



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

Spring 2 February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back everybody; we hope you have all had a restful and relaxing break! The children have been sharing lots about what they have been up to in the holidays!

This week we have started our new topic for the half term:

PLANTS AND FLOWERS

Throughout this topic your child will have the opportunity to:

- Grow some flowers/plants of their own
- Make a garden for the Nursery, and look at things that are growing around the school
- Play in our Garden Centre role play area
- Explore plant related books

We are hoping to add to our outside area by growing plants and vegetables. If anybody could donate any spare soil, old tools, seeds or cuttings, or indeed empty seed packets for our role-play area, we would be extremely grateful.

Curriculum

Communication and Language

Our Plants and Flowers topic will allow children to learn and use a new area of vocabulary, enhanced by lots of stories around the topic. Children will be encouraged to use their knowledge as they 'go shopping' in the Garden Centre and observe the plants outside.

We will expose them to more 'how' and 'why' questions in carpet and small group sessions and help children to respond to instructions involving a two-part sequence.

Physical Development

We will continue to develop the children's fine and gross motor skills within Nursery. There will be opportunities to write, paint and mark make within the Garden Centre, as they create shopping lists and fill in flower order forms. We are continuing to practice name writing.

Nursery will also take part in PE lessons on Wednesdays and/or Thursday, and will start to move in different ways using different animal walks.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be learning about how to be healthy and look after ourselves, including thinking about our bodies, exercise, the risks we take, and healthy eating.

We will also continue to develop children's understanding of taking turns and sharing. In addition, we will cultivate children's ability to use their words to initiate and join in play with their peers.

Literacy

We will continue to broaden the children's knowledge of fiction and non-fiction books around the topic of Plants and Flowers. We will focus on "Jack and the Beanstalk", "I Will Not Ever Eat a Tomato", "Jasper's Beanstalk", "A Seed in Need" and "Oliver's Vegetables" and "Errol's garden" to name a few. We look forward to planting some of the plants in the books with the children!

If you have any further books related to plants and flowers please do bring them in (labelled) so we can share them with the class!

Nursery will continue to explore and practise rhyme, both recognising words that rhyme and completing a rhyming string. Please do reinforce this at home as it takes lots of practice whilst reading books and singing songs!

Maths

The children will be introduced informally to the basic language of money using our new role-play area. The Garden Centre will also allow many opportunities for sorting, counting and number recognition, on price labels for instance.

We are so pleased with the development in the children's one-to-one correspondence when counting. We are starting to encourage children to have a go at representing numbers through mark making - this may be through tallies or dots, which really contributes to a child's developing sense of number. We will continue to practise comparing different amounts, using the words 'the same', 'more' and 'fewer'.

In Shape Space and Measure our trip to the garden centre and our role-play area will allow us to explore the exchange of money. We will also continue to use mathematical names for describing 2D shapes and consolidate our recognition and use of them in pictures and designs.

Understanding the World and RE

A major focus of our theme is learning about the natural environment and the children will have the opportunity through practical experience to learn how to take care of it. Throughout the topic we will be observing, recording and talking about plants and flowers, particularly noticing differences, growth, decay and changes over time. Due to our topic we will use some of our cooking time and donations for growing different seeds and plants.

Expressive Art and Design

Using plants and flowers as our theme, we will be continuing to develop the children's musical awareness through singing known songs associated with growing things, as well as learning new ones and playing singing games. By putting actions to the words, the children will develop their sense of pulse and we will explore more of the musical elements when singing the songs, for example tempo and dynamics. We will also focus on practising their listening skills through moving to music and introducing sung instructions.

We will also be doing exciting artwork inspired by Plants and Flowers, including observational drawing, creating models of plants and flowers with different media, and using 2D shapes to build up a picture. We will concentrate on drawing a shape and then colouring it in, as well as selecting colours for a purpose.

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!**

Please can you return any of our spare uniform that has been borrowed - we are running very low on jogger, jumpers, pants and socks!

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**
- **their reading folder, with reading book and card - WEDNESDAY**

Lunch - Food and Allergies

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

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 and special people photos in the classroom. 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/>

COOKING, CRAFT & GARDENING CONTRIBUTION

Thank you so much for those who brought in the voluntary contribution of £40 for the year's craft, gardening and cooking supplies. This will be a busy term of gardening and will be buying lots of soil, seeds, plants, plant pots etc., for the children to support their learning. If you are able to send in a voluntary

contribution it would be really appreciated: any money left over will be used to support the children's learning.

DIARY DATES

Anti-Bullying Day - Friday 23rd February

The children will be participating in anti-bullying day with the whole school on Friday. The children will be taking part in a workshop and other activities linked to this year's anti-bullying theme.

Progress in Learning Meetings - Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th February

There are Progress in Learning Meetings (Parent Meetings) coming up. Please make sure you have booked a slot via the parent mail link. If your child attends nursery Mon-Weds am then please ensure you book the Wednesday slot as Mrs Davidson will be running these sessions.

Mother's Day Celebration - Wednesday 6th March

Nursery will be celebrating Mother's Day within school - we will be having a short celebration for parents/carers in school on this day at 2.45pm. More details to follow via email.

Last day of term Thursday 28th March (2:30pm) - Children return to school on Tuesday 16th April

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, Marisa Winter and Caroline Miller