



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

Reception: 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. I hope that you all had a fun and restful half term break and that the children are ready for another packed half term!

The Curriculum

Our themes for our learning across all areas of the curriculum this half term are:

'SPACE' and 'CHRISTMAS'

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

This half term Reception will be 'Celebrating Difference.' As a class, we will be thinking about what makes them special and unique. We will look at different families and homes from around the world, celebrating different cultures and customs. If you celebrate any particular, customs or festivals in your family please do send a couple of pictures or details to the class email, so we can talk about these in class! We are continuing to do lots of work on how to play in appropriate ways with friends, and how to solve disputes independently, or with the support of adults.

Health and self-care is a big part of your child's personal development. Please continue to encourage your child to be independent with their self-care, so they can take their coats and jumpers on and off, putting the sleeve the right way round by themselves, and working towards zips and buttons.

Physical Development (PD)

The class will continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills through a variety of activities. Please encourage your child to make marks, draw and begin to write at home. We will have a real focus on forming your child's correct pencil grip this half term - before a different habit is formed. Almost all children should use a tripod grip (pictured to the right) where the pencil is held between thumb and index finger, lightly resting on the middle finger. Please focus on this whenever your child is writing. **It is important to form this habit now, so your child forms comfortable writing habits for the rest of their life!** We will continue to send home letter formation sheets each week - and pattern and letter formation sheets will be sent home on Fridays and photographs of completed worksheets need to be uploaded to MS Teams by the following Wednesday.



This half term in PE pupils will focus on throwing and catching. They will recap responding to perform movements learnt on command, send and stop objects in different ways. In addition, they will practise dribbling balls using hands and feet and play different aiming games. **Children should continue to come into school on Tuesday and Thursday in their PE kit.**

Communication and Language (C&L)

Our focus book this half term is 'Astro Girl' by Ken Wilson-Max. We have several other stories we will read relating to our Topics. Through these stories we encourage using spoken and written language in their play and learning. We will do various activities that will encourage them to talk about picture books using prediction, asking relevant questions and making connections with their own experiences.

Literacy

The class will continue to learn phonemes (single letter sounds - the smallest unit of sound) and begin to learn digraphs (a combination of two letters representing one sound, as in ch and ee) through the Jolly Phonics program. We will continue to send home the sound cards weekly on Friday. As we start to learn digraphs, we may vary the amount of sounds we learn a week to allow for proper consolidation. Please attach these sound cards to their 'Sound Books' and practise them daily at home, and practice blending sounding words together to make simple words. **Please let us know how they are getting on with their reading at home via the Reading Record Book.** If you have any queries about reading and phonics please do email.

Mathematics

In our number work we will be continuing to create a secure foundation for the children's mathematics. We follow an approach, which really focuses on a deep understanding of number. Rather than counting 'high' we explore what is really going on within small numbers. This half term children will be practising subitising within 5 (seeing the amount and knowing how many there without having to count) and developing their accuracy with counting and what counting actually means. Children are learning to compare different amounts using the words 'the same', 'equal', 'more', and 'fewer' (nb not 'less!'). We will also introduce the concept of 'wholes' and 'parts' as we explore the composition of numbers within 5. In our shape, space and measure work we will be looking at simple time i.e. sequencing within the day and the week, and exploring simple repeating patterns.

Understanding the World

Through our topic, the class will be finding out about Earth, Sun, Moon, the planets and stars. As well as, learning about space travel. We will also be looking at people who help us in our community, discussing what their roles are and why their roles are important.

RE

Our focus for this half term is to learn about and celebrate 'Christmas.' Through the Nativity story the class will learn about the meaning and importance of Christmas.

Expressive Art and Design

In addition to our class-based activities the class will also have discrete music and art lessons with a specialist teacher every Tuesday.

Art - Mrs Adams (will collect the children on Tuesday mornings):

We will continue to explore mark making, colour mixing and modelling linked to our Topics.

Music - Ms Fenner:

This half term's we will be continuing to use and find our different voices as well as experiment with instruments to see what different sounds they can produce. We will also be developing our sense of pitch and pulse through singing and playing games, as well as rehearsing songs for our Christmas nativity.

Reception Routines and Information

Home Learning Arrangements

We will continue to send home letter formation sheets each week to complete at home. Home learning will come home on a Friday and is due back in on the following Thursday. See the timetable below.

It is expected that children will read aloud and/or practice their letter sounds every night for at least 15 minutes at this crucial stage of learning to read. **Your child's reading will be really impacted by short, regular practice at home together, and we really recommend finding a time that works for you as a family for daily reading practice, even before reading books themselves start to come home.**

What Your Child Will Need Each Day

Children's bags should be brought into school every day, including their reading folder. This is really helpful for us as we seek to support your child's early reading.

Please make sure you check the bags every time they come home in case there are letters and important information for you. Children should not bring any toys, books or food with them - we have everything they need.

Week overview

Monday: Normal Day

Tuesday: Children should come to school in their St Mary's PE kit, and suitable footwear.

Wednesday: Normal Day

Thursday: Children should come to school in their St Mary's PE kit, and suitable footwear. Home learning should be returned completed and uploaded onto Microsoft Teams

Friday: New home learning and reading books will be placed in your child's reading folder. These should be completed by the following Thursday and uploaded to Microsoft Teams.

Please ensure every item of your child's uniform is clearly labelled! We also spend lots of time outdoors, so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather!

Drop Off and Pick Up

The first half-term went very well. **We are now asking that parents do not come on to the playground in the morning and drop off at the gate like the rest of the school.** The children are used to the morning routine and it sometimes causes distress for the children and other children. **Please can we ask for you to arrive promptly between 8:45 and 8:55.**

At the end of the day our dismissal in lines seems to be working well. **Please ensure you move away from the front of the line to another area of the playground as soon as your child has reached you, to enable me to dismiss the other children.** If people stay at the front, it means I cannot safely dismiss the next children, and it slows the process down. **If you are next in the line please come forward to the cone. If you need to speak to a member of the Reception team, please tell me as your child is being dismissed, but we will need to have that conversation once the rest of the class have been dismissed, to save the rest of the class having to wait to go home.** Thank you in advance!

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.

Communication

If there are important messages e.g. a query for the Reception team, or letting us know about pick up arrangements **please email class2023@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk before 8:45am: these will be checked once a day.** **A message after this should be phoned into the school office.** **If the child is going home with someone not known to the Reception staff we must be notified in advance otherwise we cannot release your child until we have spoken to you.**

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/>

Donations

If you are discarding any **old clothes (including socks and tights)**, please consider donating them to the Early Years.

Trips

Thank you very much to the parents that supported our first trip! More trips will follow in due time. Unfortunately, we are not able to book some trips so far in advance. When confirmed and booked information will follow.

Key Dates

- Wednesday 8th November - Individual Pupil Photographs
- Thursday 9th November at 8pm - FOSM Quiz Night (Winchester House Ballroom)
- Tuesday 14th November - Flu immunisations
- Friday 17th November - Anti-Bulling Day 1
- Friday 17th November - YR Cake Sale
- Friday 1st December at 9.10am - Celebration Worship (in school hall - Christmas focus)
- Saturday 2nd December at 6pm - FOSM Movie Night
- Thursday 7th December - Class Workshare 2:45pm
- Wednesday 13th December - Christmas Pantomime for EYFS
- Tuesday 19th December - EYFS/KS1 Nativity at St Mary's Church at 9.45-10.45
- Wednesday 20th December - Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
- Wednesday 20th December - Last day of term (2:30pm finish)
- Tuesday 9th January at 8.45am - First day of the spring term

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

Thank you for your continued support,

Kendal McEvoy and Joanne Lane-Wood