



Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

How amazing? We've completed our first two weeks of the school year. Well done everyone for a fantastic start to St. Joseph's school! We have a lovely group of children full of curiosity and inquisitiveness. Although it has been a strange and unusual start to the school year the children have done us, themselves and their families proud. It is lovely to see the children coming into school on a morning with beaming smiles.

The children have become experts at handwashing and are learning that this is to keep both themselves and others safe. The children are settling in well and are learning the new routines of our Nursery. The children know we are learning that we are all special and we are all friends together in our Nursery class family. We have been incredibly busy getting to know our new setting and how to use our resources carefully and safely to help us learn. We are learning to work together as a team when it comes to tidy up time!

We have started learning our **Golden Rules** and will continue to follow them.

We are honest, we don't cover up the truth.

We are gentle, we don't hurt others.

We are kind and helpful, we don't hurt anybody's feelings.

We listen, we don't interrupt.

We work hard, we don't waste time.

We look after our resources, we don't damage things.

These are rules that will help us not only in Nursery but throughout our school lives and hopefully beyond.

Traffic Lights System

The children are all very keen to get onto the silver star, gold star or to the "top of the door"- something you may have heard them talk about which is our behaviour traffic lights system. Every child starts each day on green and it's always good to be green! We try hard to make good choices as we want to avoid getting on the amber or red light. A red light results in a very disappointed Mrs Hull, a phone call home and time to reflect on our choices. We all try and use kind words, have kind hands and hearts and are always truthful.



Carpet Time

We are working very hard on good carpet sitting and listening - "Carpet Time is Quiet Time" - we are learning to cross our legs on the carpet, have hands on knees (we always give them a squeeze and a smile please!), eyes on the speaker, lips closed, ears listening- we don't interrupt! We are also learning to put our hand up and to wait for our turn if we have something to say. You may have heard our little mantra, "My turn, your turn, never together!"

Snippy Snappy Fingers

We are beginning to strengthen our finger muscles with playdough activities, spaghetti and Cheerios and tweezer games. We will soon be introducing Dough Disco into class which helps to warm up the important muscles in our hands, arms and shoulders that children will use when they begin to write.

Autumn Magic

We will be talking about the seasonal changes and what we have noticed out and about. We have been looking for the magic of autumn on our nature walks and will continue these around school. Next week we plan to take an autumn walk to collect conkers, apples, berries and leaves that we can explore back in the classroom.

Class Prayers

We have started learning how to make the Sign of the Cross and I am so impressed by their eagerness to join in.

Morning snack Cool Milk

In Nursery, children receive a piece of fruit every morning- this is a national fruit scheme which is free to all our children in early years. Lots of children are requesting milk at snack time. Unfortunately we are unable to provide it unless you have registered at www.coolmilk.co.uk It is very straightforward to register and it is currently provided free of charge to all children under 5. If you wish your child to receive milk, please can you register?

Water Bottles

Your children are encouraged to access their water bottles throughout the day to stay hydrated. Please can you support us by only sending in water and not fruit juice/ flavoured water in line with school policy. Thank you.



Wows

Let us know what you have been up to at home and share achievements. You know your child best and their interests matter! We would normally send a batch of "Wow" slips for you to fill in throughout the term but for now you can send these in by email to the school office address (stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net) FAO Mrs Hull- Wow Moments will be forwarded to me and we can share these achievements with the rest of the class. It is a great way to build confidence and promote speaking and listening in the classroom.

Labelling

Please can you help us by labelling as many of your child's clothing (including shoes) as they are virtually impossible to reunite with their owner without a name! It will help make our lives easier when it comes to reuniting items with the correct child (especially once we start changing for PE).

Wellies

Please can you send in a pair of labelled wellies into school? We will be spending more time outdoors as the year progresses.

School uniform

The children are coming in looking so smart in their uniforms but please don't be too disturbed if they come out covered in stains. The post below sums it up nicely!





Maths Number Blocks and Power Maths

Throughout the course of the year the children will access both Number Blocks and Power Maths.

Number Blocks is a maths programme that the children may already be familiar with. Power Maths is a whole-class mastery programme designed to spark curiosity and excitement and build confident mathematicians.

We are always on the lookout for items which we can use to enhance the children's learning. We always need pans and utensils, phones, cash tills, old (even broken) typewriters, offcuts of wallpaper- we will make use of it all so please do think of us whenever you are having a clear-out!

And finally, these are our priorities for our children in Nursery this half term...

MY CHECK LIST FOR EVERY CLASS THIS YEAR

1. Keep them safe
2. Lower their anxiety about the current situation
3. Make them laugh
4. Make them feel loved
5. Teach them something

All in that order



Kindest regards,

Mrs Alison Hull