



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

**Faith, Hope, Love**

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**Head Teacher: Mrs Wendy D'Arcy**

**SENT BY EMAIL**

7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

A big welcome to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School! I hope you have had a lovely summer and have lots to talk about when you start school - Mrs Barron and I would love to know what you've been up to!

I just wanted to let you know of a few opportunities I'd like to involve you in so that we can work together to support your child's learning and development.

Firstly, I will keep you regularly updated on our topic themes via topic webs which will be sent home with your child. Overleaf is a copy of our topic for this term, 'Through the keyhole'. This is predominantly a topic focusing on houses and homes which will lend itself to local area visits. Also this term, we will be spending lots of time in our outdoor learning environment so please can all children bring in waterproofs and wellies so that these can be worn during wet weather. These need to be clearly labelled and will be kept in school so that the children have access to them.

You will notice WOW vouchers in your child's reading folder. I strongly encourage parents and carers (or siblings!) to contribute to your child's learning diary with a WOW voucher. If your child has achieved something special at home, fill out one of our WOW vouchers and I will add it to their learning diary! If you have an example of something they did or a photograph, bring that along too!

This term PE will be on Wednesday afternoons. Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school at all times as we sometimes need it for other things. All items of clothing should be clearly named at **all** times - even socks!

Last year, the children thoroughly enjoyed 'Mystery Reader' on a Thursday afternoon. It has proved a great success and the children absolutely loved it! All are welcome - Mummies, Daddies, Grandparents and any other special people to read to the children. It might be a favourite story, a selection of poems or any other literature you think they would enjoy. But the best thing about it is....it's a secret from the children until you arrive!! This term's sign-up sheet is now just outside my door so please come along and sign up! It will be on Thursday afternoons at 2.50-3.10pm. We look forward to seeing you! 'Show and Tell' will be on Tuesday afternoons. The children will be on a rota for who brings in their show and tell. Please ensure your child only brings something in when it is their turn. 'Mystery Reader' and 'Show and Tell' will start the week commencing Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Each Monday one child's name will be picked from a hat and chosen to be our 'VIP'. This child will be responsible for helping with jobs in the classroom, including taking the register with a friend, collecting the snack and so on.

Each Friday your child will be sent home with a pink homework book with homework that needs to be handed in on Wednesday. Homework will be phonics based and should be completed in pencil. Please support your child with their homework but allow them to complete independently.

Finally, throughout the next couple of weeks, I will be doing 'baseline' assessments so that I know exactly where your child is in terms of the Early Years Foundation Stage. In Reception, we have to assess 'Technological ability' and I believe the home environment plays a crucial part. Please could all children bring in a picture of them accessing Technology such as using a remote control, using an iPad/computer or even turning on a CD player? This will be good evidence to include in your child's learning diary.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask me or alternatively if you do need to contact myself or the school email [SeniorLeadership@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:SeniorLeadership@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk). I am really looking forward to working with you all over the coming year.

Yours sincerely

Miss Katie McCarthy  
Class Teacher