

EACH HALF TERMLY NEWSLETTER FROM NOW ON WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE (CLASS FOCUS/YN SECTION)

NURSERY NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 1 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

A big welcome to parents and children from the Nursery staff at St Mary's! We are looking forward to a wonderful year. I hope this newsletter will clarify daily routines for the children, fill you in on the learning we will undertake this term, and give you important dates for your diary and ways in which you might be able to get involved if you wish to. The newsletter is available at the beginning of every half term on the website and is filled with important information - please do make sure you download it! **It is really important to read and note the dates for your diary and information section - thank you in advance!**

Our main focus for this half term is to settle the children into their new Nursery environment. To help them settle in it is important that they arrive on time. Start and finish times are:

Full time children:	8.55am - 3.15pm Monday to Friday
'First half of the week' part time children:	8.55am - 3.15pm Monday and Tuesday 8.55am - 11.30am Wednesday
'Second half of the week' part time children:	12.45pm - 3.15pm Wednesday 8.55am - 3.15pm Thursday and Friday

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

For a morning drop off due to building works Nursery gather inside the Charlwood Road gate. **Please be careful of the traffic and come into the courtyard asap.** The children can line up together and wave goodbye to parents/carers before entering the school. Please do not come into the building as this can unsettle the other children. If your child is unsettled please talk to one of the Nursery team. If it is raining at the beginning of the session, a member of staff will inform children/carers to go straight into class.

For the Wednesday afternoon drop off please wait by the main gate to the playground where you will be met by the Nursery team. The children will then line up inside the main gate and wave goodbye to parents/carers.

If you are late arriving at school and the main gate is closed please take your child to the school office. A member of the office staff will then escort your child to Nursery.

Home time: Children are to be collected from the Charlwood Road entrance. **It does get congested in the courtyard;** can we ask for parents and carers to move away as soon as their child has joined/left them, so that other children can then be dismissed. Please also be aware that buggies etc can block children's view of those they are being dismissed to, so please move these out of the way as soon as possible. Thank you so much.

Please note for safety reasons ALL children are not allowed on the climbing equipment in the main playground before or after their Nursery session. Please ensure that children do not ride scooters and bikes in the school playground too, for the same reason.

WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS

Uniform can be ordered and collected from the office (or school website). Each child will also need a named bag for their peg containing a complete change of clothes inside - spare shoes are often needed too in case of an 'accident' or wet play - please include these too. This should be kept in school at all times and will go home only when it is needed. **It is very important that ALL of your child's clothes are labelled, including shoes, socks and coats please! They all look the same to us!**

Children should not bring any toys, books or food with them - we have everything they need. If a child has a special object, book or a photo to share (nothing too big or valuable please), please bring this in **clearly labelled** so it can be returned at the end of the day.

Please make sure you check the book bags each week for letters and important information.

Your child will also require a school book bag, and should bring it into school on the first day of their school week (i.e. Monday or Wednesday). Book bags go home on their last day of the week only (i.e. Wednesday or Friday). This year we will be using an online parent-teacher communication system to replace previous PACT books. **If there are important messages e.g. a query for the Nursery team, or letting us know about pick up arrangements please email classnursery@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk before 9am: these will be checked once a day only due to time constraints. A message after this should be phoned into the school office. If the child is going home with someone not known to the Nursery staff we must be notified in advance otherwise we cannot release your child until we have spoken to you.**

We will also send important information back via the email address. Please make sure this email address is saved so it does not go into your junk folder, and **please note any messages each night, as it may be about school the next day!**

Please do consider kindly donating any uniform your child has outgrown, including socks and shoes, as these are invaluable to us in Nursery.

CURRICULUM

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum covers a child's whole development across 7 areas: Communication and Language; Physical Development; Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Literacy; Mathematics; Expressive Art and Design; and Understanding the World.

All our learning will be centred on a half termly topic. First we will be learning ***All About Me!***

Communication and Language

We will introduce children to sitting on the carpet for a short period of time. Together we will encounter a variety of storybooks, including 'A Bit Lost' and 'Owl Babies', as we slowly build up their attention and recall. We will be doing lots of talking in Nursery to develop the children's speaking and listening skills! We have a role-play cottage in the classroom, creating excellent conversation opportunities. Children will take part in regular adult led small group sessions and circle times, finding out about each other and talking about what is special to them.

To aid our discussions **please could your child bring in a named family photo to share with the class (by Friday 15th September)**. If a digital form is easier, please email it to the office.

Physical Development

Nursery will be participating in PE lessons on a Tuesday or Thursday. This half term, pupils will focus on developing movement. They will develop a range of movement patterns and once familiar with these will be able to perform them on command. In addition the class will practise moving through agility ladders, collecting and moving objects. *They do not need to wear a PE kit for these sessions.*

We will learn together how to look after ourselves, for instance how to wash our hands, eat our lunch and look after our things. We encourage the children to be increasingly independent as they get more used to their new Nursery setting. **Please send your child in uniform that supports independence wherever possible.**

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we focus on supporting the children to feel comfortable in a new setting to explore independently, and will get them used to new Nursery routines. We will think about what Nursery our rights and responsibilities as we talk about what Nursery should be like and what we should do to help that happen. These will form our class charter, which will be posted on the website in Nursery's section. We will encourage children to be confident to talk to their peers and to adults about themselves, their home and their community, as we investigate our topic in circle times and small groups.

Literacy

At St. Mary's we follow the Jolly Phonics Synthetic Phonics Program, which uses a multi-sensory approach to teaching phonics. After half term we will start introducing a new sound each week. Up until half term we will be focusing on sound discrimination, both creating and hearing different sounds, as well as rhythm and rhyme, alliteration and oral blending/segmenting (Phase One of Letters and Sounds). These key skills form a firm foundation for learning letter sounds.

We provide the children with many opportunities to write and mark-make in the classroom, a precursor to writing. We also have malleable materials in the classroom to build up children's fine motor skills in preparation for writing.

On Friday 29th September at 2.45pm there is a Phonics Talk to Reception Parents but Nursery parents are very welcome to attend!

In addition there is a "How to Support your Child with Reading at Home" Workshop open for all parents: this will help you to support your child as they engage more and more with reading and writing, to become lifelong readers. You can attend on either Monday 9th October, 1.30-3.00pm, or on Tuesday 10th October, 6.00-7.30pm.

Mathematics

The children will be encouraged to investigate number and shape through a variety of free-flow activities each day. We will raise their awareness of numerals, and will consolidate their reciting of numbers in order, and their concept of counting through songs, games and stories. The children will use shapes to make arrangements and pictures of themselves, and we will start to think about size as we measure our height and foot size in simple ways.

Understanding the World

Our topic of *All About Me!* will allow children to explore details of their own lives and those of people familiar to them. Our RE sessions will also be centred around the question of 'Who Made This Wonderful World?' We will investigate our names, what we look like, what we particularly enjoy, and talk about things and people special to us.

We will also investigate the world around us, learning a little more about Autumn as the seasons change, and learning to care for living things, as we take responsibility for the plants and fish in our classroom.

Expressive Art and Design

We encourage children to develop their imagination through the role-play corner and small world play areas. We will be learning ways in which we can depict ourselves through art, as well as music and dance. We will explore our face, its features and expressions of emotion. Children will also learn about their five senses and be encouraged to draw their experiences, likes and dislikes.

Music lessons this half term will be a gentle introduction to music through singing and movement. We will be encouraging participation in music by singing songs that they know and putting actions to the words. We will play simple musical games as a class as well as play a variety of music for them to move to. The children will also be introduced to a range of musical instruments so that they can explore the different sounds that they can make with them.

WOW SLIPS

We document your child's progress in the Early Years Learning Journey. This book is not only for teacher input; we would love you to contribute to it as well, so it represents your child's whole development! We love to celebrate children's achievements at home as well as at school. If your child has done something fantastic or exciting, perhaps a new experience or a developmental milestone, then **please make a note of it on the WOW slips attached and pass it to me**. You can include photos or records of new achievements if you wish! We will celebrate this together as a class, and then display it on our WOW board, before adding it to the Early Years Learning Journey. The Learning Journeys will be available for you to view and add to at various points during the year. Please add your comments and reflections on your child's development, so we build up an accurate picture of your child.

COOKERY DONATION

We enjoy a **weekly cookery session** that benefits children's development across many areas of the curriculum. In order to cover the cost of ingredients, which add up very quickly, we would like to ask for a donation of £40 for the year in a clearly labelled envelope. If you would prefer to donate for each half term in advance, then please do speak to me. Thank you so much in advance.

PARENT HELP

Later in the year we will organise school trips and will start to send weekly maths games home, but we are only able to do this because parents generously donate their time. If you feel you are able to volunteer your time in any way then please do let me know, it would be very much appreciated. All these volunteers, including for a one off trip, MUST have attended the Parent Induction session and have a DBS check carried out through St Mary's, therefore we find organising this at the start of the year helpful. Please plan to attend one of the volunteer inductions on Monday 25th September, 2.00-3.00pm, or on Tuesday 26th September, 5.30-6.30pm.

If you are discarding any **age appropriate, good quality toys or books** please do consider donating them to the Nursery: they would be very much enjoyed by the children!

We find the children really engage with 'junk modelling'; if you have any **clean cardboard or plastic boxes/containers** throughout the year that you would otherwise recycle please do occasionally bring in a bag of them for the children to make something out of! Thank you!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Please bring in Family photo in by *Friday 15th September*
- Parent Volunteer Induction Date: *Monday 25th September, 2.00-3.00pm, or on Tuesday 26th September, 5.30-6.30pm*
- Phonics Talk to Reception Parents (Nursery parents very welcome to attend): *Friday 29th September, 2.45pm*
- Learn to Love to Read Parent Workshops: *Monday 9th October, 1.30-3.00pm, or Tuesday 10th October, 6.00-7.30pm*
- Parent meetings (tbc): *Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th November*
- First Nursery cake sale: *Friday 1st December*
- Christmas Service: *Tuesday 19th December 9.45am*

We are all looking forward to a wonderful year in Nursery, and to getting to know you and your child better. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to myself or any of the Nursery staff after the session or to email me via admin@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk.

Best wishes,

Miss de Souza

(Nursery Teacher)

Mrs Baines and Miss Martin

(Nursery Teaching Assistants)

Our Good Morning Song

Good morning, good morning,
It's a lovely day!
Good morning, good morning,
Let's go off and play!
Skipping/running/hopping
round the Nursery, having
lots of fun,
Good morning, good morning,
It's a lovely one.

Our Goodbye Song

Goodbye, goodbye, time to go,
Get your coats on, don't be slow,
Grown ups waiting at the gate,
Hurry up and don't be late!
Goodbye, goodbye, time to go
Goodbye, goodbye, time to go.

Our Lunchtime Grace Song

Thank you for the world so
sweet,
Thank you for the food we
eat,
Thank you for the birds that
sing-a-ling-a-ling,
Thank you God for everything

WOW!!

Child's name: _____

Tell us about what we can celebrate...

We love hearing what your child has been achieving at home! Attach photos and records of attainments if you wish. These wow slips will all feed into your child's Early Years Learning Journey.

C&L PD PSED Lit Maths UtW EAD COEL

WOW!!

Child's name: _____

Tell us about what we can celebrate...

We love hearing what your child has been achieving at home! Attach photos and records of attainments if you wish. These wow slips will all feed into your child's Early Years Learning Journey.

C&L PD PSED Lit Maths UtW EAD COEL