



**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**  
**Diocese of Clifton**

**Inspiring everyone to REACH through**  
**Faith, Hope, Love**

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**Acting Head Teacher: Mrs Clare Howells**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

A big welcome back to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School! I hope you have had a lovely summer and managed to have a rest from all of the home learning completed last term. I would like to take this opportunity to say how proud I am of all the children. They have settled into Year 1 beautifully and have taken all the changes in their stride! I would also like to thank all of our families in supporting us in providing the children with the appropriate equipment so that we can continue to minimise the risk of COVID-19.

Throughout the year, I will keep you updated on our topic themes and your child's learning. Our first topic for the year will be 'Planet Earth'. The children will be continuing their independent learning for the first half term, exploring different aspects of the Planet Earth through a variety of subjects and practical activities! Overleaf is a copy of our 'Topic Web', detailing the learning areas that we will cover this term.

PE will continue to be on a Friday this year. Please make sure your child arrives in their school PE kit on a Friday so that they can make the most of their PE time. Items of clothing should be clearly named at **all** times - even socks! Items of clothing which are not named and that the children cannot identify will go straight into the lost property.

This year, the children will be given Literacy or Numeracy based homework along with spellings. Homework will be set on a Friday and will be due in on a Wednesday so that it can be marked. Please note that homework that is not handed in on this day may not be marked. Please can you ensure that your child's homework book is in their book bag on Wednesday and we will remind your child to take it out, ready for it to be marked. Spellings will be set based on the sounds or rules learnt throughout the week. These will not be unfamiliar/new words and will be practised within their daily Phonics session. It is expected that your child practises these in preparation for a spelling test on a Thursday which will be monitored throughout the year. Please **do not** practise these spellings in your child's green spelling book.

At St Joseph's we really value the importance of daily reading at home. Last year, we rewarded those children who read 5 times per week with a reading point. This will continue throughout Year 1 and will be awarded on your child's Guided Reading day. Your child's reading books will be changed weekly, on the day that is marked in their reading diaries.

The Key Stage 1 staff at St Joseph's would like to listen to every child read, every day to help to accelerate the progress in Reading. However, this is not possible! This term, we are delighted to be able to invite our fantastic parent volunteers back into school to help listen to children read. Volunteers who commit to reading with the children in school for 20 minutes from 'drop off' allows our children to be listened to more frequently in school. If this is something you would like to support us with, please do contact either myself, Miss McCarthy or Miss Jones - just once a week would be a huge help! As you can imagine, there will be strict rules in place due to the current pandemic, however where there is a will there is a way! Equally, we have also been fortunate

enough to have parent helpers who have been incredibly supportive by coming into school and supporting Class Teachers with various tasks such as laminating and interventions on a 1:1 basis. Again, if this is something you would be interested in, please contact a member of the Key Stage 1 team.

Finally, we do have plenty of hand sanitising gel in school but should you wish for your child to have their own then I would be more than happy for them to bring some in from home to use in the classroom.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask me. I look forward to spending this year as your child's Class Teacher!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Jessica Berry  
Year 1 Teacher