

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely Christmas and New Year with your families and friends. Last term was very busy with getting used to being back after summer, preparing an Advent Liturgy and of course the fabulous Nativity performance. The children really enjoyed their visit to Hall Hill Farm and then a visit from Santa in class on Party Day.

This term, we have more exciting learning experiences to look forward to. We will hopefully be taking part in an educational and cultural visit related to our topic of Once Upon a Time. We also have our Class Mass coming up after half term. Nursery have also been selected to participate in the 'Talking Time' Research Project with Oxford and Newcastle University, something we're very excited about. So we have lots going on!

Mrs Hanley

### Religious Education

In R.E. we start the term by learning about the Local Church with the topic Celebrating. The children will discuss their experiences of celebrations before looking at how the parish family celebrates. One of the key Bible stories shared will be the Presentation story.

This is also the Year of the Word so we will be sharing more Bible stories during our weekly story times.



Our Theme this half term is:  
"Once upon a time..."



This theme is strongly linked to literacy but will also run across all areas of the EYFS curriculum for both Nursery and Reception and delivered at the appropriate level for their age and ability.

**Communication & Language:** We will be listening to a range of traditional stories. We will sequence and retell and explore the key themes.

**Phonics:** The Nursery children will be covering Phase 1 and the beginning sets of Phase 2. Reception will be consolidating Phase 2, really looking at blending and segmenting and moving into Phase 3.

**Maths:** Ordering and placing numbers from 0 up to 20 – and beyond for some. Reception will be using to + and -. We will also be using key vocabulary to investigate measures (time, size, money, etc).

**Personal, Social & Emotional:** We will continue to develop as respectful citizens through turn-taking adult led activities but also through child initiated learning opportunities.

**Understanding the World:** We will look at growing and change. We will use technology to create a simple animation. We will also look at Royal Families.

**Expressive Arts & Design:** We will be creative and imaginative in response to the different Fairy Tales we explore.

**Physical Development:** We will continue to develop independence with self-care and safety. We will develop co-ordination as we create a fairy tale inspired dance. Wellies and PE kits are to be kept in school – names on everything!

### Support at home

You are your child's primary educator and I strongly believe we can work together to continue to ensure that your child gets the best start to their learning journey here at St Joseph's. Therefore, I ask that you support your child's learning by completing homework regularly. In Reception this comprises of their daily reading, please complete their Reading Record and return daily. The day your child reads may change depending upon other curriculum commitments, so it is helpful if they have books in school every day. All of the children in Class 1 also have access to the fantastic online Bug Club. If you need any assistance with logging on or using this please do not hesitate to ask – alternatively do try to attend our Bug Club Workshop on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> at 3 30pm.**

Flashcards will also be sent home with the Reception children to help them develop their early reading of High Frequency Words. We may also send home additional tasks for all of the children to complete and share back in class. For example, R.E. family activities or maths challenges.

### Class Website

Please visit our school website as you will find lots of useful information and I will be adding lovely photos to our class blog regularly so you can get a glimpse into your child's day!

<http://www.st-josephsrc-pri.durham.sch.uk/our-classes/class-1/class-1-blog/>

# St Joseph's R.C. Primary School



## Class 1 Newsletter

## Spring Term 2019-2020