

NURSERY NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 1 2020

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 updates 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!**

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:	9.15am - 3.30pm Monday to Friday
'First half of the week' part time children:	9.15am - 3.30pm Monday and Tuesday 9.15am - 11.45am Wednesday
'Second half of the week' part time children:	1.00pm - 3.30pm Wednesday 9.15am - 3.30pm Thursday and Friday

If anyone other than yourself is collecting your child, please let the Nursery staff know in advance. This, you will understand, is extremely important. **Children will not be allowed to leave with an unknown person.** Please ensure you tell the staff if there is a change in the pickup arrangements via the class email before 9am.

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. During our first topic we will be thinking about ***Starting Nursery and 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 'home' area 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 you send in a family photo via email for your child to share with the class (by Monday 28th September).**

Physical Development

This half term 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 learn together how to look after ourselves, for instance how to wash our hands, go to the toilet independently, 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 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. We will be thinking together about what kind of Nursery class we want to have, and setting up a 'class charter' together, with our class expectations on it. Particularly following lockdown, we will be spending a good period of time thinking about different emotions, so that children are able to name, and manage, their own feelings and those of others. We are doing this through exploring picture books, in particular "The Colour Monster" by Anna Llenas, which equates a different colour with each emotion.

Literacy

At St. Mary's we follow the Jolly Phonics Synthetic Phonics Program, which uses a multi-sensory approach to teaching phonics. After Christmas we will start introducing a new sound each week. Up until Christmas 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.

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.

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.

WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS FOR NURSERY

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! They all look the same to us!**

Please send your child into school with:

- **a labelled water bottle - EVERYDAY**
- **a book bag once a week - WEDNESDAY ONLY**

Currently due Covid-19 children should not bring toys, books, pencil cases or extra food into school.

COMMUNICATION

We use an online parent-teacher communication system. **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!** If you are not yet receiving the class emails you will need to send a test email to the class email address as soon as possible to register for the email system; simply write TEST and your child's name in the subject line and send to classnursery@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk. During COVID-19 please keep discussion with the class teacher on the gate to a minimum, and e-mail me to arrange a time to discuss anything further over the phone.

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. This system replaces paper scrapbooks. We ask you to also get involved by using EExAT to comment on photos and videos added by the Reception team, and upload photos and short videos or your child's learning and development from home via this online system. More details of how to set up your account, and how to add comments and photos will follow on email. Please ensure you have returned the EExAT form sent out via email attached to this letter, so we are able to share your child's information. We will also keep examples of the children's work in their individual A3 Learning Journey Folder which will be sent home at the end of the year.

ADMIN

Please send in a digital photo of you as a family to the class email address by Monday 28th September. This will be used as a prompt to talk about our families and learn more about the people in our class. Please also return the EExAT and FoSMs forms that will be sent out via email this week. Many thanks!

COOKERY, CRAFT AND GARDENING DONATION

Children take part in cookery, craft and gardening sessions throughout the year. **In order to cover the cost of supplies, 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.

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 email via classnursery@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk.

Best wishes,

Mrs Davidson
Mrs Ford and Mrs Dias

(Nursery Teacher)
(Nursery Teaching Assistants)