



**JANUARY 2019**

*Dear Parents & Friends*

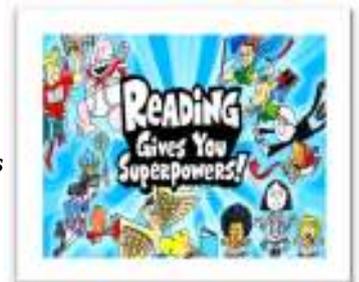
*On behalf of the staff, I would like to wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year and welcome you back to the start of the spring term 2019. Thank you for all your kind wishes and Christmas gifts and I hope you had an enjoyable time with family and friends.*

*It is difficult to believe that we are already a third of the way through this academic year and thank you for your continued support, to ensure the best outcomes for the children. The Infant school received an Ofsted inspection last week and the report will be shared with you as soon as it is made available. Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome you gave the inspectors and to all the pupils, staff and governors for their continued hard work and commitment.*

*We will be holding a parent workshop in February, focusing on 'helping your child to be an outstanding learner' It will cover practical ways to support learning, as well as looking at the important topic of 'children's wellbeing' Over the course of the spring term, you will also have the opportunity to observe teachers delivering Maths and English lessons and have the chance to work with your child. We have decided to reschedule STEM week (focusing on maths and Science) to March, in line with National Science week. This will give us access to a greater number of workshops and opportunities to promote these subjects. Information will be sent out shortly.*

### **VOCABULARY CHALLENGE**

*Research shows that children of all ages need to read regularly to be successful learners. The more children read, the wider vocabulary they have. Reading extends knowledge, develops understanding and promotes strong writing skills. Our aim this term, is to challenge all children to learn as many new words as they can and to know the definition of new words. We will be promoting vocabulary boards in class and around the school and will ask children to contribute to these. So please support us in driving this initiative and please do read with your child daily, in every year group.*



*I look forward to seeing you this week and to all that we will continue to achieve working closely together.*

**Mrs Fernandes (Headteacher)**

# WE LEARN TO LOVE, WE LOVE TO LEARN

## SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018- 2019

*At St. Joseph's we strive to achieve the best for all our children and nurture them to be confident, articulate young people. We are fortunate to have a committed team of staff and governors who believe in placing children at the centre of all we do. We are reflective and take into account your views to support high standards. Your responses to our parent questionnaire last term were extremely positive. Suggestions to further improve were around developing the range of homework tasks set, extending extra curricular activities and parental involvement.*

*We regularly evaluate teaching, learning and results and build in actions into the school development plan. We are currently reviewing the school curriculum and looking at how we can further improve it.*

*We will be involving the pupils in the process as their view matter and I would love to hear from you if you have any suggestions. Do come in and see me, or I am at the front gate most mornings before school*

Review the curriculum so that pupils have even more opportunities to apply reading, writing and maths skills. Encourage debating skills and pupil voice. Discuss current affairs and express views

### School Development Plan



2018-2019

Continue to increase the number of pupils exceeding in reading, writing and maths so that the school continues to be above national level

Further improve outcomes for pupils at the end of Early Years. Ensure that children have a creative curriculum with opportunities to develop their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills

Ensure our pupils continue to be outstanding, independent learners who are self-motivated and aim high. We want to deepen reasoning and thinking skills for all ages

Give staff the opportunity to observe other practice in local, national and school in other countries. Support staff in being even more creative and challenging all

We want to review our curriculum and extend opportunities for pupil voice so that our children are fully aware of their local, wider and global community. We want our children to know that they can make a difference to the world

We want to plan projects to develop our premises and in the short term improve our school playgrounds.

We have a wonderful Forest School and plan to make even more use of it to improve outdoor learning

# ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

*Please support us in making sure that your child is punctual every day. Classrooms are open from 8.45 a.m., to give children extra time to engage in early morning activities. This provides them with at least one and a half hours of extra learning a week. Please do make an effort to get your child in by 8.45 a.m. so they do not lose out!*

*Congratulations to all the children who achieved 100% attendance in the Autumn term. Let's work hard together to ensure all the children aim for that target in the spring term.*

## School Matters!



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**

## Attendance Ladder

How close is your child to 100%?

0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned



## APPLICATIONS TO THE INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS

*Please refer to the school website for regular updates*

*The closing date for applications for entry to Reception class and Year 3 for September 2019 is the 15th January. Kindly ensure that you return your completed supplementary form to the school office and complete the Local Authority form as well. If you have any questions, please contact either the Infant or the Junior School office.*

*The weather continues to be cold and the forecast is that temperatures will drop over the next few weeks. Please ensure that your child wears their school coat and the correct school uniform. It is important that they also have their full P.E kit and it is advisable for your child to wear trainers, particularly for outdoor activities*

