



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

Summer Term 1, April 2024

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

The Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum covers a child's whole development across 7 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 ANIMALS.

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 Relationships. This will include: continuing our ongoing learning of how to make friends, trying to solve friendship problems when they occur, help others to feel part of a group and know how to help themselves and others when they feel upset or hurt. As the children are becoming more aware of their own emotions, we are developing starting to develop strategies to manage them together.

The class will continue to develop and learn how to look after themselves (Managing Self), by selecting and using their own resources, asking for help when needed. Being dry and clean during the day and managing their own basic hygiene needs. Showing an awareness and understanding of the effect of what they eat on the body.

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. Nursery will take part in a PE session on Wednesday (first half of the week) and Friday (second half of the week). Nursery do not need to have a separate PE kit for this. 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 use precision and control to manipulate resources and small equipment. This half term we will be bringing the skills developed in both gross and fine motor activities to develop the children's tripod grip for mark making. We will be beginning to write individual letters, building to name writing (see Literacy).

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 'vet' and 'home corner' role-play areas. They will also be encouraged to develop other role-play scenarios around their own interests, e.g. Police Officers and Paramedics, 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. These books include 'What The Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson, 'Walking Through the Jungle' by Stella Blackstone, 'Brown Bear Brown Bear' by Eric Carle and many, many more!

Literacy

The class will be focusing on our class focus book 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson. We will be delving into the world of animals through the eyes a ladybird. We will look at farm animals and wild animals and baby animals and their different names. From this starting point, the class will be engaging in extended conversations about the story, learning new vocabulary and using their own illustrations or props to retell the story.

In phonics we will be focusing on rhyming words, alliteration and hearing and saying some letter sounds. The children will be encouraged to spot and suggest rhymes, count or clap syllables in a word and recognise words with the same initial sound, such as snake and sunshine.

The children will be using their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. They will be encouraged to engage in making messages for others from their pictures, painting and in their play, recognising and writing some letters from their own name and begin to use groups of letters or letter-like shapes when writing.

Mathematics

The class will be encouraged to investigate number and shape through a variety of activities each day. The children will be consolidating their number knowledge so far and continuing develop their individual counting skills.

We will be focusing on mathematical concepts such as:

- Knowing that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle').
- Showing 'finger numbers' up to 5 and then 10.
- Linking numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral, up to 5 and then 10.
- Experimenting with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals.
- Understanding positions through words alone - for example, "The dog is under the table," - with no pointing.
- Talking about and identifying the patterns around them.
- Extend and create ABAB patterns - stick, leaf, stick, leaf.
- Notice and correct an error in a repeating pattern.

Understanding the World and RE

After our Plants and Flowers topic the children are increasingly aware of the world around them, and we are hearing lots of fascinating observations! Our Animal topic will build on this knowledge as children discover more about growth and different baby animals, small similarities and differences between them. We will look at animals on the farm and wild animals and discuss their habitats, what they eat, how we can care for them and whether they are born live or hatched from eggs. With our focus on relationships this term we will encourage children to think more about the people they are close to and the communities they are part of. We will also be incorporating increasing amounts of technology into the classroom which the children can access, using simple programmable 'bee-bots' in small groups.

RE

This half term we will be thinking about the question of "Why do Christians believe that Jesus is Special?" and reading New Testament stories together. We will be visiting All Saints Church and perform a short Spring time song to help celebrate their 150th Birthday on 29th April.

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!

Music will be taught by Mrs Fenner (Tuesday) and Mrs Dunford (Thursday). Using minibeasts as our theme we will be continuing to develop the children's musical awareness through singing known songs 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 be focusing on practising their listening skills through moving to music and using sung instructions. We will encourage moving to the music in the style of the creatures we are learning about.

Art will be taught by Mrs Adam's (Tuesday) and Miss McDougall and Mrs Dunford (throughout the week). In Art we will also be thinking about how to represent animals through different media. This term we will be exploring animal coverings through a number of art and craft activities. Children will be encouraged to talk about their experiences of animals, what they feel about them and how they can feed that into their artworks. We are encouraging pupils to increasingly use their imagination during free-flow recyclable modelling to create habitats for different animals and more.

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). As the weather is getting warmer please ensure your child comes to school with a labelled sun hat and sun cream is applied before your child arrives at school. **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!**

Please bare with us if items of uniform are missing or have been taken home by another child. The Nursery team will always look for them and aim to get them back to you as soon as possible. We know this can be frustrating but we are trying to teach to the children to be more independent (getting and putting on their own coat etc.) and sometimes items of uniform can get muddled - they all look the same!

Please send your child into school with:

- **a labelled water bottle that they can drink from independently - EVERYDAY**
- **a sun hat**
- **a book bag once a week - WEDNESDAY ONLY**

Lunch - Food and Allergies

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

Another important reminder: **PLEASE ENSURE NO NUTS OR SESAME ARE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL.** We are a nut free school, and we have children with severe nut and sesame allergies. Please remember nuts and sesame are often in cereal bars, pesto, hummus and on/in bread/bagels etc. Always check the label before sending food into school.

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!**

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/>

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 via the class email.

Best wishes

Kerry Dunford, Lisa McDougall, Miss Winter & Miss Miller