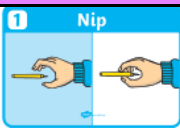

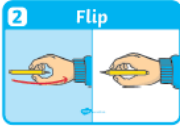








In addition to our half termly newsletter, please keep up to date through the **school newsletter**, **school app** and **twitter page**.

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	
To help prepare for starting Early Years, you could have another look at some of our videos (Preschool videos on the class webpage and Reception videos emailed at the end of last term). We are looking forward to seeing you all soon!			Preschool first day at school!			
6	7	8	9	10	11	
Reception class transition visits from 3rd-8th September			Reception class start school full time today!			
13	14	15	16	17	18	
Reception Class: At home you could practise 'Nip, flip and grip' to support your child's effective pencil grip. To help support your child's writing posture, gently encourage them to sit with their chair tucked under, feet flat on the floor, with their writing hand and arm resting on the table and their page tilted slightly.						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	We love reading! At home you could have lots of fun together reading and talking about books, poems, leaflets, comics, maps and much more! You could even make up and act out / paint / draw your own stories! Have fun nurturing your child's love of reading!					
27	28	29	30			
In Preschool we are having fun using numbers in our play, for example, I have got two cars. How many cars have you got? Let's count together, 1, 2, 3. At home perhaps you could use play and everyday opportunities to practise counting small groups of objects e.g. when you are shopping, playing, eating snacks...						

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	In Preschool we will be looking for creatures and other exciting finds using our magnifying glasses. Here is a mini home challenge: What can you spot at the park or in your garden? What else do you notice? Describe what you can see, hear, touch, smell or feel.					
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Reception Class are learning how to subitise! At home your child could practise their subitising skills e.g. by looking at a bowl of apples and knowing there are three there without having to count them!					How many teddies are there? Can you subitise?
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Preschool Planet Protectors Day! Please come dressed in autumn colours.			Reception class are learning all about Creation in RE. At home you could read the bible story and talk about the amazing world that God created.		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Reception class have been learning fantastic phonics! Which graphemes (letters that are written down, e.g. 's' on a Stop sign) can you recognise when you are out and about? Have fun playing I spy; see if you can guess the phonemes (letter sounds that you say) that different objects begin with, e.g. 't' for table.					Break up for half term	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Half term						

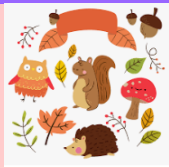
Welcome to an exciting new school year!

We are so looking forward to welcoming your family to St Joseph's Early Years and supporting your child as they settle into preschool or reception class ready to embark on their fantastic learning adventure! We are delighted to let you know that we are taking part in the national pilot of the EYFS curriculum; the greater focus on developing children's vocabulary and communication skills and on the importance of stories and books supports our school's aim in developing every child's love of reading, and the new early learning goals with an emphasis on exploring numbers 0-10 in greater depth supports our whole school maths mastery approach. We have lots of fun learning ahead and look forward to working in partnership with you as we support your child's through Early Years.

Miss Cartwright (EY Lead and Reception class teacher), Mrs Cooper (Preschool Supervisor) and the Early Years Team

Pre-school News

This half term we have lots of exciting things happening in Pre-School! As we come to the end of summer and start to embrace the autumn, we look forward to exploring the changes in this new season. As part of our theme the children will be using our fabulous brand new interactive touch screen to play autumn games and watch short educational autumn clips then discuss these using our fantastic autumn Super Words! We will be putting some of these new Super Words on the blackboard by the door. Please try to use some of these words in conversations that you have with your child.



The children will also be invited to come dressed in autumn colours for our Planet Protectors Day where we will be making Planet Protectors capes as we investigate autumn changes outdoors! We will have lots of fun investigating minibeasts and bugs around the Pre-



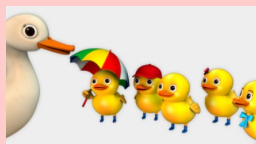
School garden, as well as putting on our wellies and picking up our magnifying glasses as we explore the wooded areas around school to see what we can find.



In Pre-School we will especially be focusing upon developing children's skills in the prime areas of Physical development, Personal, Social and Emotional development, and Communication and Language as they settle in and also throughout the half term. This will include learning to put on coats independently, and by the end of term zipping them up on their own. Children will also be practising putting on their shoes and doing them up independently. You can help at home by encouraging your child with these important skills. We will be supporting the development of children's richer and wider vocabulary through lots of stories such as Owl Babies by Martin Waddell, and through activities such as going on Autumn Learning Walks.



In Maths we will start to familiarise ourselves with numbers 0-5 for example, beginning to understand that numbers represent quantity, using numbers in our play and joining in with number songs such as Five Little Ducks. We will be developing our phase 1 phonics skills as we learn through play and practise observing, listening, noticing the world around us as we go on listening walks and investigate environmental sounds.



Can we please ask that children have plenty of spare clothes, wellies and appropriate warm coats for enjoying all of these fun things that we have in store this half term. Many thanks.

Reception Class News

As we start our wonderful new learning journey and build up friendships in Reception, the children will be learning our Golden Rules: 'Be a good friend'; 'Share'; 'Have kind hands'; 'Have a kind mouth'; and 'Work together'. We will be discussing how to be a good friend, and exploring feelings and emotions through stories, circle times, games and our Golden Rules.



We are planning to introduce Show and Tell every week. This is a favourite activity in reception class and it supports children's language and communication

brilliantly! Further information regarding your child's weekly Show and Tell day will shortly be sent to parents via the school app.

In reception class we are Maths Ninjas! We will be learning all about numbers 0-5, exploring each number in depth, including recognising these numbers, learning number formation rhymes to support writing numbers, matching numerals to quantities, being involved in fun and practical maths challenges, and learning to subitise small groups of objects.

We will be complimenting the reading opportunities that your child has at home through daily story time sessions including fiction and non-fiction books, poems, traditional tales and more! Two stories that we will be especially focusing upon this half term are 'Rain before rainbows' by Smitri Halls and David Litchfield and 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers. We will also be learning the 'Out and about' poem by Shirley Hughes, and then making up our own class 'Out and about' poem!



Children will have reading logs and reading books to take home from Reception class within the first two weeks of starting school. Further information about reading books, reading at home and guided reading in school will follow shortly. In reception class we have daily phonics sessions following the Letters and Sounds Program to support children's early reading skills and will soon be sharing top tips, phonics terminology and further information about phonics with parents.

In order to support children's early writing skills we will be practising using an effective pencil grip and good writing posture in reception class. At St Joseph's we use cursive script; this supports children in learning to form letters 'starting on the line with a flick' in preparation for joined up handwriting when they are older. This month children will be practising writing their names and will be beginning to form some letters.

Other exciting learning includes the children being involved in a super sneezing experiment as we learn about the 'Catch it, Bin it' rule, and how to be 'Handwashing Heroes!' In PE we will be having fun and exploring football skills including dribbling and passing. This half term we will be reading Tom and the lost island of dinosaurs' by Ian Beck and receiving a mystery parcel containing some eggs!!! I wonder which creatures might be hatching from them?!

