

Joseph Class Autumn 2 Newsletter



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a brand new half-term! I hope you had a restful break and recharged the batteries for the road to Christmas! In this letter you will find information about the exciting new topics your child will be studying in the coming term, as well as some key information about the day to day routines and procedures that will support your child in their learning.

English and Maths

As I am sure you are aware, your child takes part in English and Maths lessons every day. To assist your child in their development in both these curriculum areas, please give them support and encouragement in reading and practising their times tables **every day**. The children will be tested on their target times-tables on a weekly basis to support their progress with this important part of their learning. In addition to this, your child will receive a maths target card with individual targets designed to help extend and improve their mathematical skills and confidence. Please support your child by working through their targets with them on a regular basis. In addition, your child will shortly be given an individual log in for the maths online revision program 'Mathletics'. Where possible, please encourage your child to utilise the online Mathletics revision programme at home using their personal log in to give them access to maths revision activities specifically set by myself to support your child's learning in mathematics.

To help improve your child's reading and comprehension skills, please ensure you listen to them reading aloud for at least 20 minutes every day and question them on the text that they are reading. Additionally, written responses to texts should be made in your child's reading journal on a **weekly** basis - please comment in the "Parent's Comments" section of your child's entry; this can be about their reading of the book itself or the process of the entry writing - all feedback is valuable and the support is always appreciated. Please refer to the 'Ideas for writing Journal Entries' at the front of your child's reading journal to inspire your child to write creative and varied journal entries.

Finally, please support your child with any homework that they receive to consolidate their learning in class by monitoring their progress in completing their work and ensuring that it is returned to school at the correct time.

RE

In this half term your child will explore the Sacrament of Confirmation in the topic "Called". Your child will learn about the call, explore responses to it and how it links to and informs the actions of believers. Your child will discover what it is to be called to witness, while learning about the different actions and symbols of the rite, with a particular emphasis on the Holy Spirit. Towards the second half of this term your child will study the unit 'Gifts' and will learn more about Advent as a time for preparation for Jesus' birth. Your child will learn about God's gift of love and friendship and understand God gave us the greatest gift of all, by sending his son Jesus to us on Earth. Your child will learn about key events such as Gaudete Sunday and The Wise Men's visit to Jesus when he was born.

Science

In our topic Electricity, your child will learn about how to stay safe around electrical appliances, identify common electrical appliances in the home and the potential hazards they may pose. Your child will also construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. Your child will also identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery. Through this topic, your child will develop their enquiry skills, such as using results to draw conclusions and identifying similarities or differences based on different processes.

Geography

This half term your child will focus on the rivers in the United Kingdom. Your child will find out about river features, formation and uses. They will learn about the processes of erosion, transportation and deposition. Your child will develop their map work skills to name and locate some of the UK's rivers and will learn key facts such as the longest river in the UK. We will end our topic with a local area study based upon the River Thames.

Art

In art this half term, your child will be learning about "Portraying Relationships" through the stimulus of the Nativity story. Your child will investigate the concept of body language and its importance in the composition of artistic works before applying this to create an art work drawn from the relationships in the Nativity through the medium of collage.

Computing

In Computing this term, your child will continue to develop basic skills such as sequencing, programming, debugging and loops, before working to increase their understanding of conditionals- for instance "If the traffic light is red, then we wait, if it is green, then we go." This topic will also encourage your child to think logically and recognise the importance of working effectively as a team, while also developing their persistence and resilience in the face of challenge.

PE

Your child has outdoor P.E every **Thursday**. In addition, your child will have the opportunity to partake in extra PE sessions with our sports coach David Dines every other half term on a **Friday**. Please ensure they have their full **PE** kits (including tracksuits) for all lessons and all items are clearly labelled with your child's full name. Your child will also have swimming every **Monday**, beginning **Monday 9th September**- please refer to the separate letter for more detailed information about the swimming routine.

This half term your child will continue to take part in outdoor P.E. every Monday and our topic is basketball. Your child will learn and develop basketball skills by learning how to; bounce the ball correctly, practise a range of passes and movements, and develop their defence and evasion skills. This will lead us up to a class match at the end of the unit to put all of these skills into practise.

Music

Your child will also take part in music lessons on **Fridays** with Mr Dixon (every other half term) where they will learn how to develop their own compositions, working both individually and within small groups.

MFL

In this half term your child will be consolidating their learning from the previous topic 'Let's go' (On y va!) and starting a new topic themed on 'Pocket Money' (L'argent de poche). They will be learning vocabulary linked to numbers, money and some toys and games. They will be constructing sentences, using verbs in the first and second person, and beginning to create simple dialogues around transactions.

PSHE

In PSHE this half term your child will learn about firework safety in preparation for Guy Fawkes' Night (5th November). They will develop an understanding of the importance of dental hygiene and learn about how we can look after our teeth. Your child will learn about what it takes to be a good friend and the importance of friendship. This leads on to our celebrations for Anti- Bullying Week (Monday 11th November- Friday 15th November). Your child will take part in many different activities course of the week, including wearing odd socks to school on Tuesday 12th November to celebrate that we are all different- more information about this to follow. The newly elected School Councillors and Green Team will have an opportunity during PSHE sessions to provide their classes with updates from their recent meetings.

Homework

Your child will receive homework tasks, spellings and sentence homework on a weekly basis. Additional homework may be set at different times where it complements or supports work in a range of subjects across the curriculum.

Tuesday: Spellings will be sent home, allowing time for the spelling rule to be explored and for discussion regarding the meaning of the vocabulary itself.

Wednesday: Sentences books will be sent home. We ask that you support your child with discussion on how to apply their spelling words in carefully drafted and presented sentences- one for each of their spelling words.

Thursday: Homework set. Reading Journals will be handed in to the Class Teacher.

Monday: All of the above handed in to class. Reading Journals will be given back out to the children.

Please support your child in managing all aspects of their homework routine by monitoring their progress in completing their work to the best of his/her ability and within the designated time. This also applies to "ongoing" homework tasks, such as Maths Targets and Times Tables practice.

Reminders: Currently a piece of fruit is provided for all children at morning break time. Your child is still permitted to bring a piece of fruit from home each day if desired. Could you

please ensure that your child brings their filled school water bottle into school everyday, with their name **clearly** marked on it. If your child does not have a school water bottle, they are available from the school office for £1.50. Please ensure any money that is sent into school is enclosed in a school money pocket and detailed with the necessary information. Money pockets can be purchased from the school reception. Finally, please remember to check your child's school bag regularly for any letters which may require parental permission.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me after school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Slattery
Joseph Class Teacher

