

St Joseph's

Reception Newsletter



Please ensure your child **does not** bring in toys in their school bag. All children will have a named day for 'Show and tell'. We will be sending a rota out at the beginning of next term.

Topic: This week, we're beginning our exciting new mini topic, "Winter Wonderland". Together, we'll discover the magical changes that happen during the winter season — from frosty mornings and shimmering icicles. Children will learn about the different kinds of winter weather and explore fascinating places around the world where snow sparkles all year round. We'll also learn about some of the amazing animals that live in these chilly habitats and discover how they stay warm and safe in the cold. Next week, we'll read the enchanting story 'The Gruffalo's Child' by Julia Donaldson. Through this story, we'll explore the wonders of snow and ice, observe how our own weather changes, and enjoy hands-on experiences that bring the beauty of winter to life.

Supporting your child at home

Dress for Winter

- Lay out a mix of summer and winter clothes for your child to sort.
- Talk about which items keep us warm and why.
(Learning: seasons, clothing, and reasoning skills.)

Winter Weather Watch

- Create a simple weather chart together. Each day, your child can draw what they see — sunshine, rain, snow, or clouds.

Maths — This week in Maths, we are exploring the idea of doubling — finding out what happens when we have two equal groups and combine them together. Children will be learning to recognise doubles up to 8 (for example, double 1 is 2, double 2 is 4, double 3 is 6, and double 4 is 8). We'll also be practising conceptual subitising — this means recognising small quantities instantly (for example, 'seeing' that a dice shows 4 as two groups of 2, rather than counting each dot one by one)

Challenge yourself at home

-Double Trouble with Toys

Ask your child to make a double using their toys.

For example:

"You have 3 teddies — can you find 3 more to make double 3?"

Then count together and talk about what they notice.

(Learning: combining two equal groups and recognising doubles.)

-Finger Doubles

Use your fingers to show doubles — one hand shows 3, the other shows another 3. Count together to see that double 3 makes 6!

(Learning: connecting numbers to physical representation.)

Our star poem

5 Little Mice (to the tune of 5 Little ducks)



5 little mice went out one day
Into the woods and far away
The Gruffalo roared and the mice said 'ack!'
And only 4 little mice came running back
(repeat with reducing mice until you get to zero)

Last verse:

1 Big Gruffalo went out one day
Into the woods and far away
5 little mice shouted 'Go away!'
The Gruffalo ran and the mice came back



Phonics
Please continue to use the Home Learning support booklet provided to help progress your child's learning.

The children have now moved into smaller coloured teaching groups – so that they can progress at the appropriate level. Please have a look at the letter that was sent home with the children this week that will inform you of the group your child is in.

Please refer to the booklet sent home (for home support) that will give you an indication of whether your child is making expected, below or greater progress.

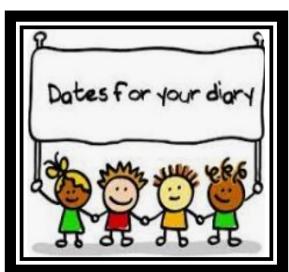
If you have any questions or concerns regarding phonics please speak to the class teacher in the first instance.



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.



Mother's Day EYFS Assembly **13th March 2:15 pm**

Reception Year Group Assembly **7th May 9.00am**

EYFS School trip to Black Park- Reception children and Preschool children due to start Reception in 2026. More details to follow.

2nd June

Father's Day EYFS Assembly **19th June 2:15 pm**



We still need some spare school clothes for boys and girls. We also need spare underwear and socks. If you are having a sort out please think of us. Also, if you have any old pairs of socks which we could use for a Maths activity, we would be very grateful.

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>



The children have had a fantastic week learning about nocturnal animals and continuing to learn about our topic, 'Starry Night'.





Thank you for all your support

The Reception Team