

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



NURSERY NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 1 2019

A big welcome to parents and children from the Nursery staff at St Mary's! We are looking forward to a wonderful year. We hope the Nursery Handbook, and A-Z of Early Years documents in your induction pack will be helpful guides as queries arise. In addition we produce a class newsletter each half term, which fills you in on the learning going on each half term, and gives 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!**

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

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 you are aware of the drop off and pick up procedures. These are described in the Nursery handbook. Please familiarise yourself with these, even if you have had a child in the school before, as they may well have changed.

WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS

Uniform can be ordered and collected from the office (or school website). Please check the relevant section of the Nursery handbook. 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! 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). We use an online parent-teacher communication system (replacing previous PACT books).

COMMUNICATION

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. More information in in the Nursery handbook.

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!** You will need to send a test email to the class email in the first week of term to register for the email system; simply write TEST and your child's name in the subject line.

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 13th September).** If a digital form is easier, please email it to the class email.

Physical Development

This half term in PE Nursery 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. We will have PE sessions on Tuesday with Mr Naughton, and on Friday with Miss de Souza. *Children do not need to wear a PE kit for these sessions.*

Health and self-care is a big part of your child's physical development. 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.

All Nursery parents/carers are invited to attend one of the Learn 2 Love 2 Read Workshops organised by St Mary's, which will help you support your children as they start to learn to read over the next couple of years. Please sign up via the office for one for the following sessions: **Wednesday 25th September at 6pm, or Wednesday 2nd October at 1.30pm.**

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. 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.

Our RE sessions will also be centred around the question of 'Who Made This Wonderful World?'

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. Mrs Adams will carry out art activities with the children on Tuesday morning.

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, as well as introducing them to songs to link in with their topic 'All About Me'. 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. Mrs Le Prevost will take the children for a Music session on Tuesday morning.

CONTRIBUTING TO YOUR CHILD'S DIGITAL EARLY YEARS LEARNING JOURNEY

We document your child's progress using an online tracking and assessment tool called the Early Excellence Assessment Tracker (EExAT). It is designed to capture key moments of your child's learning and development.

We ask you to also get involved by using EExAT to comment on photos and videos added by the Nursery team. This system replaces the Early Years Learning Journey (paper scrapbooks).

You can also share photos and short videos or your child's learning and development from home via this online system (replacing the previous system of paper 'WOW Slips'). If your child has done something fantastic or exciting, perhaps achieving a new experience or developmental milestone, then this would be a great time to add. We will celebrate these entries together as a class, and it will be included in your child's digital Early Years Learning Journey via EExAT. More details of how to add comments and photos will follow shortly, and we will be running a brief session on how to do this on **Thursday 19th September at 5.00pm at school**. Please aim to attend this session if at all possible.

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 would be 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 put the volunteer induction on **Monday 23rd September 1.45-3.00pm** in your diary. Please sign up via the office. If you are unable to attend this session but would like to volunteer please leave your name in the office and we will try to accommodate an evening session, if sufficient numbers dictate this to be needed.

If you are discarding any **age appropriate, good quality toys, books, or old uniform** please 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!

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 the class email.

Best wishes,

Miss de Souza

(Nursery Teacher)

Mrs Dias and Mrs Coyle

(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