

## St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

We welcome you and your child to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School and trust that the years ahead will be happy and rewarding.

Early days can be both daunting and exciting but we know from experience that children will be happier and settle far more quickly if they have acquired certain skills first. Our booklet aims to draw attention to some of these skills.

If you have any further enquiries or concerns please contact the school.

### **1. Knowing their name**



The children will need to be able to say their names clearly if anyone asks in school and be able to recognise their name when it is called out at register time. It is helpful if they can recognise their name written down so that they can be independent when finding their locker or during self-registration.

### **2. Looking after themselves**

The children will need to be able to look after themselves whether they are in the toilet, washing their hands, or blowing their nose. These are all very important skills to teach at home. Let them practise using toilets in shops and cafes so that they get used to different arrangements.



### **3. Dressing and undressing**



The children will be expected to put their coats on and off, to put on their painting aprons, push their sleeves up for water and sand play, and to dress and undress in a reasonable amount of time for P.E. Teachers are understanding and supportive in these tasks – top buttons and ties can be tricky! – but children are encouraged to take pride in their own independence. Try to do less of these things for your child at home so that they get lots of practice and confidence.

## 4. Tidying up

At the end of an activity the children will be expected to help tidy up and put the equipment back in the right places. If children are used to tidying up their toys at bedtime they will be well prepared for this school activity.



## 5. Books

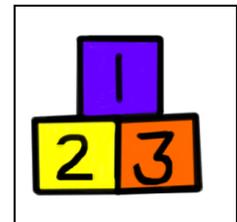


Children need to know how to take care of books; hold them, turn the pages and generally be familiar with them. Sharing books with children is an extremely valuable activity and reading stories aloud to them will continue to be beneficial even when children can read for themselves.

## 6. Educational Skills



It is not necessary to teach your children the 3 'Rs' before they start school but you can support your child by reading stories to your child and having conversations. Draw your child's attention to the environment in which they live. Nursery rhymes and counting rhymes to 10 are important, and the use of construction toys such as building blocks or duplo encourage a whole wealth of learning experiences. Children learn at home and school through talking, playing, and having fun.



## 7. Handwriting

We begin letter formations using small letters, not capitals. At our Parents Evening in October I will hand out the sayings we use in our phonics lessons to help remember the formation so that you can support your child in their letter formation at home. It is easy for children to get into bad habits with their letter formation and this makes it hard for them to join their letters as they move up in the school. Please encourage them to start their letters in the right place and to take pride in their work.

a b c d e

f g h i j

k l m n

o p q r

s t u v

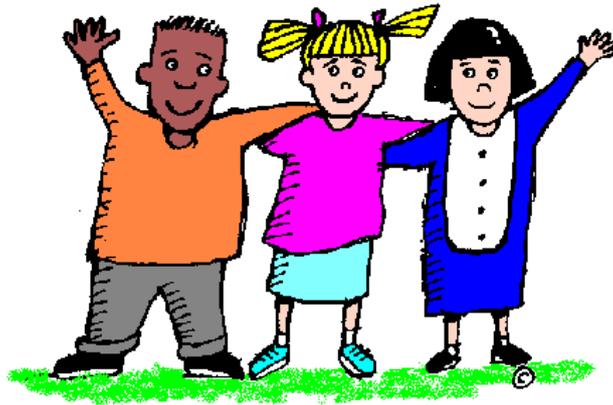
w x y z

## 11. Quiet time



Six hours at School is a long day for any child but the youngest in the school will feel this the most. To ensure that they have the necessary stamina, let them rest when they come home and make sure their bed times are early.

Tired children find it most difficult to concentrate and cope with school life.



If you have any questions then please come and get in touch.

Mrs Ramsay

Reception Class Teacher

# STARTING SCHOOL BOOKLET



## St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

'At St. Joseph's we live, love and learn by the example of Jesus'

**September 2017**