



*“To live, love and learn
in a caring Christian Community”*

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Great Hadham Road
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Headteacher: Peter Coldwell B.Ed. (Hons)

Dear Parents,

We have started our Summer term off with a bang and the children are very busy. Already they have been exploring under the sea, going back to when dinosaurs lived and we are about to jet set off to the African plains. We are amazed at how hard working the children have been and it has been lovely to see how engaged they are in our new topics. We have also been making the most of the sunshine and playing outside as well as exploring the school field and forest.

Curriculum

This term we are focusing on two topics, 'Explorers' and 'Around the World'. As the children come in first thing in the morning they are being asked to write an answer to a question or complete a small challenge that is linked to phonics or maths or their fine motor skills. We encourage the children to arrive on time so they do not miss our morning activities. This term we will continue to focus on Understanding the World and will be linked to our literacy, maths and expressive art and design. The children will be exploring lots of new activities and will continue to learn through play in their independent 'Learning time'.

RE- This half term our theme is 'To the ends of the Earth' The children will be learning about the events of Pentecost and the Ascension. They will continue to learn through role play, arts and crafts and using their own ideas and imagination. In the second half of the summer term the theme will be Sacramental People and the Lord's prayer.

Phonics - We are continuing to recap the sounds we have learnt and are beginning to read bigger words. We are learning how to break longer words down by chunking and are continuing to learn new tricky words which will be sent home for the children to practise over half term.

Maths - This term we are looking at the composition of number. We will be learning to recall double facts to ten, odd and even numbers and continuing to learn about the composition of numbers to 10. We will continue to learn to count beyond 10 and then 20. We will continue to look at 2D and 3D shapes and learning to describe their properties. The children will also explore measuring length, height and weight.



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Understanding the World - This term is all about the world around us. We will continue to learn about life cycles as well as learning about dinosaurs, under the sea and other countries around the world. We will base these lessons on some fun books like 'The Hungry Caterpillar', 'Billy's Bucket', 'Harry and the bucketful of Dinosaurs' and 'Handa's Surprise'. After half term our theme will be 'Ticket to Ride' in which the children will travel around the world. They will continue to explore non-fiction, learn to make a simple map and listen to other story books such as 'Meerkat Mail', 'What the Lady bird heard' and 'Passport to Paris'.

Expressive Arts and Design- This term we will continue to build on our artistic skills. The children will be looking at the art and music of different cultures from around the world. They will explore aboriginal art, use junk modelling to build modes of transport and learn some traditional dances from around the world.

Reading

Library books- Your child will continue to bring home a library book on Fridays and will have the opportunity to choose a new library book every week. Please ensure all library books are brought back on Wednesday of the following week so that your child can choose a new library book.

School reading scheme - Your child's reading book will continue to be changed every Friday. We continue to ask parents to write and record in your child's reading record so we know that they have read. If we see there is no record of reading we will not be able to change your child's reading book as they need to be able to read at least 85% of this independently as well as being able to talk about the book. Reading every day will help your child to progress further, even if it is only one page a day, it is very important!

Please continue to take care of these books and ensure no water bottles are left in the reading bags.

Educational Visit

Our Educational visit will be after half term and we are going to visit Church Farm in Ardley. More details to follow in a separate letter.



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Housekeeping

Uniform - please can you continue to make sure that all your child's uniform, PE kit and coats are clearly **NAMED** so that we can make sure any lost clothing is returned to the correct child. We have over forty jumpers and cardigans between the 2 classes and it can be a challenge to return them when they are not named.

As the weather is now getting a bit warmer (hopefully!) we would ask the children to bring in a sun hat to keep their heads protected. On sunnier days please ensure your child is wearing sunscreen and has a water bottle so they can stay hydrated. We would also ask you to provide your child with a rain coat as we know our British weather can be unpredictable and we are likely to have some rainy days this term too. We ask that you put suncream on your child at the start of the school day. Children are not permitted to bring suncream into school as we are not able to apply it for them.

Mystery Reader- We would like to continue to invite parents to come in and read the children a story at the end of the day. If you are interested in being a Mystery Reader please let Mrs Kitchen or Mrs McElhinney know and when you are available. We can then organise a good time for your visit.

If you do need to discuss anything with us then please contact the office to make an appointment.

Diary Dates

Monday 27th May- Half Term

Thursday 6th June- Our Educational Visit to Church Farm

Wednesday 26th June- School Class photos

Monday 1st July- EYFS Sports Day

Wednesday 3rd July - Reserve EYFS Sports Day (In case it rains on Monday 1st)

Friday 19th July- End of term.

We look forward to a Sunny Summer term!

Mrs Kitchen and Mrs McElhinney