



**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**

**Spring 2 - February 2024**

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

Welcome back for the second half of the spring term - we are looking forward to another action packed half term ahead!

Thank you very much for sponsoring and collecting sponsors for the Everest Event. We are getting much closer to our target for the next phase of the new playground.

The Curriculum

This half term the main theme for our learning across all areas of the curriculum is PIRATES! We will particularly using the book "The Pirates Are Coming" by John Condon as a focus.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

This half term our focus is on the importance of being healthy. They will spot the changes that happen to their body when they are active and will learn about healthy living. We continue to do lots of work through child-initiated play on making relationships and how to play appropriately.

Physical Development (PD)

The class will continue to develop their fine and gross motor skills. Handwriting will be sent home weekly as well as phonics sheets. Please complete this with your children, and keep an eye out for them using the **correct letter formation**. This is particularly difficult with 'one armed robot letters'. The habit will be harder to unpick next year, so it's really worth keeping a close eye on the letter formation this year.

We are also looking to consolidate the children's **tripod grip** for a pencil. The Early Learning Goal for physical development states that 'almost all children' should be using a tripod grip at the end of the year, so please correct their grip whenever they write.



PE lessons will be taught by Miss McEvoy, on a Tuesday, and by Mr Newman on a Wednesday. This half term in PE pupils will continue to focus on movement and balance. Then, we will move onto control / target practise and games. **Children should come into school on Tuesday and Wednesday in their PE kit.**

Communication and Language (C&L)

We have started our new topic by introducing some new pirate vocabulary, which will continue, particularly through a wide range of books. The topic gives lots of opportunities to create different imaginative narratives through pirate role play props and small world toys.

Literacy

The children will be using their imagination and phonic knowledge to write simple sentences and complete 'extended' pieces of writing based around our focus book 'The Pirates are Coming'. They will be creating their own 'Wanted Posters', banners, treasure maps and writing a letter. We will start to create our own pirate narratives too. We are introducing children to the alphabet, and letter names too, and starting to explore what words and sentences are - and why we need finger spaces and full stops.

### Phonics and Word Reading

Reception have now learnt the initial 42 **phonemes** (letter sounds)! This half term the class will begin to learn alternatives for these sounds. E.g. this week we learnt that 'y' is an alternative to 'ee'. If you hear 'ee' at the end of the word it is written as 'y' (mostly). **Please continue to practice all the sounds at home daily - this is a really important foundation for their reading.** Here is a list of the 42 phonemes we have learnt and sent home for the sound books. **If you are missing any of these sounds please let us know which ones (via email) and we can replace them.** The children continue to use these books in Year 1 so it really important they have all the phonemes/digraphs.

We will also continue to recap and learn **tricky words**, and send these home in a separate flashcard set. Although, these have not been in our reading books so far but we are starting to build up the children's knowledge of 'tricky words' (words that cannot be 'sounded out' but just have to be remembered by children on sight) in preparation for the next reading level, where they will need to know the first set already. **Please let us know if you are missing any of the following tricky words:** I, the, he, she, me, we, be, was, to, do, are, all (you, your have been added this week). **Please also practice your child's tricky words daily.**

### Mathematics

In our number work we will be continuing to create a secure foundation for the children's mathematics. We follow a Maths Mastery 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 increasing confidence with subitising within 5 (seeing the amount and knowing how many there without having to count), and exploring symmetrical patterns, linking this to 'doubles'. We will continue consolidating the children's deep understanding of number, working with larger numbers within 10 and their composition, and becoming more familiar with the counting pattern beyond 20. Children will explore the composition of odd and even numbers, and explore doubles. One of the most challenging aspects is comparison of numbers; using the words 'the same', 'equal', 'more', and 'fewer', and linking this to their understanding of the number line.

### Understanding the World

Through our topic we will be exploring under the sea. We will be going on a trip to The Golden Hinde towards the end of this half-term more information to follow regarding the trip.

### RE

Reception will be learning about Lent and Easter.

### 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

Music - Ms. Fenner (will collect the children on Tuesday mornings)

- 1 . s, a, t, i, p, n
- 2 . c k, e, h, r, m, d
- 3 . g, o, u, l, f, b
- 4 . ai, j, oa, ie, ee, or
- 5 . z, w, ng, v, oo, oo
- 6 . y, x, ch, sh, th, th
- 7 . qu, ou, oi, ue, er, ar

## Reception Routines and Information

### School Trips

We have two trips booked for the Summer term and we will need volunteers - **if any parents/carers would like to volunteer and have a current DBS check with the school please let us know.** We cannot take anyone without having an induction and having a DBS through St Mary's School - please contact Mrs. Abraham in the office to apply for one, as soon as you can, as they can take several weeks to process. We highly appreciate the support. We would not be able to do trips without the support of parents.

### Home Learning Arrangements and What Your Child Will Need Each Day

**Children's rectangular book 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.**

Children should not bring any jewellery, toys, books or food with them - we have everything they need. Please note that only reading materials should be kept in the reading folder - handwriting sheets and other work should be separate for easy collection.

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. **Reading at home is incredibly important for the children's early learning - short, but frequent, sessions are most recommended.**

### Week overview

Monday: Normal Day

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

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

Thursday: Home learning should be returned completed and uploaded onto Microsoft Teams. We collect reading folders and hand out the following day.

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

### 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](mailto:class2023@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk) before 9am: 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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:MASH@wandsworth.gov.uk).

### 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/>

Key Dates:

- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Anti-Bullying Day
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March - Celebration Worship (9:15am)
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday Service at St. Mary's Church
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March - Comic Relief - Red Nose Day
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Progress in Learning Meetings for Parents Day 1
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Progress in Learning Meetings for Parents Day 2
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - FoSMS YR Cake Sale
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Trip to The Golden Hinde
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March - Last day of term
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April - INSET Day
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April - School reopens

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