



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

Summer 1 April 2024

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and are looking forward to our final term!

The Curriculum

Our main theme for our learning across all areas of the curriculum this half term is DINOSAURS!

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

This half term Reception will be focusing on their relationships with others, for instance with family and friends. We will be sharing our thoughts and feelings about making friends, falling out and being the best friend we can be. We are encouraging the children to think more and more about the impact of their actions on others as they learn, play and tell stories.

Physical Development (PD)

The class will continue to develop their fine and gross motor skills. Handwriting will feature highly this half term with a focus on letter formation. To support this learning at home please encourage your child to form their letters correctly, so that any old habits are corrected, and to use a tripod grip. Please note that this tripod grip differs from the thumb and two finger grip.



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 do gymnastics with Miss McEvoy and with Mr Newman, they will practise rolling and throwing skills. **Children should come into school on Tuesday and Wednesday in their PE kit.**

Communication and Language (C&L)

Reception will be reading lots of exciting fiction and non-fiction 'Dinosaur' books this half term. The children will be using books and the internet to find out facts about dinosaurs. As part of this topic we will do another 'Show and Tell' more information on when this will be sent via email - giving plenty of time.

We are encouraging children to be increasingly mindful of the needs of those listening to them when they speak. We are teaching the class to think about who they are speaking to, and how to keep them engaged as they tell a story or give instructions. Within their speech, we are looking to develop children's ability to express themselves increasingly effectively, for example using past, present and future tenses appropriately, and using added detail in their sentences. If you find your child is using tenses in error, the best way to develop this area of their speech is to simply model the correct sentence back to them, without needing to point out their error.

Literacy

Phonics and Word Reading

We will be consolidating our phonemes and digraphs (incl. split digraphs, which have been added to their sound books with week) learnt so far, and continue to learn some alternate spellings. We will continue learning what vowels are, and the different short and long vowel sounds they can make (e.g. 'a' can make 'a' as in apple or 'ay' as in baby). Once a new alternate spelling is introduced, we will send a sound card home to be added to their Sound

Books. Please continue to practice all the sounds at home daily - this is a really important foundation for their reading. Please also practice their tricky words daily - using the flashcards in games can make this a bit more interesting!

It has been amazing to see the children so enthused with their reading, and the regular practice they are doing at home really is paying off in building this confidence! Thanks for your ongoing support here!

Writing

Our focus book will be "Gigantasaurus" by Jonny Duddle. The children will be using their phonic knowledge to write labels, captions, 'Dinosaur Fact Sheets', and letters to name a few activities. We will also be coming up with little stories for a dinosaur to go on, building our imaginative ideas into a narrative.

We are encouraging children to incorporate some of the 'tricky words' they know from their reading (ones that cannot be sounded out/blended) into their writing. We have introduced what a sentence is, so we will begin experimenting with adding capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in our writing.

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 continuing to subitise within 5 (seeing the amount and knowing how many there without having to count) and utilising 1 more and doubles patterns to help this. Children will continue to develop verbal counting to 20 and beyond, including counting from different starting numbers. We will be exploring the composition of 10 deeply, and making and ordering sets of objects, linking this to their growing understanding of the ordinal number system. We will also be recapping on 2D and 3D shapes including discussing their properties.

Understanding the World

Through our topic we will be learning some dinosaur names and sorting them into herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. We will become 'paleontologists' and excavating fossils and dinosaur bones. We will be talking about when dinosaurs lived and about extinction. If you have any dinosaur books, models or fossils and would like to share them with Reception, please bring them in labelled with your child's name. The class will also be visiting the Natural History Museum to discover more about dinosaurs!

RE

Our RE focus for this half term centres round the question "How did Jesus rescue people?"

Expressive Art and Design

In Music this half term's focus is stories and sounds, using dinosaurs as our inspiration to link in with their class topic. 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 look at the structure of songs and develop their recognition of sung instructions without words.

In Art the class will be using different techniques to create a dinosaur egg. The children will begin with papier-mâché and then move on to marbling and painting techniques to finish.

Reception Routines and Information

Donations

We are very low on spare clothing. If your child has come home in any uniform or spare underwear from school (incl tights and socks please remember to clean and bring back in). Please consider donating old clothing and underwear to Early Years for our spare clothes. Thank you.

School Trips

If you are able to support us but do not have a DBS through school we have a volunteer induction coming up (30/04), where you will then be able to apply for a DBS through our school.

I have emailed parents with a DBS check already regarding our next trip (Natural History Museum on 10/05). Please respond if you are able to come with us. Thank you to those that are going to support us and those that have supported already this year!

Home Learning Arrangements and What Your Child Will Need Each Day

Children's book bags should be brought into school every day, including their reading folder (with reading book and record). 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

Please ensure every item of your child's uniform is clearly labelled, including sun hats! We also spend lots of time outdoors, so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. When the time comes, can I recommend all day sun creams, which are available at Boots etc., as your child should come with sun cream applied for the whole day.

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.

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. 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.

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 want to thank you for all of your support throughout this year! We can't wait for another action packed term together. If you have any questions please do let us know.

Diary Dates

Monday 29th April - All Saints' Church 150 Years Celebration Service - 10:30am at All Saints' Church

Tuesday 30th April - Parent Volunteer Induction at 2pm (please contact office to sign up)

Friday 3rd May - Celebration Worship at 9:15am

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday (school closed)

Wednesday 8th May - Whole Class Photograph

Thursday 9th May - Tennis Session

Friday 10th May - Trip to Natural History Museum

Saturday 11th May - FOSM Spring Ball at 6pm

Friday 24th May - Last day of Summer 1

Monday 3rd June - School reopens for Summer 2

Thank you for your continued support,

Kendal McEvoy and Joanne Lane-Wood