



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School, Putney

Vision: *Delivering excellence, allowing all to flourish*

Mission: *Creating a culture of wonder, guided by Christian faith*

Values: *Compassion • Endurance • Thankfulness*

Nursery: Half-Termly Letter to Parents

Autumn Term 2, November 2021

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term. We hope that you all had an enjoyable and restful half term break and that the children are ready for another packed half term. The children have all worked hard to settle into the new routines and expectations in Nursery. Thank you for all your support in this - they have already come so far and we hope that they will continue to grow and progress over this half term.

The 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.

Each half term we choose a theme for our learning across all areas of the curriculum. The theme for our learning this half term is ANIMALS.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

PSED underpins all of our learning in Nursery and is broken into three strands Self-Regulation, Managing Self and Relationships. These areas are continually being taught and modelled to the children throughout the day in Nursery and adapted to individual children's needs. Our focus for PSED for this half term is Celebrating Difference. This will include learning and accepting that everyone is different, including others when working and playing, using kind words, beginning to solve problems and helping if someone that may be bullied. Nursery will take part in Anti-Bullying Day on Friday 12th November with the whole school. They will take part in a workshop from Heat2Heart Books that will focus on celebrating difference and kind words.

The class will continue to develop and learn how to look after ourselves (Managing Self), for instance how to wash our hands, go to the toilet independently, eat our lunch and look after our things - these skills take a lot of practise! We encourage the children to be increasingly independent in the Nursery environment. **Please send your child in uniform that supports independence wherever possible.**

Physical Development

The children will continue to focus on developing their gross and fine motor skills. Through a range of physical games, the children will develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. They will have repeated and varied opportunities to explore and play with play dough, small construction, arts, crafts and using small tools, encouraging the children to develop proficiency, control and confidence with their fine motor skills. Nursery will take part in a PE session on Wednesday (first half of the week) and Friday (second half of the week). Nursery do not need to have a separate PE kit for this.

Communication and Language

The children will continue to develop their listening, understanding and speaking skills through the classroom environment, interaction with others and specific activities - this happens all the time in Nursery! The children will take part in circle times with 'Lola,' our listening leopard, who helps to teach the children the vital skills needed for listening. The children will have the opportunity to continue to develop their speaking, listening and understanding in the 'home' role-play area. They will also be encouraged to develop other role-play scenarios around their own interests, e.g. fire fighters and vets, using props, small world and open-ended resources. There will be daily opportunities for reading and the children will be introduced to a range of fiction books, nonfiction books, poems and rhymes. This half term our focus book is 'Tanka Tanka Skunk' by Steve Webb.

Literacy

The class will be focusing on our class focus book 'Tanka Tanka Skunk' that supports the children's early phonological awareness. The story is about an elephant and a skunk who set up a rhythmic repetitive drumbeat with which the children are encouraged to join in. Their other animal friends (ranging from a kangaroo to a spider) enter the book with each syllable of their names forming a beat. The children will take part in lots of active sessions, often with drums, to explore rhythm, rhyme and syllables. In the story, each animal is clearly labelled against a background of big blocks of colour. From this starting point, the class will begin to look at what a word is and think about words and labels they recognise e.g. their name. 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 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. This half term the children will be focusing on sorting. Children will learn to sort objects in a range of ways and will be encouraged to talk about why they have decided to sort in a particular way.

Understanding the World and RE

We are currently exploring autumn and noticing the changes in the world around us. Through our topic we will be learning about lots of different wild animals, their habitats, and how we look after them. We will encourage children to talk about what they have observed in the world around them.

The class will be learning about family traditions, as well as learning lots about ways to celebrate Christmas as December gets closer! We will be celebrating Christmas with the whole school and learning about the Christmas story.

We will turn part of our classroom into a Post Office in the run up to Christmas! Children will be able to practice writing cards and letters and delivering post. We would be very grateful if you could donate any cardboard boxes, envelopes or wrapping paper. At the beginning of December, we hope to be able to take children on a short walk to the post box so they can send their Christmas cards in the post...more to come on this!

Expressive Art and Design

We encourage children to develop their imagination in all areas of the classroom and with a range of resources these include, the role-play area, loose parts, small world, art/craft, water, transient art, construction, with stories, puppets and many more! Every Tuesday Art will be taught by Mrs Adams. This half term the focus will be around colour and mixing colours. The children will explore colour in nature and learn about the primary colours and how they can be used to create other colours.

Music will be taught by Mrs Le Prevost (Tuesday) and Mrs Dunford (Thursday). This half term we will be continuing to learn through singing songs, playing instruments and movement, linking the music to their class topic of Animals. As well as singing known songs, we will be learning new ones and encouraging them to sing on their own by responding to the class register by singing, which will also develop their sense of pitch. Playing simple musical games as a class

and putting actions to the words will develop their sense of pulse, and we will be practising the songs for our Christmas nativity.

School Trip

This half term, we will be going on a local trip to the local post box to send our Christmas cards. More details to follow.

Coronavirus Pandemic

Please refer to our COVID-19 Risk Assessment for the measures followed in our school to help reduce the risks identified and this can be viewed on our school website here: <http://www.stmarysschoolputney.co.uk/coronavirus-information/>

Safeguarding

If you have a safeguarding concern, our Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is Mrs Kerry Dunford. Her contact email is: kdunford.212@lgflmail.org. For any safeguarding concerns outside of school hours please contact the Wandsworth Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Their contact details are: Telephone: 020 8871 6622 or e-mail: MASH@wandsworth.gov.uk.

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! P**

Please bare with us if items of uniform are missing or have been taken home by another child. The Nursery team will always look for them and aim to get them back to you as soon as possible. We know this can be frustrating but we are trying to teach to the children to be more independent (getting and putting on their own coat etc.) and sometimes items of uniform can get muddled - they all look the same!

Please send your child into school with:

- **a labelled water bottle that they can drink from independently - EVERYDAY**
- **a book bag once a week - WEDNESDAY ONLY**

Lunch - Food and Allergies

St Mary's is a healthy school, so we ask that children do not bring in chocolate to school, or in their packed lunches. We will have to remove these items until the end of the day.

Another important reminder: **PLEASE ENSURE NO NUTS OR SESAME ARE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL.** We are a nut free school, and we have children with severe nut and sesame allergies. Please remember nuts and sesame are often in cereal bars, pesto, hummus and on/in bread/bagels etc. Always check the label before sending food into school.

Home Learning Arrangements

Home Learning will be set on a Wednesday and will be due the following Wednesday.

There will be weekly home learning as follows:

- **Reading:** Every child will take home a fiction or non-fiction text that your child will choose weekly on a Wednesday. Your child will receive a folder and a reading record card. Please fill in the reading card weekly and return the folder and book on the following Wednesday. Please only bring these books in on WEDNESDAY!

- We have displayed the family photos from last half term in our role-play area. If you have not already sent in a photo please could you send one in via email and we can add it to the display. The children have really enjoyed looking and talking about these photos.

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. A message after this should be emailed or 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 is 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.**

Keep in the loop with social media

The school actively uses two social media platforms to communicate school news and events, so please check them out and follow us:

Twitter <https://twitter.com/PutneySMPS> Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PutneySMPS/>

Progress in Learning Meetings

Your child's 'Progress in Learning' meeting (parent-teacher consultation) will take place virtually (via MS Teams) on either Wednesday 1st December or Thursday 2nd December. More information to follow.

We are really looking forward to an exciting half term! If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to us or to email me via the class email.

Best wishes

Alison Davidson, Kerry Dunford and Wendy James