



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 1, September 2023

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

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 letter 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 letter is available at the beginning of every half term on the website (class focus section) and is filled with important information - **it is really important to read and note the dates for your diary and information section - thank you in advance!**

The Nursery Team

Our Year N team this year is:

Mrs Alison Davidson (Mon-Wed) Mrs Kerry Dunford (Thur-Fri)

Miss Caroline Miller

On Tuesdays, the class will be taught by specialist staff: Mrs Adams for Art and Design, and Ms Fenner for Music.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding the children at St. Mary's is the responsibility of all staff, parents and professionals who come on site. If you have a safeguarding concern, our Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is Mrs Kerry Dunford. Her contact email is: kdunford.212@lgflmail.org.

If there are safeguarding concerns, which take place 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.

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 **All About Me - Starting Nursery!**

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. 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.

The class 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.**

Physical Development

Throughout the year, the children will 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.

Communication and Language

Communication and Language underpins all seven areas of learning. The focus will be on listening, understanding and speaking. Throughout the year, the class will be taking part in lots of speaking and listening activities. 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 Friday 15th September) if you have not done so already.** There will be daily opportunities for reading and the children will be introduced to a range of books, stories and rhymes. This half term our focus book is 'Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas, as well as many other books about starting Nursery.

Literacy

At St. Mary's we follow the Jolly Phonics Synthetic Phonics Program, which uses a multi-sensory approach to teaching phonics. Before starting the Jolly Phonics program it is important for children to tune into the sounds around them. This half term the class will be focusing on 'general sound discrimination.' Through environmental sounds, instrumental sounds and body percussion the children will be tuning into sounds around them (auditory discrimination), listening and remembering sounds (auditory memory and sequencing) and talking about what they can hear around them (developing vocabulary and language comprehension). These key skills form a firm foundation for learning to read and write. 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 in our outdoor environment.

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

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 in the school Library. This book is for you to read and share with your child. 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. This will start from Wednesday 27th September.

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/>

We are really 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 us or to email me via the class email.

Admin

- Send in a **digital family photo** to the class email address (or paper if easier) by Friday 15th September.
- Cookery, craft and gardening donation: Children take part in cookery, craft and gardening sessions throughout the year. **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.
- Donations: If you are discarding any **old uniform** please consider donating them to the Early Years: we are very short on spare clothes!

Diary Dates

- 25th September - Phonics Workshop for parents/carers (17:00 - 18:00)
- 17th October - School Open Evening
- 18th and 19th October - Progress in Learning Meetings (Parents Meetings)

- 20th October at 3.20pm - End of Autumn Term 1 and start of half term break
- 30th October at 8.45am - Start of Autumn Term 2

We are really looking forward to a wonderful year in Nursery. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to email us via the class email.

Best wishes

Alison Davidson, Kerry Dunford and Caroline Miller