



## St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

### Year 2: Half-Termly Letter to Parents

*Summer 1, April 2024*

Dear Parents,

Welcome back - we hope you all had an enjoyable Easter and feel ready to begin the Summer Term.

We are looking forward to another fun and busy half term. Some highlights of the term include; a visit from our Year 2 pen pals in Tilford, a trip to Richmond Park and Fulham Palace!

#### **School Trips**

Year Two will have several opportunities to learn outside the classroom this half term allowing the children to relate their knowledge gained in the classroom in the real world.

Firstly, Year Two will visit Fulham Palace. This trip links to our text we explored last half-term 'Major Glad and Major Dizzy'. Consolidating our understanding of the history of toys and our learning of materials in science. The children will participate in a workshop about toys and their materials.

In the latter part of the term, the children will enhance their learning on plants with a visit to Holly Lodge. More information to be sent home prior to both of these trips.

Year Two will also have the opportunity to continue to broaden their connection with their pen pals from Tilford and showcase their geographical knowledge of our local area. As this, is a local trip it is covered in the local permission slip signed at the beginning of the year.

#### **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).

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

#### **The Curriculum**

To view the Year 2 curriculum intent please see the Year 2 Curriculum Map, which can be found on our school website here: <http://www.stmarysschoolputney.co.uk/our-curriculum/#curric>

We will be following the content outlined beneath Summer 1.

#### **Vocabulary**

We know from research that vocabulary knowledge and reading comprehension are closely related, and many studies have shown the strong correlation between the two. If we do not understand the meaning of a simple four letter word on a page of a novel, we move away from the author's message and the joy of reading. Understanding the meaning of words involves understanding not only common words but also multiple meanings, nuances and figures of speech.

A strong vocabulary has been linked consistently with overall reading proficiency and the ability to think at higher, more abstract levels. A child's ability to read, speak, write, and think inevitably is influenced by their vocabulary. Words cannot be separated from ideas; after all, we do use words to think. Focusing on vocabulary will therefore help your child write, debate, generate ideas, communicate them clearly, and comprehend.

Research also shows 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 very important. Please focus on this by doing the following:

- Using the reading ideas emailed after progress in learning meetings
- Reading a range of high quality texts with your child,
- Having conversations and playing word games,
- Looking at the target vocabulary sheets sent home at the beginning of every half term and using a range of vocabulary yourself whilst discussing new vocabulary words that they might come across.

#### PE Arrangements

PE lessons will continue to take place every **Tuesday** and **Thursday**. Your child can 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 get changed into.**

**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S PE KIT (AND SUITABLE FOOTWEAR - TRAINERS FOR OUTDOORS) IS IN SCHOOL ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS - LABELLED CLEARLY.**

#### Home Learning

Home learning is- set on **Friday** to be returned/completed by the following **Wednesday** and is structured as followed:

<b>Year Two Home Learning</b>
<b>Spellings:</b> Spelling are tested on Friday. Please ensure that your child brings their spelling card to school on a <b>Friday</b> so that we can mark down their score for you to see how they did and what they might need to work on.
<b>Dictation:</b> Dictation covers the spelling pattern from the previous week to check that your child can recall the spelling rule and not just rote learn for the test. The due dates are written on the cards to help you! 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 do leave in any mistakes that your child might make.
<b>Grammar:</b> reinforcement sheets will be sent home during the week, for the children to complete and to let you know what we have been covering in class. <b>These are for your reference and do not need to be returned.</b>
<b>Handwriting:</b> Handwriting reinforcement is to be completed using the Letter Join online program (login: lj9376 password: home). As the children have very different needs with regard to handwriting, I recommend you go into the Year 2 folder and choose an appropriate letter pattern each week, to suite your child's ability.
<p><b>Reading:</b>  <i>"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book." "When in doubt, go to the library."            J K Rowling</i></p> <p>We will continue to encourage reading every day, by checking reading journals on a Wednesday evening, and rewarding a sticker to children who have read more than 5 times. As a new incentive, children will earn either extra playtime at the end of the term or time in the school library after they receive 4 stickers on their new reading challenge card. The children really enjoy playtime and our new library, I am looking forward to seeing their proud faces when they achieve their chosen award for reading regularly at home.</p> <p>We expect that children will read aloud every night for at least 10 minutes. Inside the front and back covers of the 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 in order to enable us to read with your child at school as well. Every week, all children will read with an adult (whether the class teacher, teaching assistant or a volunteer) either during a guided reading session or individually (depending on your child's reading needs). All children will read with the class teacher every other week during a guided reading session. 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 will not be changed! Books are changed, if requested, on <b>WEDNESDAYS ONLY</b>. We cannot guarantee that books can be changed after this. Any other</p>



comments or feedback regarding your child's reading is always welcome via the online PACT book.

**Maths:** Children to complete assigned online tasks on Mathletics.

#### Diary dates

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024** - Year Two trip to Fulham Palace trip (*packed lunch needed*)

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024** - Parent Volunteer Induction at 2pm

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024** - Visit from our Year 2 pen pals in Tilford (*packed lunch needed*)

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024** - Celebration Worship 9.15am

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024** - Bank Holiday

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024** - FOSM Spring Ball 6pm

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024** - Year 2 Trip to Holly Lodge (*packed lunch needed*)

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024** at 3.20pm - End of Summer Term 1

#### Communication

If you have any queries about the daily routine or what your child is learning, or perhaps to inform us of other matters relating to your child, then do not hesitate to get in touch with any member of the Year 2 team. As always, the best way to do this is using your child's 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 [Class2021@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:Class2021@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/>

Thank you for your continued support in your child's learning. If you have any queries or concerns over the next half term please do let me know.

Kind regards,

Miss McCarthy

Mrs Flavin

(Year 2 Team)