



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 2023

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 seven 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 PEOPLE WHO HELP US AND CHRISTMAS.

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 25th November with the whole school. On this day we ask children to wear 'odd socks' and bring in a donation which will be given to the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

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 and Thursday. 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 '10 Things I Can Do to Help My World' written by Melanie Walsh and illustrated by Melanie Walsh

Literacy

In this half term's literacy adventure, our nursery children are exploring the wonderful book "10 Things I Can Do to Help My World." As we dive into the theme of people who help us, we are also discovering simple ways to contribute to our world's well-being. This book beautifully conveys essential messages in a simple and engaging manner, capturing the hearts and minds of our young learners. The book's interactive pages reveal ten achievable actions that children can undertake to make a positive impact, such as conserving energy by turning off lights, walking to school, or nurturing plants from seeds. It also encourages an understanding of nature and conservation, like feeding birds during the winter. Throughout this half term, our nursery children will not only enjoy the story but also develop key literacy skills. They will learn to ask questions, make connections with their own experiences, and explore the book's meanings conveyed through its captivating illustrations. Through collaborative play, critical thinking, role-play, and storytelling, they will deepen their understanding of the world, using language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences. It is a journey of discovery, learning, and nurturing a love for our planet.

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 matching, sorting and patterns. 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. They will begin to look at patterns in the environment before moving on to continuing, copy and creating their own patterns.

Understanding the World and RE

Through our "People Who Help Us" theme, the children will dive into the world of real-life heroes like firefighters, police officers, doctors/nurses, dentists, vets, and more! Through engaging non-fiction books, imaginative role-play, dressing up, and small world activities, children will discover the important roles these professionals play in our community. We are thrilled to host a visit from a Police officer, providing a firsthand experience.

In this exciting half term, our nursery children are embarking on a journey of traditions and celebrations. We will explore cherished family customs and delve into the magic of Christmas, including a festive celebration with the whole school and a special nativity service at St. Mary's Church. Furthermore, we will embrace the wider community by discovering the excitement of Bonfire Night and the radiance of Diwali, appreciating the diversity that enriches our world.

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, Mrs Adams will teach Art. 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 Fenner (Tuesday). 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

The children will be going on a magical journey to the Polka Theatre on Thursday 7th December to watch "The Night Before Christmas." If your child is in the first half of the week, they will be invited to join the morning session on Thursday 7th December. If you would like to volunteer to support the children on the trip, contact us via class email. Please ensure your school DBS check is current and you have attended the volunteer induction session.

The class will also be going on a local trip to the post box to send our Christmas cards!

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!**

With the chilly and wet weather upon us, our nursery now has six sets of waterproof jackets and trousers, perfect for water, mud, sand, and puddle play in our outdoor area. Feel free to send your child with waterproof trousers and wellies for outdoor fun. Just remember no all-in-ones; they can be tricky to manage. We're committed to outdoor adventures in all weather!

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**
- **Reading folders, book and reading card - Wednesday**
- **Waterproof trousers and wellies (optional)**

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.

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/>

Dates for your diary

Friday 24th November - Nursery cake sale - 3:15pm (main playground)

Christmas dates

Saturday 2nd December - FoSMs Movie Night

Thursday 7th December - Class trip to the Polka Theatre - The Night Before Christmas

Wednesday 13th December - The Littlest Elf Pantomime (performance in school time - the first half of the week children will be invited in for the pantomime at 2pm).

Tuesday 19th December - Christmas Nativity at St. Mary's Church (9:45am)

Wednesday 20th December - Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch; last day of term (school closes at 2:30pm)

Thursday 21st December - Inset Day (school is not open for pupils)

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, Caroline Miller & Keesha Clark