

Duckling Class
Autumn Term 2025



Teacher – Mrs Ramos

Teaching Assistants – Mrs Cheeseborough, Mrs Brotherton, Miss Churchill, Mrs Foote and Filipkowska

Dear Parents,

We would like to thank you all for your kindness and support throughout the process of your children joining our class, and for welcoming us into your beautiful homes before the summer holidays. We are delighted with the fantastic way in which all of the children have settled into school life, and we are so proud of how quickly they have understood the rules and routines of the classroom.

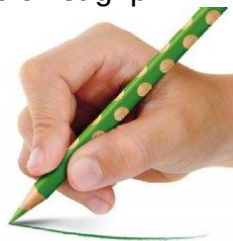
Reading and other support at home

Later in the term, we will be sending home reading books and we would like to thank you for the support that you will be offering your child by sharing these at home. We started phonics lessons last week and we would encourage you to help your child to decode these using their phonic sounds when they bring home books including words. For this, we use the letter sound, i.e. ssssss for /s/ rather than the letter name, so the word sat would be broken down as s-a-t and then blended together as 'sat'. Please follow the link below for a video clearly pronouncing the phonemes as we will be doing at school.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Also, within this link is further support with how to support your child with learning to read at home. We teach phonics using a scheme called Little Wandle and this is the website you will be directed to. Encouraging your child to use their 'phonics finger' with these letters and words will also help them when pointing at letters later on in order to sound out words in reading books. You can also help your child as they begin to read by trying to hear the sound at the beginning of simple words (the initial sound).

If you are looking for other ways to support your child's learning at home, you could help them by counting forwards and backwards to 20, recognising numerals to 10 and encouraging them to look out for numbers in the environment. Please encourage your child to make marks using pencils, chalks and even sticks in mud! We teach children to use a tripod grip like below, some children find this tricky as they are used to using a whole fist grip!



Book bags and water

Please ensure that your child brings their book bag to school every day so that we can read with them. It is really important that you write in their reading diary every time that you have read. Your child will be rewarded for reading at home so it is super important! **The book bags that we gave to you are strictly only to be used for their reading book and reading record. Water bottles and lunch boxes are to be held in a different bag please as this keeps our books in beautiful condition.** Please can we ask that all water bottles and lunch boxes are clearly named.

Allergies

Don't forget to let us know of any allergies your child may have, and please remember that St Joseph's has a nut free policy, so no peanut butter or chocolate spread in lunchboxes please. Please do check the labels on cereal bars you send in too.

Uniform and P.E. kits

If you haven't already done so, please make sure that all uniform is clearly named so that we can easily return any lost items to your child. Our PE day is Monday afternoon and your child will get changed at school, so please make sure you send your child's PE kit to school. We will send it back on the last week of each half term. Again, please make sure your child's PE kit is named – even PE shoes.

Could your child also bring in wellies to keep at school as we encourage them to experience all weathers as part of our outdoor learning. Please could all wellies and coats be named.

Spare clothes

It would be extremely helpful if all children could have an 'emergency kit' of spare underwear, clothes and socks in their bags, just in case they need it at school. After a child has had an accident at school, it often makes them feel much more comfortable to get changed into their own clothes that fit them properly.

Reception Baseline Assessment

This year, our class will be taking part in the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA), which will take place during the first 6 weeks of school. The aim of this assessment is to provide a starting point for a new measure, which will help us to determine how much progress your child has made from the start of Reception to the end of Year 6. If there are any questions about this assessment, please contact me (Mrs Ramos) via the school office or at the end of the school day.

Curriculum

This term we will be exploring the following areas throughout our topic of 'All About Me' and 'Autumn'

Communication and Language • Settling in and making new friends • Familiar experiences • Rhyming and alliteration • Sharing facts about myself • Developing vocabulary • Retelling stories • Using story language • Following instructions • Taking turns in conversations	Personal, Social and Emotional Development • Classroom rules and routines • Emotions • How to deal with things when I am angry or upset • Solving problems • Taking turns • Building friendships and relationships
Fine Motor Skills • Threading • Cutting • Weaving • Drawing lines and circles accurately • Holding pencils and paintbrushes correctly • Using the tripod grip to grasp writing tools • Forming letters with writing tools • Drawing	Gross Motor Skills <u>Gymnastics:</u> • Walking and running • Rolling and crawling • Jumping and sliding • Moving on, around and over apparatus <u>Physical Literacy:</u> • Balancing and managing own bodies • Manipulating objects • Stretching and reaching different body positions
Areas to explore in 'All about Me' • Starting school and my new class • New beginnings	Books • Our class is a family • All are Welcome

• Staying safe and healthy • Food • Human body • My family • Feelings • Being kind • Oral health	• All about families • Daisy's Dragons – a story about feelings • Owl Babies • The leaf thief • Pumpkin Soup
Literacy • Joining in with rhymes • Exploring new stories and talking about them • Talking about the characters in a book • Sequencing pictures to retell familiar stories • Recognising initial sounds • Discussing favourite stories • Learning new vocabulary modelled in key stories • Retelling key stories and events through acting and role play • Christmas letters and lists • Retelling stories using story maps • Editing story maps and orally retelling new stories • Sequencing stories using vocabulary 'beginning', 'middle' and 'end' • Exploring an increasing range of books	Writing skills • Finding a dominant hand • Using a tripod grip to control writing tools • Drawing and mark making • Giving meaning to marks • Name writing and letter formation • Writing initial sounds • Writing labels • Identifying sounds that are tricky to hear and write • Writing short words
Mathematics – 'Just Like Me' • Matching • Sorting • Comparing amounts • Comparing size, mass and capacity • Making simple patterns	Mathematics – 'It's Me, 1, 2, 3' • Representing 1, 2, 3 • Comparing 1, 2, 3 • Composition of 1, 2, 3 • Circles and triangles • Spatial awareness
Mathematics – 'Light and Dark' • Four • Five • One more and one less • Shapes with 4 sides • Night and day	RE • Creation • Mary • Catholic Social Teaching • Advent
Understanding the World • Identifying and talking about family members • Talking about places I have visited • Exploring stories about families and discussing the difference between real and fiction • Discuss members of our community	Expressive Art and Design skills Joining in with taught songs Explore sounds and how they can be changed Tapping out simple rhythms Listen to different types of music and make up our own dances in response Using junk modelling

• Exploring our new classroom • Talking about different occupations and modes of transport • Trying to use past and present language effectively • Looking at old photos and discussing changes • Exploring the job role of a postman and postwoman • Fairy tales from different cultures • Stranger danger	- Exploring colour mixing - Building models using construction equipment - Self-portraits and family portraits - Junk modelling - Using poster paints - Christmas crafts - Watercolour paints - Spending time in our role play area - Using puppets to retell key stories - Christmas nativity play
We will also be undertaking daily phonics and number sense sessions!	

Again, a huge well done to all of our Ducklings for making a very positive start to school life! We are looking forward to working together with you further to make this year the best start to your child's education!

Yours truly,
Mrs Ramos and the Ducklings team