

St Joseph's



Reception Newsletter

9th October 2026

What another great week in Reception! The children are making fantastic progress in their phonics and have really enjoyed learning about the five senses. This week, they explored their senses in class, during a sensory walk and in Forest School.

Our mini topic is the Build It Up project. Children will explore structures in the world around them, learning about different materials and their properties. They will also have opportunities to work independently and collaboratively to design and create their own marvellous structures.

Supporting your child at home:

Take a walk in the local area. Look at and talk about the buildings and other structures you see.

Talk about the materials from which their house is made, such as brick, stone or wood.

Take a large cardboard box and see what you can create together.

This week in Maths we have been learning about Patterns:

Supporting your child at home:

Sock Patterns

Find pairs of socks and arrange them in a pattern.

Examples:

- Stripe, plain, stripe, plain
- Red, blue, green, red, blue, green

Nature Patterns

Collect items outdoors.

Examples:

- Leaf, stick, leaf, stick
- Stone, leaf, flower, stone, leaf, flower

Take a photo of your pattern.

Sound Patterns

Make repeating sound patterns.

Examples:

- Clap, stomp, clap, stomp
- Tap, tap, clap, tap, tap, clap

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

Stack some blocks 

Stack some blocks, then stack some more
to build a castle on the floor.

Stack some blocks and stack them high
to build a tower to the sky.

The tower moves, the tower wobbles,
one more block – the tower topples!

That's okay, I'll start once more,
and build it higher than before!

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.



Reception school trip – Bekonscot – 12th October – PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND COATS AND A PACKED LUNCH IN SMALL RUCKSACK – THANK YOU

Forest School sessions commenced on 2nd October.

Parents' evening 13th and 14th October (By online booking only)

wish list

Thank you for your support.



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>



