

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back from us all at St Joseph's. We hope that you all managed to have some time to spend with your families. It has been a very busy first week back and the children have settled back into school life beautifully. We came back to school on Monday for two training days so we are ready for the weekend! I would also like to extend our St Joseph's welcome to our EYFS children and our new families who have joined us this week.

**Transformational Priorities**

I would like to share with you one of our school priorities that we will be working on this year. We are developing the children's learning attitudes through a set of learning behaviours. Mrs Spinks has worked with the School Council to decide on animals linked to the behaviour. They have chosen -

**Resilience – Tortoise**

**Pride – Lion**

**Curiosity – Chimpanzee**

**Independence – Wolf**

**Problem solver – Octopus**

**Taking responsibility - Goose**

The School Council had the wonderful opportunity to work with a local comic book artist to draw and design the animals that we will use. They will be on our School Website shortly for you to see. Each half-term we will focus on two learning behaviours. The first two are Pride and Resilience. We will introduce them through stories and explore what it looks like to show Pride and Resilience in our learning. We will begin Pride next week. We will be exploring how we show Pride in our learning through how we present it ensuring that our handwriting is neat and that we always show our best work. In each class, the learning behaviour extends as the children progress through school.

**Family Groups**

Next week, your child will be put into a Family Group. These groups will be mixed across the school and each Family Group will be led by a teacher. On a Thursday, they will meet together for Family Worship. It will be a lovely way for our children to work together across year groups and form relationships with one another. They will join together for prayer and worship and they will also have the opportunity to explore a variety of themes together. They will find out which group they are in next week. The groups are as follows:

**St Teresa – Mrs Keeping**

**St Peter – Mrs Gates and Mrs Robertson**

**St Mary – Miss Rowe**

**St John the Baptist – Miss English**

**St Bernadette – Mrs Spinks**

**St Francis - Mrs Jukes**

**Primary Sports and Education**

Primary Sports and Education will continue to be in school this term with Mr Keast teaching on Tuesdays and Mr Emery teaching on Thursdays. We continue to run the football lunchtime club which is well attended. After school clubs this half term will be multi skills and netball which will be paid for by the school. We are delighted to see how many children have signed up for both the after school clubs as they are full to capacity. Please can you make sure that your child/ren come to school in the correct, St Joseph's, PE kit.

**Play equipment**

Following an inspection, which has now been completed, we are delighted to be able to use the outside playground equipment. Please note the climbing frame is for children in years 1 to 6. Children are not allowed to use the equipment before or after school, it is only for use at playtimes with strict staff supervision.

**Reading Records**

We are excited to introduce our new Reading Records which all children will be bringing home on Monday. We are trying to raise the profile of Reading across the school and we hope that these new records will play a part in that. A record is kept of how many nights the children have read at home and awards are given when milestone numbers are reached (e.g. 25 nights reading). We appreciate your support with this new system and the children are excited to start their reading journeys.

As always, any book shared with your child, or read at home, can be recorded in the records, it does not have to be the school reading book only. Please do ask class teachers if there are any questions.

Have a lovely weekend enjoying the sunshine!

Mrs Stephens

**This Year's academic Attendance** Our aspiration target is **97%**  
At St Joseph's, we think attendance is extremely important! Attending school helps children to prepare themselves for the rest of their lives. The higher the attendance, the more opportunity for success!  
The whole school attendance last academic year was 95.2%

**Diary dates:**

**This will be updated in next weeks Newsletter**