

## St James the Great Catholic School: Welcome to Reception Class!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a fantastic summer! Our first topic for the school year will be 'Me, Myself and I' - it is a great way to get to know your child! Please could you provide some photos of your child with your family and a photo of them as a baby NEXT WEEK for our class display. **All photos should be in an envelope clearly labelled with their name so that they can be returned to you when we have finished the topic.**

### Clothing

The children spend a lot of their time in the outside learning areas. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for **all weather** situations and that their school uniform including coat is **clearly labelled**. Please provide a spare set of clothes including underwear and socks in a separate bag to hang on their pegs in case they get wet in the water tray or soil themselves etc...

### Reading

It is very important for your child to bring their blue book bag to school every day so they are always accessible for us to read with the children and change their books when we need to. Your child will be given their own 'Reading Diary' to be put in their book bags. Your child can select a choosing book on Tuesday and Friday to take home. This is for your child to share with you - they are not expected to read the words in this book! See parent sessions below! Once the children have settled into school, you are welcome to come into the classroom on **Tuesday (between 8.45 and 8.55am)** to choose and read a book with your child as a parent/carer and child together. **Please do not leave your child during this session.** We will let you know when this will begin. We will also start group shared reading and your child will be given a shared reader book to read with you at home. Please ensure these books are in school **every day in their book bags**. Please ensure that you make time to read with your child.

### Phonics

Before reading develops, the children need to be able to recognize the phonemes (letter sounds) correctly so that they can blend sounds together to make words. We will learn 5 sounds each week. There are 42 phonemes that the children will need to learn. The phonemes are not taught in alphabetical order but in a way that enables children to grasp the letter-sound correspondence more readily. The first 6 phonemes e.g. the first 6 sounds are s, a, t, p, i, n to make words such as it, at is, in, sit, sat, pat, tap etc.

**Please note: If Shared Reader Books are lost or damaged there will be a fee of £5:00 per book to pay to cover the cost of replacement.**

### Handwriting

In Reception Class the children will learn how to hold a pencil effectively in preparation for handwriting using the tripod grip. They will observe the correct letter formation modelled by the adults and be encouraged to have a go. They will use a range of small tools - scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery and also use malleable materials - plasticine and playdough to develop their fine motor skills.

### Parent Welcome Meeting with a focus on Oracy and expectations for Reception Class.

We would like to invite you to a general parent welcome meeting where we will talk about the expectations for your child in Reception Class. There will also be a focus on **Oracy** where we will discuss the importance of talking to your child. This is also an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have. This will take place on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September from 9:00am-9:30am** in the Reception classroom. We look forward to seeing you!

### HOME TIME

**IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING HOME WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOURSELF, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU INFORM US WHO WILL BE COLLECTING THEM. IF IT IS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION THEN A TELEPHONE CALL WILL BE SUFFICIENT. WE ARE UNABLE TO LET CHILDREN GO HOME WITH ANYONE WHO HAS NOT BEEN NAMED TO US IN ADVANCE.**

It is really important to us that all the children in the class are happy! If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to come and ask us at the end of the school day when all the children have been collected.

The Reception Class Team - Ms. Bonnici (Class Teacher)