



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*

Year 1: Half-Termly Letter to Parents

Spring Term 2, February 2024

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

I hope that you have all had a good half term break. The children have come back eager and excited to learn and have already made a fantastic start! We are all looking forward to another fun and busy half term and all the learning that comes with it!

Classroom Resources and fundraising

Thank you for all your work on the cake sale last half term. We have spent the money on a range of resources including craft supplies, some new non-fiction books, some wet play games and, of course, some more stickers!

Thank you also for all your support and generous contributions to the Cycle Everest event at the end of last term. We had such a wonderful day and the children were really proud!

The Curriculum

To view the Year 1 curriculum intent please see the Year 1 Curriculum Map, which can be viewed on our school website here: <https://www.stmarysschoolputney.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Year-One-Class-Curriculum-Map-.pdf>

We will be following the content outlined in the Spring Term.

Vocabulary

We know from research that the size of a child's vocabulary is a good predictor of success. Children with a poor vocabulary at five are four times more likely to struggle with reading in adulthood (*Why Closing the Word Gap Matters: Oxford Language Report, 2018*). A wide vocabulary not only aids reading and writing but also supports success across the entire curriculum. For this reason, the acquisition of new vocabulary is an important part of a child's development.

Vocabulary can be learned in two ways:

- Through indirect instruction
- Through direct instruction

Indirect instruction can be through rich reading experiences, conversations, games etc and involve a natural development of vocabulary. Children will need to use their background knowledge and pay attention to context to work out the meanings of words.

Direct instruction involves teaching specific vocabulary. This happens across the curriculum at school. Children are taught both general and subject specific vocabulary.

You can help to develop your child's vocabulary at home by reading a range of high quality texts with them, having conversations, playing word games, using a range of vocabulary yourself and discussing new vocabulary words that they might come across.

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.

PE Arrangements

PE lessons will continue to take place every **Monday** and **Thursday**. Your child should attend school on these days wearing the St. Mary's PE kit. If your child takes part in a school sports club before or after school on a **non-PE** day, they are required to change i.e. sports club before school please bring school uniform to change into and after school bring PE kit to be changed into.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S PE KIT AND UNIFORM IS ALL LABELLED CLEARLY.

Home Learning Arrangements

Home Learning will be set on a **Friday** and will be due the following **Wednesday**.

There will be weekly home learning as follows:

- **Spellings:** Spelling cards can be found in the Home Learning channel on MS Teams. A hard copy will be given to children after the first test. Weekly spellings are tested on **Friday**. Please ensure that your child **brings their spelling card to school on a Friday** so that we can mark down their score for you to see how they did and what they might need to work on.
- **Dictation:** Dictation cards can be found in the Home Learning channel of MS Teams. The dictation follows the spelling and is to be completed by the following Wednesday (due dates are written on the card to help you). **Please make sure that you do not go ahead.** The dictation helps us to see what your child has been able to retain and what we might need to go over again so please do not let your child see the card before writing and please leave in any mistakes that your child might make.
- **Grammar:** reinforcement sheets will be sent home, for the children to complete and to let you know what we have been covering in class. These are for your reference and do not need to be returned to school.
- **Reading:** We expect that children will read aloud every night for at least 10 minutes. Inside the front and back covers of the Oxford Reading Tree books, there are useful questions to ask your child to probe their understanding of the text. Please refer to these **before**, during and after reading together. Reading folders should be brought into school **every day** to enable us to read with your child at school as well. Reading books are changed on a **Wednesday evening**. We will keep reading folders overnight on a Wednesday and they will be returned home every **Thursday** after book change. **Please ensure that you write in the Reading Record when your child needs new books**, otherwise they won't be changed! Books are changed, if requested, on **WEDNESDAYS ONLY**. We cannot guarantee that books can be changed after this and doing so removes an adult from the classroom which takes away from your children's learning.
- **Maths:** This will be set on **Friday** via Mathletics. Your child will be set a task on Mathletics which should be completed by the following **Wednesday**. Please let me know if you need to be sent your login details.

Communication

If you have any queries about the daily routine or what your child is learning, or to inform us of other matters relating to your child (e.g., if your child is being collected by someone who does not usually collect them), then do not hesitate to get in touch with any member of the Year 1 team. As always, the best way to do this is through the PACT e-mail. The PACT e-mail is a great tool for communication between home and school, so please do not hesitate in using it. The address is:

Class2020@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.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/>

Dates for your diary:

Friday 23rd February 2024 - Anti -Bullying Day 2

Friday 8th March 2024 at 9.45am - Mothering Sunday Service at St. Mary's Church

13th/14th March 2024 - Progress in Learning Meetings more information to follow shortly

Friday 15th March - Comic Relief

Saturday 16th March 2024 at 5pm - FoSMS Disco

Thursday 28th March 2024 at 2:30pm - End of Spring Term 2 - Easter Holidays

Best wishes for the term ahead.

Kindest regards,

Miss Barrett and the Year 1 Team