

FIRST week of SCHOOL!



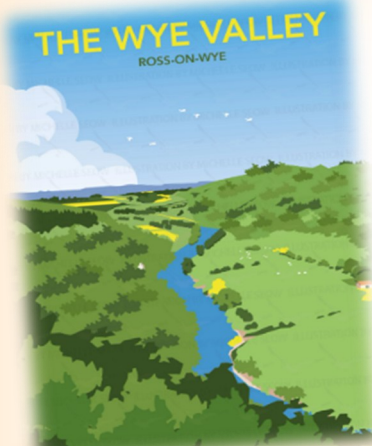
Dear Family,

Welcome back to the start of our new academic year! We hope you all had a lovely summer break and are raring to go for the term ahead! We have so much to look forward to! The children have spent the week settling into their new classes and enjoying familiarising themselves with their new routines and timetables. This year our class names are 'Rivers:

- Reception—Wye
- Year One—Amazon
- Year 2— Danube
- Year 3— Tiber
- Year 4— Thames
- Year 5— Avon
- Year 6— Seine

The children have enjoyed completing mini projects on their chosen class names this week and locating them on the globe. We look forward to showcasing their pieces of work on their classroom doors!

This year Miss Steiner and Mrs Murray will be joining Mrs Lerego and myself on to the Senior Leadership team as assistant headteachers, which will be a real asset. Please do not hesitate to speak with them at any point, should you need to.



Welcome to Reception



We are thrilled to welcome our new Reception children this week as they begin a

wonderful journey filled with learning, laughter, and growth.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be settling into routines, exploring exciting topics, and building the foundations for a lifelong love of learning. We'll keep you updated through this newsletter with highlights from our activities, important dates, and ways you can support your child at home.





**HAPPY
FIRST
DAY OF
SCHOOL**





YEAR 1 LEARNING IN ACTION THIS WEEK!





Welcome to our Nursery



A message from Mrs Lerego.....

This week it has been lovely to welcome the children and to hear everyone's news as we begin our brand new term together in Nursery.

We have lots of new children joining us and they are already settling in nicely, exploring and having lots of learning fun! We've especially enjoyed music time together, and have also created some amazing self portraits during our expressive art and design activities.

Sending huge congratulations to Miss Raybould on the birth of her baby boy! We're looking forward to meeting him soon!





In May 2026, our year 4 children will be venturing to London for their two night residential!

A letter has been sent home to parents today with further information regarding this experience. We have sent it out at this time of year and so it gives parents ample time to account for costings. Payments can be made in instalments via ParentPay. If you have any questions regarding this trip, as always please don't hesitate to contact me.



Playground unsupervised in the mornings.

Please can we remind everyone that the school playground is not supervised by staff at the start of the school day. This means that children in Year 4 and below should not be left in the playground until their classrooms are open for them to start their learning. Children in Year 5 and Year 6 who walk to school unsupervised should not be arriving until 8.55am, unless they attend breakfast club or early morning intervention sessions. Thank you for your continued support.

An introduction to



This term we are very excited to be using a new platform called 'Evidence Me', which provides us with some fantastic ways of sharing your child's learning with you. This platform will also be used to set homework when appropriate.

We will be leading a parent workshop for Nursery and Reception parents on Thursday 18th September @ 3:30 pm in the Reception classroom and hope you will be able to attend.



A message from Miss Steiner

Wow!

We have hit the ground running with Peter Pan this term! The turnout for auditions this week has been excellent and the standard has also been incredibly high, with many children clearly having spent hours working on their auditions over the summer. I certainly have my work cut out with casting the play this weekend.

Things will work a little differently with this show and so I wanted to make all parents aware of those changes straight away:

Peter Pan Club will start next Tuesday at 3.30pm and all of the children on the list should attend that session, please. During the first session, children will be told what their part is and given copies of the script if appropriate. One day next week, they will bring home a sheet that explains their role and the commitment involved. If you are happy for them to commit to the role, please sign and return the sheet to me as soon as possible.

All of the children in Peter Pan Club will be welcome to attend the sessions every Tuesday between 3.30 and 5pm if they would like to. However, there will be a list provided of the dates that they are required to attend, and on other Tuesdays they do not need to come. This is due to the high demand for places in the club and to avoid children having to sit and watch others rehearse whilst they wait for their turn.

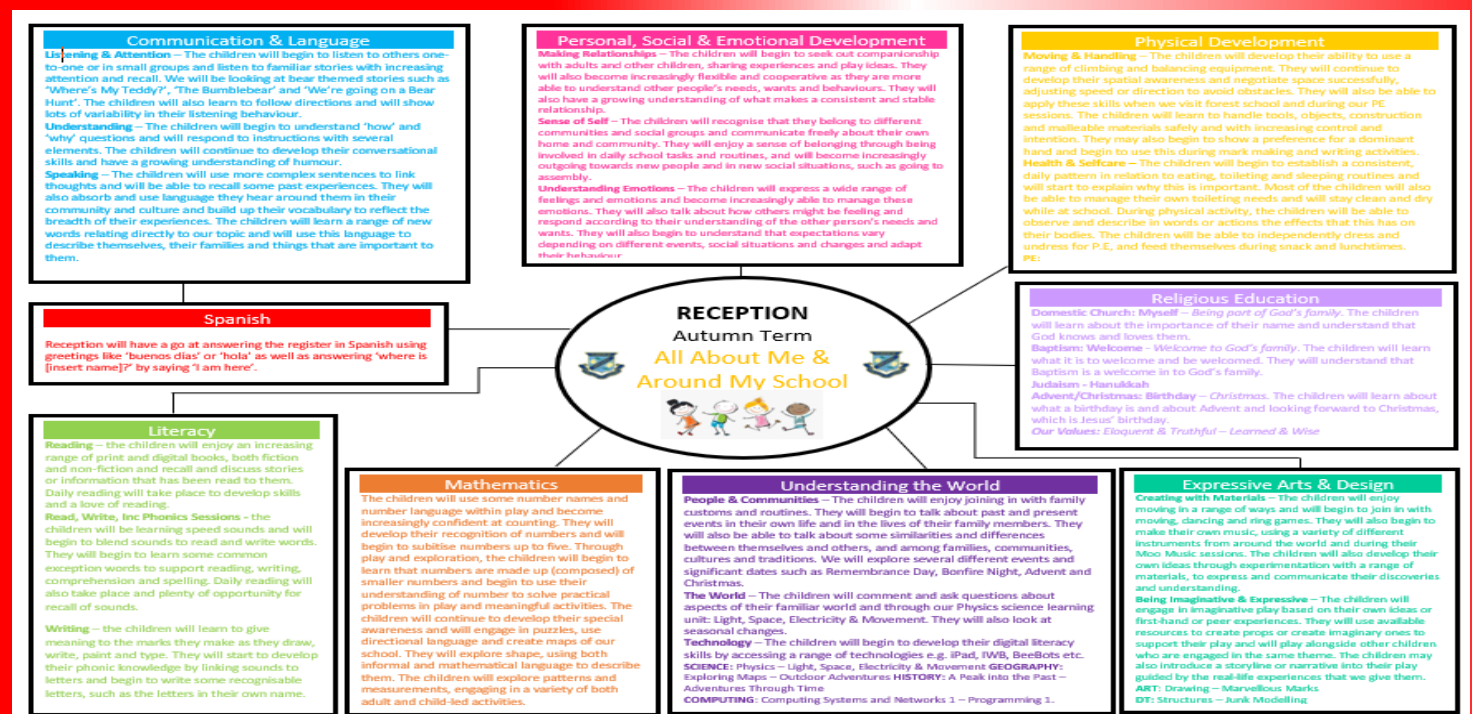
Additionally, some children will be needed at dance rehearsals on occasional Saturday mornings throughout the rehearsal process. These dates will be included on your child's personal letter and you will be asked to sign to confirm their availability to attend these.

Thank you again for supporting your children in preparing for their auditions. It is lovely to have a cast of such enthusiastic and excited children! Watch this space for updates on the show as it begins to come together...

TOPIC WEBS AND KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

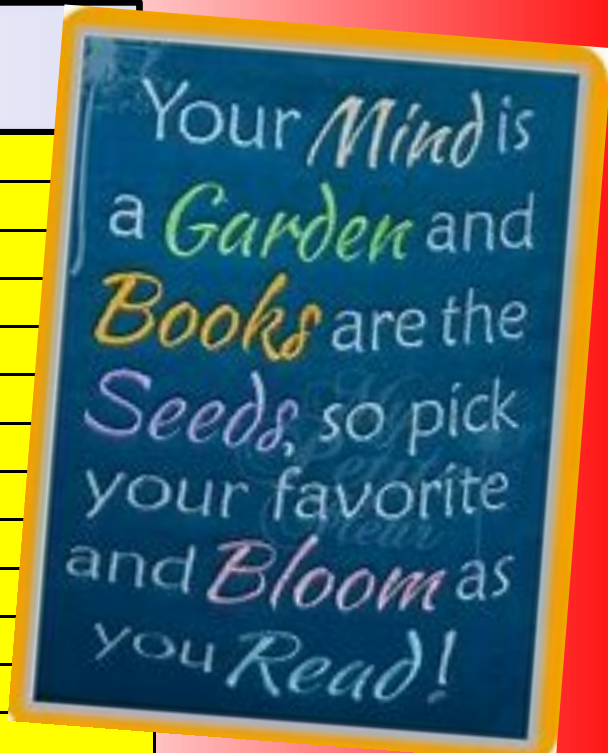
Next Wednesday 10th September, as part of our meet the teacher afternoons at 3:30pm, we will be sending home curriculum information, also known as topic webs, for families, specific to your child's learning during this Autumn term.

We will also be sending home knowledge organisers to accompany this information. Knowledge organisers are structured documents that will help to summarise essential information on specific topics that the children will be studying. If you have any questions relating to these topics as always please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or our curriculum lead—Miss Steiner.



Please make a note of the dates below for visits to Ross library this term.

12 th September	Year 6
19 th September	Year 5
26 th September	Year 4
3 rd October	Year 3
10 th October	Year 2
17 th October	Year 1
24 th October	Reception
7 th November	Year 6
14 th November	Year 5
21 st November	Year 4
28 th November	Year 3
5 th December	Year 2
12 th December	Year 1





The children have come back to school looking very smart in their winter uniforms, thank you for your continued support. Please note the following:

- 1) Girls skirts and pinafores should be navy blue**
- 2) White collar shirts with the school tie are St Joseph's uniform for both girls and boys - not polo shirts**
- 3) Please provide a pair of wellies for your children to keep at school and so they can access the field, without getting their school shoes muddy during their lunchtimes**

If you have queries regarding the uniform please follow the link below to access the uniform page on our school website.

[St Joseph's RC Primary School - Uniform Information](#)



**Can PE kits please be brought to school on Mondays and so they are in school for the week and taken home on the Friday for washing.
Many thanks**



On Tuesday we sent families our home school agreement. We are required by the Department for Education to ask parents and carers to sign a home/school agreement which outlines the commitment we make to each other. This is to help both you and the school be clear about what we should all try to do to give children the best possible education. Please could you read this through with your child and discuss the importance of it, before signing and returning to the school office by Tuesday 23rd September 2025.

**...COMING
NEXT WEEK!**



On **Monday 8th September** we will be having a whole school photo. This will be the first time in seven years since our last whole school photo. Can you please ensure all the children are wearing their winter uniform and looking extra smart for this occasion, many thanks.



On **Tuesday 9th September** Year 4 will be visiting the community gardens in the afternoon. Can they please bring in a change of comfortable clothes and footwear for this event. They will be leaving school straight after lunch and returning at the end of the school day.



On **Wednesday 10th September** we will be holding a 'meet the teacher' afternoon in your child's classroom straight after school. This is an opportunity for you to visit your child's classroom, speak to the teacher and find out about learning that's taking place this term. We look forward to welcoming you.



**Nature
WALK**

On Friday 12th **September**, years 1-6 we will be taking part in a whole school 'New Year Nature Walk'. We will be leaving school at 9:15am prompt. We will be venturing to Chase woods and looking for signs of change in seasons. We will stop off for a morning snack before heading back to school late morning. Please note on this day it will be a non-uniform day and so can the children please come to school in suitable, comfortable clothing and footwear. A letter has been sent home with further information.

Autumn Term

Monday 8th September	Whole school photo
Tuesday 9th September	Year 4 @ Community Gardens pm
Wednesday 10th September	Meet the teacher afternoon – curriculum information @ 3:45 pm
Friday 12th September	Year 1-6 – ‘New Year Nature walk’ @ 9:30am (Non Uniform Day—please wear suitable clothes)
Tuesday 16th September	Year 1 @ Community Gardens pm
Wednesday 17th September	Phonics workshop for Reception Parents @ 3:30pm
Thursday 18th September	Beginning of term Mass @10am followed by Macmillan Coffee morning with the Parish
Thursday 18th September	Parent workshop for Nursery and Reception – Online learning journals @ 3:30pm
Tuesday 23rd September	Year 2 @ Community Gardens pm
Tuesday 30th September	Year 3 @ Community Gardens pm
Tuesday 30th September	Turn up Tuesday with Mrs Gurney (SENDCo) @ 2:30pm All parents welcome
Monday 13th October	Harvest Festival @ 9:15am
Tuesday 14th October	Year 5 @ Community Gardens pm
Friday 17th October	Reception and Key Stage 1 @ Cheltenham Literacy Festival
Tuesday 21st October	Reception @ Community Gardens pm
Friday 24th October	FSJ Pumpkin Party
Friday 24th October	Break up for half term



Our first Parent Voice meeting for this academic year will take place on **Thursday 5th October at 2pm in school.**

If you would like to join this committee please send us an email at your earliest convenience. More information about the role of this committee can be found on our school website:

[St Joseph's RC Primary School - Parent Voice](#)

Please also see the meeting dates for the academic year:

- Thursday 9th October @ 2:00pm
- Thursday 11th December @ 2:00pm
- Thursday 26th February @ 2:00pm
- Thursday 23rd April @ 2:00pm
- Thursday 18th June @ 2:00pm
- Thursday 9th July @ 2:00pm

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered for this committee!



WYE	99.5%
AMAZON	99.3%
DANUBE	99.2%
TIBER	100%
THAMES	99.6%
AVON	98.3%
SEINE	96.9%

Congratulations to Mrs Barlow in the Nursery, for successfully completing her level 3 CACHE qualification with distinction! We are all very proud of you and this is a credit to you for all the hard work you put in.



CLUBS and Activities

Payments for clubs will be added to parent pay by **Monday 8th September.**

DAY	CLUB	AGE GROUP	START TIME
Monday	Football Club	All year groups	3.30-4.30pm
Monday	Young Voices	Years 3,4, 5 and 6	3.30-4.30pm
Tuesday	Cooking Club	Reception, Years 1 and 2	3.30-4.30pm
Tuesday	Drama Club Peter Pan	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	3.30-5.00pm
Wednesday	Gardening Club	All year groups	Lunchtime
Wednesday	Homework Club	All year groups	3.30-4.30pm
Wednesday	Family Spanish Club	All year groups	3.30-4.30pm
Thursday	Art Club	All year groups	3.30-4.15pm
Thursday	Multi-sports	Reception, Years 1 and 2	3.30-4.15pm
Thursday	Running Club	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	3.30-4.15pm
Friday	Tennis Club	Years 2,3,4,5 and 6	3.30-4.15pm
Friday	Cooking Club	All year groups	3.30-4.30pm



Enjoy your weekend!

Happy Feast Day to Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

God Bless