St Joseph's

Reception Newsletter

6th November 2026

It has been lovely to see the children return to school so enthusiastic and eager to learn after the half-term break. They have enjoyed learning about their new topic and continuing their learning journey. Please continue to support them at home by reading daily, and using the Phonics home support booklet and resources provided in the weekly newsletters.

Our topic this term:

The Marvellous Machines project. We will learn about technology and how it is part of our daily lives. We will explore various machines, learn about how machines help us and find out about how machines have changed and developed over time. We will investigate products that use electricity and explore magnetic and non-magnetic materials.

Supporting your child at home:

- Talk about the machines and technology you use in your everyday lives.
- Look for things in the home that are powered by electricity.
- Look for items that are powered by batteries.

Maths

Next week we will explore 2D shapes.

Some suggested home activities:

Go on a 2D shape hunt around your home or outside.

Can you find something shaped like a:

- ○ circle
- □ square
- ▭ rectangle
- △ triangle

Create a picture using 2D shapes. You could make:

- a house
- a robot
- a rocket

Talk about the shapes you used: "I used a triangle for the roof."

Shape Detective at Mealtimes

Look carefully at objects in the kitchen or at the dinner table.

Can you spot a circle, square or rectangle?

For example, a round plate has a circular face.

The children have been assessed and allocated to the appropriate group. They will receive a letter on Monday with information on the focus for that group to progress. We appreciate your support with home learning, which will help your child to progress and gain confidence in reading and writing.

Please continue to support them by playing this game to support blending. Please play as often as you can.



Ruth Miskin Training

Fred Talk Games

Fred can only speak in sounds. He says m-a-t. He helps children sound out words for reading and spelling.

Fred Talk games are a fun way of using Fred Talk throughout the day to teach children to orally blend.

All Fred Talk games need to follow these steps:
1. Say the word in sounds. Ask children to repeat.
2. Say the word in sounds and then the whole word. Ask children to repeat.

Remember to Fred Talk single syllabic words at the end of the sentence.

Here are some example Fred Talk games:

Body parts
Fred instructs children to touch their nose, hands on your head etc.
1. Say 'Fred wants you to put your hands on your h-ea-d'.
2. Ask children to say 'h-ea-d'. Pause to see if they can blend and put their hands on their head.
3. Say 'h-ea-d, head'. Ask children to repeat.

Animals
Fred names an animal and the children make the noise of that animal.
1. Say 'Fred wants you to make the noise of a h-or-se'.
2. Ask children to say 'h-or-se'. Pause to see if they can blend and make the noise of a horse.
3. Say 'h-or-se, horse'. Ask children to repeat.

Our Star Poem

Murky mist

Wind blows a bitter breeze.
Carry a coat in case you freeze.
Slip and slide on soggy leaves.
Spy the bony-fingered trees.

There's hardly any afternoon.
A murky mist obscures the moon.

Stay inside your cosy room,
safe and snug in your cocoon.

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.

The children have been extremely excited about our new topic and have particularly enjoyed exploring historical machines. They have been working hard on their ‘Fred talk’ which has supported them in their writing in Literacy this week.












Say the sound,
the letter


winther

