

# St Joseph's

## Reception Newsletter

18<sup>th</sup> September 2026



Thank you to everyone who attended the Reception Curriculum Meeting. If you were unable to attend, the presentation is now available on the Reception page of the school website.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child practise their phonics every day. If you have any questions or require further support, please speak to your child's class teacher, who will be happy to help.

In the 'Let's Explore' project, your child will explore their class environment and school grounds so that they feel settled and happy in their new surroundings. They will learn about the local environment and find out about places they have visited on holiday. They will look at and create maps for journeys.

Supporting your child at home:

- Use Google Earth to explore the locality.
- Go on a walk around your local community and talk about the things that you see.
- Encourage your child to talk about the activities they enjoy doing at school.
- Share and discuss the 'Did you know?' resource. (attached at the end of newsletter).

Supporting your child with Maths at home:

### 1. Matching Games

- Sock Pairs: Mix up clean socks and ask your child to find and match the pairs.

### 2. Sorting Activities

- Button Bins: Use buttons, beads, or Lego pieces to sort into bowls by colour or shape.

### 3. Comparing Challenges

- Teddy Towers: Build towers with blocks and compare which is taller or shorter.

### Extra Tip for Parents

- Use everyday language like "bigger", "smaller", "the same as", "more than", and "fewer than" during play. This builds mathematical vocabulary naturally.

## Baseline Assessment

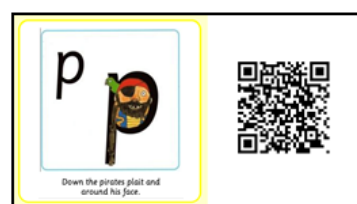
Over the next few weeks, all Reception children will take part in the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA). This is a short, practical activity carried out one-to-one with your child's teacher in a relaxed and supportive environment. The assessment is designed to provide a snapshot of each child's starting point as they begin their school journey and includes simple activities involving communication, language, literacy and mathematics. There is no preparation needed, and children usually see it as a fun set of games and tasks. The results are not used to judge individual children or schools; they are used nationally to measure progress across primary school.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/690c7eddd4c5f31272d3e66e/Reception baseline assessment information for parents.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/690c7eddd4c5f31272d3e66e/Reception_baseline_assessment_information_for_parents.pdf)



Press control and click on the link for more information.

[Parent guide to Read Write Inc. Phonics - Oxford Owl](#)



You can support your child at home by encouraging them to complete their daily phonics activities, revisit the sounds they have learned, and read their Read Write Inc. book regularly. Even just a few minutes each day can make a significant difference to your child's progress and confidence.

If you have any questions about Read Write Inc. or would like support with helping your child at home, please speak to your child's class teacher. We are always happy to help.

# Our Star Poem

## I May Be Little...

I may be little but  
I'm learning each day  
As I explore my world  
And I run and play.  
When I eat my lunch  
Or I draw or paint,  
I'm learning new things  
And I think it's great!  
My body is growing  
And my mind is, too.  
Each day I am learning...  
Something fun and new!  
So ask me many questions...  
And watch as I explore  
'Cause when we are together,  
I learn even more!



**Please read and practise with your child.**

Poetry helps children to develop early language and literacy skills. It introduces new vocabulary, allows children to play with words, letters and sounds, helps with memory and teaches children about rhythm and rhyme.

## Information:



Family Lives offers a confidential and free\* helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parent line). Please call us on **0808 800 2222** for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. If you don't get an answer first time please do try again.



Welcome Liturgy – 25<sup>th</sup> September @  
2.30pm

Reception school trip – Bekonscot – 12th  
October

**Forest School sessions will commence on  
6<sup>th</sup> October.**

**We would be grateful for any donations of tissues or baby  
wipes.**

**Thank you for your support.**

*wish list*



**Here are a few links to support your children's learning at home.**

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/home-learning-environment/small-talk/>

<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

We have enjoyed starting our phonics lessons and are very proud of the work we are completing at home! In maths we have been learning about matching, sorting, and comparing. We are still making new friends and have had lots of talk about emotions and feelings in our PSHE lessons. We have also met our new Year 6 buddies!



