

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: Next week we are continuing our mini topic, "Winter Wonderland". We have looked at some of the changes that happen during the winter season and learnt about the different kinds of winter weather. This week we will be learning about some of the amazing animals that live in these chilly habitats and discover how they stay warm and safe in the cold.

We will carry on exploring '*The Gruffalo's Child*' by Julia Donaldson, using our phonics to write a simple sentence.

Supporting your child at home

- Explore how Arctic animals stay warm in cold environments. Talk about animals such as polar bears, Arctic foxes, seals, or penguins. Discuss their thick fur, blubber, feathers, and body shapes, and why these help them survive in icy weather.
- Create a simple weather chart inspired by Arctic conditions. Each day, your child can draw what they think Arctic weather is like (snow, ice, wind, clouds) and compare it to the weather where they live.

Maths – This week in Maths, we will be exploring length, height and time. We will be exploring and comparing length (long/short and exploring and comparing height (tall/short). We will also be talking about time and daily routines.

Home learning challenge

- Find objects that are long and short (e.g. spoons, socks, toys).
- Talk about which is longer or shorter and why.
- Can you line two objects up to compare them?
- Compare the height of family members or toys.
- Use words like tall, short, taller, and shorter.
- Can you draw a picture of something very tall and something very short.

Our star poem

I'm a Little Penguin

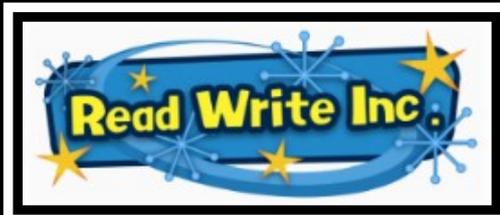
(Sing to the tune of 'I'm a Little Teapot'.)

I'm a little penguin,
In the snow.
I slide on my tummy,
To and fro.
I eat fish,
From the deep blue sea.
I'm black and white,
As you can see.



Phonics

Please continue to use the Home Learning support booklet provided to help progress your child's learning. The next phonics assessment will take place next week to determine groups for after half term.



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.

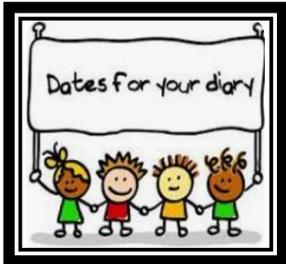
If you have any questions or concerns regarding phonics please speak to the class teacher in the first instance.



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 no longer require items for our junk modelling, Thanks for previous donations.



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/>

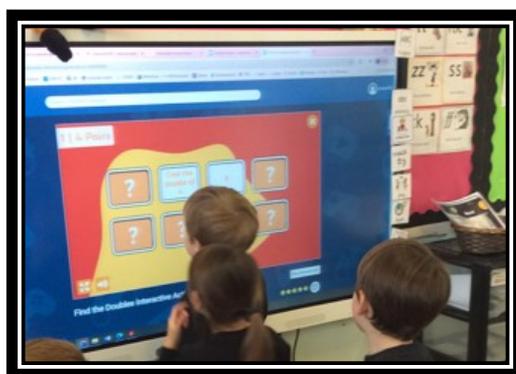
<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/>

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



The children have had a fantastic week exploring our mini topic 'Winter Wonderland.' They have also enjoyed learning about 'doubles'. They have had great fun singing the doubles song.





Thank you for all your support
The Reception Team