



Autumn 2 Topic Letter: Welcome back to school after a very busy first half term filled with exciting nery starts and transition to school events. It seems like ages ago now that the children first joined us at school as they have all settled really quickly and are now part of our St. Joseph's family. We know that like the teachers, the children are keen and ready to go in continuing their learning this half term. Please help enable your child to learn in school by providing them with waterproof coats or warm jackets for outdoor play as we learn and play outside in all weathers. Remember to bring hats, gloves, and scarves to help keep warm when learning outdoors. Please only provide water for drinking in school. No flavoured water, squash, or juice in water bottles.



Home Learning Task:

We would like children to undertake a space themed arts and crafts project. This could be represented in any form e.g. a painting, a model, a video of storytelling. The space arts/crafts could be about space ships (real or imaginary), aliens, other plants, the stars- your imagination is the limit! Please bring these to school no later than **Friday 12th December**



Bonfire Night & My Five Senses (2 weeks)

We can't wait to get started on our learning about Bonfire night this half term. The children will be learning about how to keep safe on bonfire night as well as cooking a tasty (and healthy) bonfire night treat. In literacy, we will be learning and performing a fun Firework Night poem that includes lots of whizzing, fizzing, cracks, and bangs! The children will also paint firework pictures and explore use of colour.

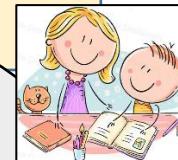
Children will also continue learning about the autumn season and signs of the changing seasons. As we move into the winter months, we will focus our learning on talking about winter and the changes it brings also.

To Infinity and Beyond! (3 weeks)

We have a special surprise for the children during this topic. An alien spaceship is going to crash into our learning garden (ssh! Don't let the children know!) which will kick start our learning about outer space. The children will be experience lots of stories about space and aliens and will get the chance to do plenty of storytelling with small world characters, and roleplaying on the storyteller stage using the dressing up. Story time is special in Reception and we want to give children a love for stories and joy of reading so please support us at home by reading a story at bed time.

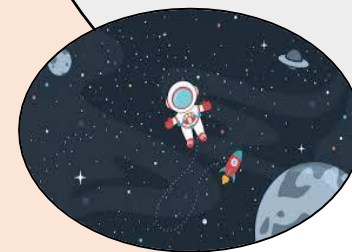
Christmas Around the World (2 weeks)

For our final topic this half term, the children will be sharing their own experiences of Christmas and learning about what Christmas looked like a long time ago. They will spot similarities and differences from Christmas in the past compared to now. We will also talk about how toys have changed. Children will share how their family celebrates Christmas and consider how families both close by, and around the world may celebrate differently. As the winter months draw in, the children will be putting on a special Sparkly Show this half term to add a little shine to your Christmas period. More details to follow soon.



Simple ways to help at home that make a big difference to children:

- Read a bed time story and visit your local library.
- Provide pens and paper for drawing and writing at home.
- Read your phonics book at least 3 times a week.
- Set aside screen-free time for your child.
- With your child, play with "small world" characters, dolls, or figures. Making up stories that start with Once upon a time.



Children should bring their reading log and reading book to school every day.