

# St Joseph's

## Reception Newsletter



*We are so proud of the progress of all the children this term! Thank you for all your support with reading and phonics, working together is supporting the children in making great progress.*

### **Topic:**

Next term our first topic is 'Starry Night'; This project explores the differences in the world at night compared to during the day. It teaches children about the importance of a good night's sleep, and helps them to discover what is happening in the world while they are sleeping, including finding out about nocturnal animals.

### **Supporting your child at home**

- Look at the night sky and see how many stars you can see each night. You could use this time to support Maths and count as many as you can.
- Go on a short walk after dark or go into the garden. Take a torch to light the way. Discuss how things look different in the dark. Take the same walk in the day and think of the differences in sight and sound.
- Watch this together and think about what animals might be in your garden.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001dtdc/jojo-gran-gran-series-2-autumn-9-its-time-to-look-for-nighttime-animals>

**Maths** – Next term our first topic is 'Alive in 5'. Alive in 5 is a popular Early Years Maths topic that helps children develop a deep understanding of numbers up to 5, subitising (recognising quantities without counting), comparing amounts, and exploring early addition and subtraction.

### **Supporting your child at home**

- Spot numbers 0–5 on doors, clocks, remote controls, price tags.
- Use LEGO or blocks to make towers of 1–5 bricks. Break them apart and talk about the parts ("2 and 3 make 5").
- Use number rhymes like "Five Little Speckled Frogs".
- Make up short stories: "I had 4 teddies, 1 went to sleep – how many are awake?"
- Collect up to 5 leaves, stones, or sticks on a walk. Sort them by size, colour, or shape, then count and compare.

## Phonics

*Please continue to practise  
phonics over the Christmas break*

A support booklet has been sent home with every child in Reception.

The first page outlines how best to use the booklet to support your child and the stage of phonics they are at. Little and Often makes a real difference to the children at this age and would recommend doing some small activity from the booklet everyday over the holidays so that they consolidate their learning from this term.

On so many occasions we have highlighted the importance of children grasping and cementing the foundations of reading at this age so that they are keeping up rather than catching up with their peers. Once gaps start to appear – it becomes an uphill struggle for children to bridge these and to keep up across the whole curriculum, as reading impacts everything.

Below is the chart from Read Write Inc that you can use to gain an understanding of where your child's current understanding and attainment is.

	Reception
End of Autumn Half Term	First 16 sounds Set 1
Christmas	Read all set 1 single sounds Blend sounds into words orally
February Half Term	Blend sounds into words Read short Ditty Stories Read Set 1 Special Friends
Easter	Read Red Storybooks
May Half Term	Read Green Storybooks
Summer	Read Green or Purple Storybooks First 6 set 2 sounds

## Our star poem



### Five Little Elves Jumping on the Sleigh!

Five little elves jumping on the sleigh,  
One jumped off and ran away!  
Mama called Santa and Santa did say,  
"No more elves jumping on the sleigh!"

*Continue song with four, three, two and one elf,  
until no more elves are left, then sing..*

No more elves jumping on the sleigh,  
They all jumped off and ran away!



## 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.



If you are having a Christmas clear-out, we need spare school clothes for boys and girls.

We would also like some garments with zips, to set up a zip station.



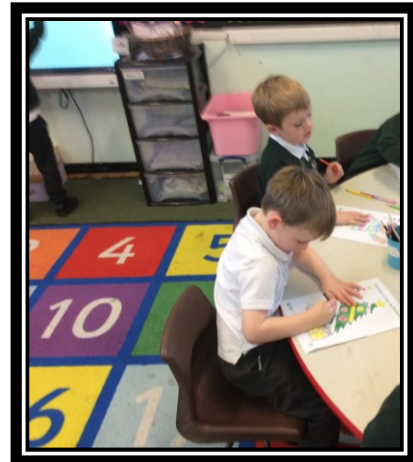
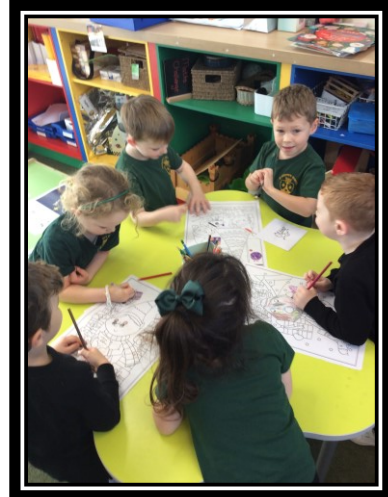
**Here are a few links to support your children's learning at home.**

<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>





What a fantastic end to term! The children attended a lovely Mass in Church, an amazing Christmas party and had fun afternoon with their buddies.

We are sure they will be ready for a rest!



Thank you for all your support this term and for the lovely gifts!  
Have a lovely Christmas, The Reception Team