

# Reception Parents' Newsletter

## Welcome to St. Joseph's

Welcome to the start of a new year at St Joseph's Catholic Academy and a big welcome to parents old and new. I am very much looking forward to teaching your children this year and we have lots of exciting learning opportunities to support your child to flourish and grow. This newsletter will give you more information about what is going on in the classroom and what the children will be learning between now and October half term.

Our topic this half term is 'Super Me' which will be taught through the Early Years Foundation Stage areas of learning: Religious Education, Communication and Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. Below are just some of the many activities that the children will be doing this term. In some cases, the activities will be guided by the children's interests.

Week 1 and 2 - Baseline and

transition.

Week 3 - All About Me

Week 4 - Feeling and emotions Week 5 - My body/skeletons

Week 6 and 7 - Healthy Eating

### Personal, Social & Emotional Development:

Belonging to different families  
Discuss feelings, likes & dislikes  
Self hygiene & eating healthily  
Animals/pets from home  
Family holidays/ weekends  
Establishing routines  
Manners  
Circle Time & Chatterboxes

### Expressive Arts and Design:

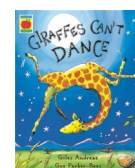
Self portraits  
Family portraits  
Junk modelling-making houses  
Harvest printing  
Art linked to texts  
Autumn craft  
Split pin skeletons  
Drawing emotions  
Playdough

### RE:

Creation  
People Who Care For Us  
Talents from God  
The sign of the cross  
Mary our Mother

### Traditional Tale of the half term:

The Ugly Duckling



### Class Author

Reception's class author is 'Giles Andreae.' We will be reading lots of books throughout the year by this author and doing activities linked to his stories and rhymes.

### Communication & Literacy:

Fiction and Non-Fiction texts.  
Learning new vocabulary, songs, rhymes, poems & stories about the body  
Stories from around the world  
Sequencing stories  
Booklets of who belongs in their family  
Phonics: Initial sounds/CVC words.  
Letter formation  
Name writing



### Music:

Exploring sounds using voices, body percussion and instruments.

### Physical Development:

Music & Movement  
Different ways of moving  
Making: cards, food, paper mache, models of people  
Developing fine & gross motor skills  
Healthy eating/teeth  
Write Dance  
Dough Disco  
Cutting skills  
Mr Sigley PE  
Pencil grip/ letter formation

### Maths:

Count objects, actions and sounds  
Subitise  
Number songs & rhymes  
Matching, sorting and comparing  
Comparing amounts  
Time-My Day, Daily timetable  
Exploring pattern-repeating patterns

### Understanding the World:

Drawing around a child & labelling body parts  
Exploring the 5 senses  
Seasonal activities (Autumn)  
Recognising similarities/differences between themselves and others—height/hair/skin colour  
Life cycle- baby to adult  
Healthy Lifestyles  
Welly walks  
Weather

### Staff in Reception

**Mrs Buckley**

Class Teacher  
EYFS Lead  
Assistant Head teacher

**Mrs Bradley**

Teaching  
Assistant

**Mrs Potts**

EYFS Apprentice

## Weekly Timetable

### Monday

- Gospel Assembly (whole school)
- Reading books changed
- P.E. (Mrs Buckley)

### Tuesday

- Key Stage Assembly

### Wednesday

- P.E. (Mr Sigley)
- Homework books collected in

### Thursday

- Music
- Mass

### Friday

- Success Assembly (whole school)

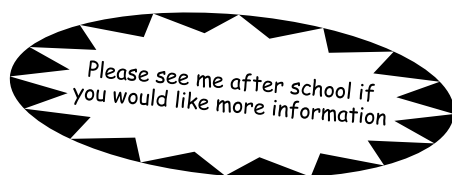


### What can you do at home?

- It is so important to read with your child at home. We ask that you help your child with their reading book at least 4 times a week and sign their reading diary each time. Please note that the additional library books that we send home are for shared reading and discussion with your child- we do not expect them to be able to read every word!
- Encourage your child to practice writing their name, forming letters (lowercase and capital), shopping lists, etc.
- Read books and visit the library together with your child to foster a love for reading.
- Support your child to count and recognise numbers in and around the environment.
- Practise counting a range of objects by 'touch counting'.

### Questions or Queries?

If you have any questions or queries don't hesitate to contact me for an informal chat or you can make an appointment to see me at the school office, after school is generally a better time. We all want the children to have a very productive, enjoyable year and the best way to ensure this is to nip any 'small' problems in the bud before they become 'big' problems.



### It would be fantastic if you could send in...

- ⇒ A bag that can be kept on your child's peg that contains a change of uniform, socks/ tights and pants- just in case!
- ⇒ A rain coat and wellingtons that can be kept on your child's peg for rainy and windy days. (Please ensure they are labelled).
- ⇒ Boxes we can use for making models and empty yoghurts pots for paints and glue.
- ⇒ A blue book bag that is in school every day. It might be useful to attach a key ring to it to help your child to easily recognise it.

Thank you

- All items of clothing to be labelled with children's names.
- No jewellery to be worn on PE days. Full PE kit to be kept in school at all times (PE kits will be sent home half termly to be washed).
- **All children** in Reception are entitled to **Universal Free School Meals**, please encourage your child to try hot dinners. Please refer to the menu on the school website.
- Please don't bring your child with large bags that they cannot carry, children are expected to be independent in Reception and will be expected to carry and take care of their own personal belongings.
- Fruit, milk and water are provided throughout the day. £1 snack money to be paid at the beginning of the week.