

## St James the Great Catholic Primary School

April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had an enjoyable Easter and welcome you back to school. Our topic in Reception Class is **Our Amazing World (growing/recycling)** - please see the attached topic grid.

Shared reading will continue so please ensure your child brings their books to school **every day** along with their reading diary so it is always accessible for us to hear your child read and change their book when required. **Please read with your child at home to support them in their early reading.**

### Phonics

Children learn to read and write through phonics. We will be continuing to reinforce phase 3 phonics and introducing Phase 4 phonics and red words. Phase 4 focuses on consolidating and practising the letter sounds learnt so far and does not introduce any new sounds. During Phase 4, children will continue to practise the letter sounds (phonemes) they learnt in Phase 2 and Phase 3. Red words are also known as Common Exception Words. Please see the attached phonic sheet and 'red' word list. This half term we will be learning "or", 'ur', 'ow' 'oi' and 'ear' The Parent portal for the FFT Phonics programme is: <https://parents.fft.org.uk/> which we hope you will find useful.

### Collecting your child

We understand that it may be necessary for someone different to collect your child at the end of the day. Please make sure you let us know at the beginning of the school day or if it is an emergency by telephoning the office who will let us know who is collecting your child. **We are unable to let children go home with anyone who has not been named in advance including young people under 16 years old.**

### Labelling your child's uniform

The weather will probably be getting warmer now so your child will want to remove their jumper on hotter days. We spent time last term labelling jumpers so they would not get mixed up with their peers. This was only written in pen and as jumpers are washed this will wear off. We are teaching the children to be responsible for their own belongings so mix ups do happen.

**Please ensure you label your child's clothing with their full name in a more permanent way to ensure their clothing is easily identifiable - such as iron on labels.**

### Junk Materials for our topic on Recycling

We would be grateful if parents could bring in the following boxes for the creative area - cereal boxes, toothpaste boxes, Pringle boxes, shoe boxes, yogurt pots, plastic bottle tops, egg boxes, soap boxes and kitchen rolls. Please encourage your child to recycle.

### Parent child reading sessions

We would like to extend our welcome you to join us in class on Tuesdays and Thursdays to read and change your child's choosing book from **8:45am - 8:55am**. Please ensure your child brings their choosing and shared reading books to school **every day** along with their reading diary so it is always accessible for us to hear your child read and change their book when required. Please share these books with your child by discussing the pictures, characters and what might happen next and place books and diary in the new book bag. **Please also practice with your child at home to support them in their early reading and remember to write your comments in the reading diary after sharing your child's shared reader book with them.**

Please note that if your book is lost or damaged then there will be a charge of £5.00.

Looking forward to an exciting term!  
Miss Bonnici and the Reception Class Team