

St. Joseph's RC Primary School

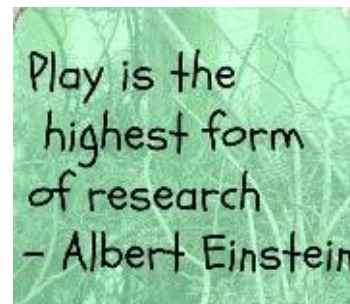
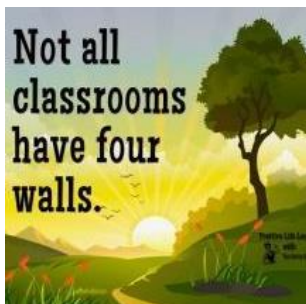
Ramsbottom



Welcome to our Foundation Stage

Foundation Stage 1 - FS1 - Nursery

Foundation Stage 2 - FS2 - Reception



Welcome to our Early Years Foundation Stage

Thank you for choosing our school, St. Joseph's RCP, for your child.



Our Mission Statement

“There are three things that last: FAITH, HOPE and LOVE

Love one another as I have loved you”

Our School is proud to be part of the Roman Catholic Church in the parish of St. Joseph's. Our mission is to serve God, uphold the worth and dignity of every person and enable them to develop their talents. Everything we do is rooted in the values of the Gospel, as we seek to deepen faith, strengthen hope and grow in love in a respectful, safe and happy environment.



**This Statement is supported by the following aims and how we fulfil them
in our Early Years and beyond:**

- Together as adults and children, we respect, value and cherish each other as unique individuals.
- Everyone has something special to give and we look for ways to recognise, nurture and celebrate each other's talents. We shall strive to offer a broad and varied curriculum.
- Our community is a partnership between home, school and Parish.
- We provide a welcoming, well mannered, safe and happy environment.
- Our Faith life is an integral part of our community, we will strive to be witnesses of Christ's teaching within the world community.

A very warm welcome!

We hope that within this booklet we can give you a taster of FS1 (Nursery) and FS2 (Reception) life, some of the experiences your child will have during their time with us and lots of useful information. We recognise that starting Nursery and entering Reception are big steps for every child and their families and we hope that by working together we can support each other in providing a safe, stimulating and rewarding experience for your child. If you should have any further questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of the members of staff.

Kind regards, The Foundation Stage Team

Meet the FS Team ...



Hello everyone! I love being in school, playing and teaching, and I'm really looking forward to meeting you and us having lots of fun together. Being a teacher is fantastic. I am

Mrs Watson FS1 Teacher and EYFS Lead



Hello everyone. I am really looking forward to our year of fun and learning together. I have four children and two dogs. I like to read books and go jogging. I love shopping and having lunch out. My favourite colour is purple and

Mrs Sellstrom FS2 Teacher and PSHE Lead



Hello everyone, I'm really excited for a wonderful year full of fun! I have been part of our FS for the last four years and I absolutely love it. I enjoy being creative so I'm looking forward to lots of creating with you. My favourite colour is purple and favourite animal is

Miss Ashworth FS Teaching Assistant



Hello everyone, I'm really looking forward to having lots of fun in our PE lessons and through lunch time play. I have been teaching PE for the last five years and it is the best job in the world. My favourite football team is Burnley

Mr Ramsbottom FS Lunchtime Welfare and PE Coach



Hello everyone. I have been at St. Joseph's for 14 years. I've been a singer for 35 years and music is my love. We will enjoy lots of singing

Mrs Hill Music Specialist

*What a lot of people to love and care for you all!
Have a lovely summer and we will see you all in September.*

Our EYFS Ethos

Happiness first
and all else
follows!

(Aristotle)

WE DIDN'T REALISE WE WERE
MAKING MEMORIES, WE JUST KNEW
WE WERE HAVING FUN



"The things
that make
me different
are the
things
that
make
me."



Educating the mind
without educating
the heart is no
education at all. (Aristotle)

how do you spell love?
- piglet



you don't spell it.
you feel it.
Saturday Designs
- pooh

From tiny
acorns, grow
might oaks. (Proverb)



goodbye...?
oh no, please. Can't
we go back to page one
and do it all over
again?

-Winnie The Pooh



AS SOON AS I
SAW YOU, I KNEW A
GRAND ADVENTURE
WAS ABOUT TO
HAPPEN
- POOH -



Play is the
highest form of
research. (Einstein)



Teamwork
makes the
dream work!

(John Maxwell)

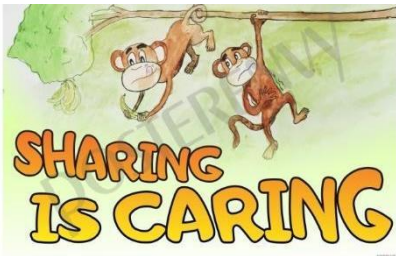


"Don't walk behind me;
I may not lead.
Don't walk in front of me;
I may not follow.
Just walk beside me
and be my friend."

Our Foundation Stage

Class Rules

Caring
Sharing
Helping



Class Promise

Kind Words
Kind Hands
Kind Feet



Our School Rules

St Joseph's RC Primary School

"There are 3 things that last:
Faith, Hope and Love."



School Rules

1. Ready



2. Respectful

3. Safe





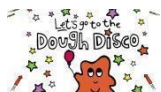
Overview of our FS Day



FS2 - 8.45 am start - 3.10 pm finish

FS1 - 8.55 start - 3.00 pm finish

FS lunch 11.30 am to 12.25 pm



Welcome
Morning Club [FS2]
Morning Greetings
Phonics
Play Partners
Focus of the week
Lunch
PSHE
Maths
Choose My Learning
RE
Our Day - Goodbyes

... with so much more, such a daily Story Time, and throughout the week including dough disco, Forest School, PE, Music, assemblies ...

The Early Years Curriculum



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is divided into the seven Areas of Learning (AoL), each with their own Early Learning Outcomes (ELO).

Communication and Language (CAL)

Listening, Attention and Understanding
Speaking



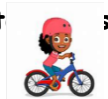
Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

Self-Regulation
Managing Self
Building Relationships



Personal Development (PD)

Gross Motor Skills
Fine Motor Skills



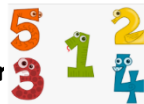
Literacy (LIT)

Comprehension
Word Reading
Writing



Mathematics (MATHS)

Number
Numerical Patterns



Understanding the World (UW)

Past and Present
People, Culture and Communities
The Natural World

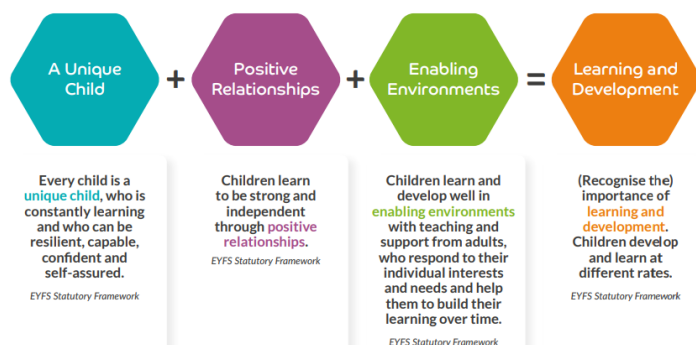


Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

Creating with Materials
Being Imaginative and Expressive



The Four Principles of EYFS:



These seven Areas of Learning (AoL) are developed into subjects in Year 1 and form the basis of the National Curriculum (NC). During Nursery, children have begun to progress through the Early Learning Outcomes (i.e. age-related targets for each sub-area within the seven Area of Learning). Throughout Reception, children continue through the Early Learning Outcomes (ELO), which lead to the Early Learning Goals (ELG). Most children are at expected by the end of their Reception year and achieve what is referred to as a Good Level of Development (GLD).

Characteristics of Effective Learning - Behaviours and Attitudes

We want our children to be life-long learners with an array of skills.

It is as much how we do something as what we do.

We continually seek to develop, extend and celebrate such characteristics.



Playing & Exploring Engagement	<p>Finding out and exploring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Show curiosity about objects, events and people ❖ Use senses to explore the world around them ❖ Engage in open-ended activity ❖ Show particular interests <p>Playing with what they know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Pretend objects are things from their experience ❖ Represent their experiences in play ❖ Take on a role in their play ❖ Act out experiences with other people <p>Being willing to have a go</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Initiate activities ❖ Seek challenge ❖ Show a 'can do' attitude ❖ Take a risk, engage in new experiences and learn by trial and error
Active Learning Motivation	<p>Being involved and concentrating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Maintain focus on their activity for a period of time ❖ Show high levels of energy and fascination ❖ Not easily distracted ❖ Pay attention to details <p>Keeping on trying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Persist with activity when challenge[s] occur ❖ Show belief that more effort or different approach will pay off ❖ Bounce back after difficulties <p>Enjoying achieving what they set out to do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Show satisfaction in meeting their own goals ❖ Be proud of how they accomplished something - not just the end result ❖ Enjoy meeting challenges for their own sake rather than external rewards or praise
Creating & Thinking Critically Thinking	<p>Having their own ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Think of ideas ❖ Find ways to solve problems ❖ Find new ways to do things <p>Making links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Make links and noticing patterns in their experience ❖ Make predictions ❖ Test their ideas ❖ Develop ideas of grouping, sequences, cause and effect <p>Choosing ways to do things</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Plan, making decisions about how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal ❖ Check how well their activities are going ❖ Change strategy as needed ❖ Review how well the approach worked

For us, how your child learns is equally important to what they learn!

Helping your child prepare for starting our FS

In preparing your child, don't worry that you might do the 'wrong' thing. You know your child best and what is right for them. In order to develop your child's interest in learning, the following ideas may be helpful.

What will help my child?



- Ensuring your child is able to put on/take off coat jumper/cardigan/hat/shoes/wellies etc.
- Support your child to dress/undress themselves with increasing independence.
- Encourage them to use a knife and fork and carry a tray with a filled cup on.
- Help your child to recognise their name, such as in their school uniform, on their book bag.
- Encourage them to begin to hold pens/pencils etc. with an appropriate grip.
- Practise reading and writing their name with them.

They may write/mark make on paper, in the air, with a paint brush, in sand with a stick, on your back with their finger - anything goes! As time goes on, support them to form each letter correctly using the taught handwriting rhyme for each sound.

- Share a variety of books together, emphasising the pleasure that can be had from text and stories.
- Look out for numbers important to them and numbers in the environment and talk about them eg. being 3, door number.
- Spot shapes, name them and talk about them, make shape pictures [2D] and models [3D].
- Count at every opportunity. For example, how many trees can you see from your window? Count out objects together - being sure to say each number name as each item is touched, we aim to be 'Careful Counters!'
- Jigsaws are an excellent way to support children's long term mathematics.
- Enjoy board games together.
- Play rhyming games and collect rhyming words, including nonsense words; research supports 'Rhymers are Readers' so practising rhyme really does support your child in acquiring early reading skills.
- Show interest in things they like and talk about their interests.
- Participate in music, singing and dancing.
- Have and appreciate periods of quietness/stillness.
- Shop and bake together.
- Help to cut such as pictures out of magazines and cards to make pictures and collages to develop scissor skills.
- Threading is great to develop fine motor skills - we make our fingers strong!
- Talk about what will happen when they first come into School.
- Reassure your child about starting at St. Joseph's.
- Please complete and return requested information - thank you.

We look forward to our time together with your child.



Growing and Learning Together ~ Our Learning Journey

Learning has started well before your child joins us at St. Joseph's. They will have been learning at home, maybe at other nurseries or with a childminder, and whilst out and about.

You are your child's first educator and our role in FS is to build upon what your child already knows and can do, to take their learning and development forwards and prepare them for the learning ahead of them. Together we are a partnership, ensuring your child achieves their full potential.

We all look forward to supporting your child's learning and development in our happy place and being with them on their Learning Journey through their Early Years days, with their next learning adventure beginning in September!

I have learnt lots. I am good at working with numbers.



We love playing number games.



I like making things.



Your child will learn and develop so much, it is a truly wonderful time in their learning journey and a privilege for us to be part of.



Throughout their year, your child will have the opportunities to:

- Pursue their own interests as a way of fostering a positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning.
- Develop social and physical skills which are vital when learning to play together and develop coordination.
- Develop early reading and writing skills.
- Explore numbers, shapes and patterns in a wide variety of contexts.
- Experience aspects of the world around us, which is central to developing children's understanding.
- Develop their creative and imaginative sides.
- Use technology to develop skills and support their learning.
- Handle and manipulate materials and equipment.
- Learn out of doors as well as indoors.
- Be involved in a mixture of both child-led and teacher led activities and so much more.

**Communication and Language
underpins all we do!**

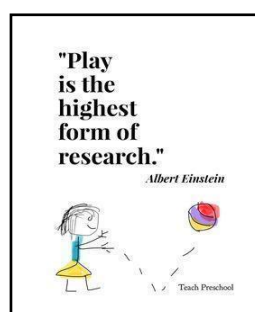


Play is an essential part of teaching within the Early Years Foundation Stage and much of your child's learning will be through play, whether initiated by themselves or structured by adults.



Why is play important?

- Play helps children to take risks and make mistakes without the worry of failure.
- Play develops confidence and self-esteem.
- Play helps children to feel safe to express their feelings.
- Play supports children's speech and language.
- Play supports children's imagination.
- Children learn about the world around them as they play.
- Through creative play children develop various motor skills e.g. drawing, glueing, painting and cutting. They learn to express their ideas and explore materials and sounds.
- Play helps to develop mathematical skills and language e.g. sorting, matching, building and counting.
- Play helps children to develop their social skills, e.g. taking turns, co-operating, sharing.



We are a Partnership



Together with your child, all Staff and yourselves are a partnership with the same hopes and aspirations for your child. As at the heart of our School, reflected in our Mission Statement, we believe and work together to ensure each child achieves their potential whilst enjoying school. We seek to build upon prior learning and build memories for their future.

I loved it when my
mummy came in.



I loved taking our
prayer box home.



We are all committed to involving parents/carers as Partners for Learning in your child's education.

Therefore, we keep you fully informed, including:

- Our learning for the academic year through our 'Foundations of St. Joseph's Curriculum'.
- Learning for each half term on our Foundation Stage half termly newsletter.
- Ways in which you may support your child's learning at home each half term - 'Home Learning Grid'.
- School's newsletter.
- Additional suggestions/targets for your child, if and when appropriate.
- Any concerns arising.
We hold an "Open Door" policy - please let us know of any concerns you may have.
- Any whole school events your child is involved in eg. Nativity, Sports Day, Class Assembly.
- Our 'Come Join Us' sessions.
- Anything that may occur as it occurs!

Please let us know if there is anything else you would like to be informed about.

We always welcome and appreciate your comments.

Your input is invaluable!



Useful Information

Our Day:

FS2	Reception	Start : 8.45 am	Finish: 3.10 pm
FS1	Nursery:	Start: 8.55 am	Finish: 3.00 pm.



The gate is open before we start our day, so please feel free to come onto the playground.

Please note FS2 have Morning Club between 8.45 and 8.55 am each day - an important time for all FS2 children to practise and embed reading and writing - hence FS children must be in at 8.45 am and FS1 come in at 8.55 am once Morning Club is over.

Lunch Time:



You have the choice of sending your child with a packed lunch or paying for school dinners as many do, which are cooked in school and ordered by yourself in advance online (menus and links are sent out half termly, two week notice is required should your child wish to swap from School lunches to packed lunches and vice versa – please contact School Office). The Early Years children all eat together in the School hall. We stay with the children whilst they settle to eat, giving any help they may need and chatting. The lunch welfare team then take the children to go out to play on the Early Years playground, staying and playing with them, before returning to our classroom for the afternoon.

Snack Time:



Milk, fruit and healthy snacks are available daily throughout the day. Your half termly donation funds the purchase of our snacks and fruit. Milk is to be ordered for your child online by yourself. The children wash their hands, choose their snack and enjoy together with friends, before tidying away. It is a lovely social time.

Water Bottle:



We ask that your child brings in a water bottle each day, ALWAYS CLEARLY LABELLED and only containing WATER. Your child is encouraged to drink throughout the day and may choose to have their water at snack time. We encourage the children to bring their water bottle home each day.

Before and After School Club [BASC]:



Many of our families use our BASC, an extension of our School, which children enjoy attending and are well looked after and supported by the BASC Team. Places are limited so please apply as soon as you can. Places are to be booked via the BASC manager contactable through the School Office. At the start of our day, the children are brought into our classroom and handed over to our FS Team, similarly at the end of our day the children are collected from FS and taken to the After School Club.

Home Time:



Children must be brought via and collected from the playground by a responsible adult over 16. If for any reason you are unable to collect your child and wish another adult [other than given permission for] to collect them, please let us know in advance and let them know your child's password. The children's safety is of paramount importance to us. We hand them over to you individually which takes time so we ask that you kindly wait for each child to be released in turn. We ask that you remind your child to not run to you without being released by a member of our Team.

Foundation Stage Unit Funds:



We ask for a voluntary contribution each half term. This money buys snack and fruit and lots more. The children benefit so much from these monies. All donations are used directly on the children, enhancing their experience, fun and learning. We use the money to buy baking resources, gardening resources and other small consumables. When we can, we also save to purchase larger play equipment and support specific projects such as turning our shed into an outdoor classroom. You may send in weekly or the amount for a half term. A massive thank you in advance.

Money:



All monies for school dinners, trips, film night, school events are to be paid for online using your child's unique code which you will receive when your child first starts with us. For events such as Ice Pop Friday and cake sales, money is to be sent within their own zipper bag in their book bag, as we encourage the children to handle their money and pay for things themselves.

Our Curriculum:



We have lots of fun blossoming, learning and developing th

rough our Foundations of St. Joseph's Curriculum, in line with the DfE Early Years Curriculum. Our enriching Curriculum is on our School website. We have a number of characters who help us such as Fred the Frog who helps us with our Phonics. You'll hear of them a lot throughout the year!

Our Promise and Rules:



We are CARING, SHARING and HELPING in all we do and say, with KIND WORDS, KIND HANDS and KIND FEET, which underpins both our ethos and love and respect for each other. We firmly believe and uphold: HAPPINESS FIRST AND ALL ELSE FOLLOWS! (Aristotle)

Book Bags:



There's lots to be sent home and sent in over the year, so we ask that your child has a book bag which they bring into School EACH DAY – a school book bag, not a rucksack or other bag as space is limited. Please ensure your child's book bag is ALWAYS CLEARLY LABELLED. Many children attach a SINGLE key ring or small toy to the bag's handle so they can easily identify their own book bag, supporting their developing independence. Please don't send water bottles in book bags to avoid spillages.

Home Reading



FS1 Boo Books [Books of Opportunity]:

Each week, your child when in FS1/Nursery can choose and bring home a book for you to share at home, with an associated activity to enjoy together - have fun together! We love you to return each completed activity for us to share and display. We ask that your child returns their Boo Book each week on the designated day [to be confirmed] to be changed.

Each week, along with their Boo Book, your child will bring home a WOW Moment sheet. If your child has shown any new learning, or any new experiences you would like to share with us, we would love to hear about it! You can write, draw or add photographs. We share each WOW moment with the children, which they love and really supports their speech and language development. Many thanks.



FS2 Boom Reading:

Each week, your FS2/Reception child will bring home two books from our reading scheme to share and read with you at home over the week [day to be confirmed]. These books are logged by us on our Boom Reader app and you too have access to this app to log each time your child reads with you at home [you will receive a login when your child starts FS2]. School has a policy of £5 contribution for replacing any book that may be lost or damaged.



FS Phonics:

From the day your child starts, they will be developing and practising their phonics skills through our everyday provision and daily focused phonics sessions.

In FS1, our Nursery children enjoy the Letters and Sounds phonics programme focussing on body percussion, environmental sounds, rhyme and rhythm, alliteration, blending [to read] and segmenting [to spell], with an introduction to Read Write Inc. in the Summer Term, the programme they will fully adopt in FS2/Year1 and continue into Year 2. We enjoy mark making as we become emergent writers and our wish is that each child can write their first name before starting in Reception.

In FS2, our Reception children enjoy Read Write Inc with daily activities and practice to embed sounds and common Reception high frequency words and develop their reading and writing skills from emergent to independent readers and writers. They continue with Read Write Inc. through KS2 [Years 1 and 2].

We are very proud of all our young Foundation Stage readers and writers and the success they go on to achieve.

We share lots of books [fiction, non-fiction, rhyming and poetry] all the time with the very popular BEAR Time [BEAR = Be Excited About Reading] when your child is chosen to bring in a favourite book and bear/cuddly toy to share with everyone. In FS1, we enjoy Show and Tell, with your child being chosen to bring in an item of interest to talk and answer questions about. In FS2, this is developed through Ask an Expert!



Uniform and Clothing:



Children wear our School uniform [no jewellery], showing they are part of the St. Joseph's School family. They should bring in their coat/suitable accessories for the weather every day. We play outside every day, whatever the weather.

Each week, on both your child's PE day and our Forest School day [days to be confirmed for next academic year] they may come in wearing black joggers/leggings and plain, preferably black trainers with school tops/jumpers/cardigans as usual being more practical for the sessions. On Forest School day, your child is to bring wellies/waterproofs into school that day in a NAMED BAG; they will bring them home at the end of that day for washing/drying out and should you need at the weekend.

Please make sure your child's name is always on everything!!!

If every child has a blue school jumper aged 3-4 or 4-5, and no name, it can be almost impossible to work out who it belongs to!

Toileting:



When your child starts, they should be fully toilet trained - this applies to those starting FS1 too. We are fully aware that accidents do happen, please speak to us if you need any support with toileting issues, we are happy to work with you on this, and don't worry!

We understand that toileting accidents occasionally happen even when toilet trained, especially when starting somewhere new, so please don't worry. We have some spare underwear and clothing if any child needs changing, all we ask is if you could please wash and return it ASAP so that we don't run out! Ideally, please pop spare clothing, socks, underwear in your child's book bag so they have their own items should they ever be needed.



Head Lice:

Long hair is always to be tied up! If your child ever catches head lice, please let us know and don't worry!

Absences, Sickness and Medicines:



Should your child be unwell, we wish them a speedy recovery and ask that you ring and let the School Office know they will not be in [feel free to leave a message should it be out of School Office hours]. The School's policy is that children are off for 48 hours after a last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea. If your child will not be attending for other circumstances, please let the School Office know. School dinner payments are adjusted accordingly.

If your child becomes unwell throughout the day, we will phone and let you know as it may be appropriate for you to come and collect them. We will always send a text message when a child has bumped their head. Should it be a significant bump we ring to ask you to come and collect your child. Please be ensured that your child is well looked after and cared for at all times.

We are unable to administer medicine(s) in School, unless prescribed by a doctor. If your child requires a dose of their prescription throughout the school day, please fill in the required form at the School Office and leave medicine with them to be passed onto us with the completed form. This also applies should your child be on a prescribed inhaler.

Walks, Trips and Visitors:



We like to take our children out throughout the year, whether this be a walk around School, to the park, to Ramsbottom Library or a visit to St. Joseph's Church. We wear our St. Joseph's high-viz jackets and have lots of grown-ups with us. Please ensure you have completed all Google forms that will be sent to you, giving your permission for your child to take part in our walks and trips. To enrich our learning, we have visitors who come in and 'chat' with us, such as the dentist, firefighters and new babies. Should you ever wish to come in to talk with the children about your occupation, we'd love that so please let us know.



Our School website and Foundation Stage webpage:

There is lots of useful information and photographs on our School website and our Foundation Stage webpage, which is kept updated – please visit our page!



Home Learning Grid:

The first week of each half term, your child will bring home a 'Home Learning Grid', an A4 sheet sharing and suggesting activities you may wish to do together at home to support your child's learning and development through the half term. We would love to share what the children have achieved and enjoyed so please send in for us to share. A copy of this latest Grid will also be on our website. Please share what you have been up to via Seesaw or sending items in.



Newsletters

Our Foundation Stage News:

At the end of each half term, look out for our Foundation Stage Newsletter [copy sent home in the book bag and latest version always on our webpage] sharing what we have been doing that half term and what is coming up the following half term. We always have lovely feedback about our newsletter, many parents/carers say that they have lovely discussions with their child about what's on the newsletter.

Our School Newsletter:

Please also refer to the School's weekly newsletter which will keep you fully up-to-date and contains lots of useful information. The latest newsletters are always on our School's website.

Finally, and so importantly ...




Parents/Carers as Partners:

We really appreciate and value all the support our parents/carers give – we are a team, with the same goal for each child to be happy and succeed as the unique individual they are.

We have an ‘open door’ policy; if you ever need to speak with a member of staff, we are always available ideally at the end of day, or you can give us a call or we can arrange a day/time to meet up.

We have lovely parents/carers events and you are invited to help and be involved as much as possible. If you have skills you’d be willing to share, we’d love to know! The more hands the merrier and it demonstrates to the children the positive home/school relationship we have!

Each term we have a session when you can ‘Come Join US’ [usually in November, March and July], this is instead of the more formal parents/carers evening adopted throughout the rest of School.

We use Seesaw, an online journal, to share messages, news etc. 
[login given when your child starts].

We really do love the children as if they were our own.

We work together with you and your child to provide a loving, nurturing and exciting place for them to learn, grow and play.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

PLEASE, PLEASE never hesitate to speak with us or contact us about anything big or small.

Please feel free to email us with any questions:

FS1 lwatson@stjosephsbury.stoccat.org.uk

FS2 jsellstrom@stjosephsbury.stoccat.org.uk

Or you may telephone School and leave a message: **01706 823645**

We will always try to respond as soon as we can.



Here's to a great time together!