



St Joseph's Newsletter

April 2021



Welcome Back

Welcome back, we hope that you had a very restful and enjoyable Easter. The children have settled well into the new term, and have very much been enjoying our own Easter celebrations with their class Easter egg hunts.

Please see the dates below for some important upcoming events:

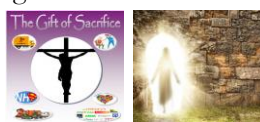
- Friday 1st May – St. Joseph's Day service (this service will take place virtually and will be available on the school website from 9:00am on Friday 1st May)
- Thursday 29th April – Individual and Sibling Photographs
- Monday 3rd May – May Bank Holiday
- Thursday 6th May – Class Photographs
- Friday 28th May at 3:15pm - We break for the summer half-term

Term dates for the next academic year 2021/2022 are available on our website. Please refer to these as required, especially when organising family holidays ensuring these do not fall in term time. Thank you.

Hallelujah! The Lord has Risen!

As we approached Easter Sunday and the end of Lent, the children of the St Joseph's community, those both in school and at home have been taking part in our whole school Lenten project 'The Gift of Sacrifice'.

Each week of Lent, through our virtual assemblies and class reflections, the children have been reading, discussing and reflecting upon the reading from that week's Sunday Gospel. The children have then been taking the time to reflect upon what sacrifices they can make in different areas of their life in order to give to others and move closer to God during this special period of the liturgical year. We hope that all of the St Joseph's community had a blessed Easter and carry this spirit of giving and sacrifice into Eastertide.



Summer Uniform

All children should now be attending school in their summer uniform:

- Girls – summer dresses/culottes (light blue and white check); navy blue cardigans and white socks or tights. black shoes
- Boys – light blue polo shirts with either grey shorts or trousers and grey jumpers (please remind your son(s) to tuck shirts in and to fasten their top buttons) black shoes
- Parents of nursery children can choose whether to send their children into school wearing a summer uniform or their usual track suits.

Items of summer uniform are on sale from the website: <https://www.yourschooluniform.com/schools/index/st-josephs-014b-r-c-primary-school-20988>

Coronavirus

We ask our parent community to continue to be vigilant in how they manage the symptoms of Coronavirus in their household and in their family. Furthermore, we ask you to continue to adhere to the preventative measures which we are implementing as a school to inhibit the potential spread of the virus.

The NHS defines the symptoms of Coronavirus (including children) as:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If your child or a member of your household displays symptoms of Coronavirus:

- 1) Call the school office to inform the school
- 2) Book a test for Coronavirus
- 3) Self-Isolate until you receive the test results
- 4) Call the school office to inform the school of the results of the test



Reading: The Most Important Thing



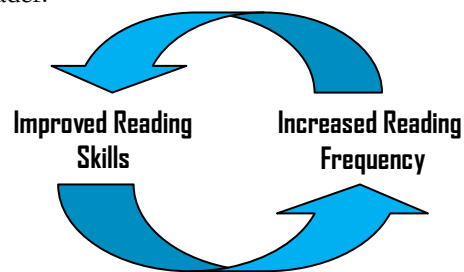
Written by: Mr Hoyes

Reading is the most important academic skill that your child learns. Research has shown that reading is the primary means by which people acquire new knowledge across all subjects throughout their lives. Reading also has great benefits for a child's emotional and social wellbeing and understanding of the world. Research both in the UK and internationally has shown that there is a close correlation between reading frequency and reading attainment or to put it plainly:

'The more your child reads, the better reader they will become'

The department for education published figures which demonstrated that children who read regularly are more than 6 times more likely to achieve above age-related expectations in reading than those who do not. Similarly, children who do not read regularly are more than 11 times more likely to achieve below age-related expectations.

The impact of increased reading frequency is cyclical: the more your child reads the better they will become at reading, the better they are at reading the more likely they are to read. The more they read, the more knowledge they will acquire, the more knowledge a child has, the better they will become as a reader.



As a parent or carer, you play a crucial role in your child's development as you are in a position to exert a powerful influence upon your child's reading habits. Below are three evidenced informed strategies that you can apply at home to increase your child's reading frequency, and in turn, their reading attainment.

1) Provide Choice

Research has shown that children who have a wide variety of book choices that interest them are significantly more likely to choose to read. Encourage your child to regularly change their book in their class book corner if in KS2 (this will be done for your child in KS1), take the time to discuss their book preferences and interests with them to help them find authors and genres which interest them. Secondly, consider joining a local library and taking your child there to choose their own books on a regular basis. I am a member of Canada Water library and can speak from experience in saying that they have a wonderful range of books for children, including a wide range of e-books which are available for download for free at home.

2) Make Reading a Number One Habit

The majority of children find reading a very pleasurable and enjoyable experience, however in an increasingly digitised world they are regularly presented with many possible alternatives to reading when at home. I very much enjoy both fruit and ice-cream however when presented with a choice between the two I tend to opt for ice-cream. In the same way, when children are presented with a choice to read or an alternative, they will very often choose the alternative. Build a habit each day where there is a period of time (15-30min depending on age) where all other alternatives are removed so reading can be your child's number one choice.

3) Build a Reading Relationship

Evidence shows that an adult listening to, reading with and/or reading to a child is a huge motivating factor for a child to read. Similarly, taking the time to discuss the content of a book and your child's reading interests has a massively positive impact upon a child's reading frequency.

I hope this information was informative and that you enjoy sharing in your child's reading experiences. We will be offering training opportunities for parents/carers upon how you can further support your child's reading at home in the coming term. Supporting your child's reading is the most important thing you can do to support your child's academic progress.

Arrivals and Dismissals

Please note: If your child arrives after their arrival time they will be marked as late on their attendance record.

Arrivals

8:40-8:55am Nursery pupils via Nursery Entrance
(siblings to enter via pupil entrance)

8:30-8:40am Reception pupils + older siblings via Pupil Entrance

8:40-8:50am Y1 & Y2 pupils + older siblings via Pupil Entrance

8:50-9:00am Y3 & Y4 pupils + older siblings via Pupil Entrance

9:00-9:10am Y5 & Y6 pupils via Pupil Entrance

Dismissals

3:00pm Nursery pupils + older siblings will be dismissed from the Nursery

3:00pm Reception pupils + older siblings will be dismissed from the playground

3:15pm Y1 & Y2 pupils + older siblings will be dismissed from the playground

3:30pm Y5 & Y6 pupils will be dismissed from the school playground

The children in Years 3 and 4 will be dismissed from

Main Reception:

McAuley Class + older siblings at 3:10pm

Felton Class + older siblings at 3:20pm

Joseph Class + older siblings at 3:30pm

Prayer of the Month



Dear St Joseph,
Thank you for teaching Jesus to be kind and helpful.
You were a good husband to Mary and a loving father to Jesus.
You worked hard as a carpenter and taught Jesus many of your skills.
We hope we can work as hard as you.
Pray for us
Amen



Written by Baptist Class

Sun Cream

We hope to see a lot more warm weather this term. If we do, please apply sun cream to your child's face, neck, arms and legs before school. We will be talking to the children about regulating their play, e.g. using the shaded areas in the playground, not playing running games for the whole duration of break-times, making use of the quiet areas too and keeping well hydrated with the use of water bottles and water fountains

For news updates please see the school website: www.stjosephsgeorgerow.org
If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Hoyes by appointment through the school office.