:30 pm) 18th December - End of Term – School closes for Christmas
<u>Values for Autumn Term:</u> Compassionate and Loving– before half term Compassionate: Thinking about one another and showing love and kindness. Loving: Showing love to everyone as Jesus teaches us to. Faith-filled and Hopeful- after half term Faith-filled: Be guided by faith and all of Jesus' teachings. Hopeful: Having hope in Jesus and the Trinity and the power they hold.	<u>The class charity we have chosen to support</u> 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. <u>St Joseph's Way – See our website for more details</u> 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

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.

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)