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

Autumn Term 2, November 2025

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. I hope that you all had a fun and restful half term break and that the children are ready for another packed half term!

The Curriculum

Our themes for our learning across all areas of the curriculum this half term are:

'SPACE' and 'CHRISTMAS'

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

This half term Reception will be 'Celebrating Difference.' As a class, we will be thinking about what makes them special and unique. We will look at different families and homes from around the word, celebrating different cultures and customs. If you celebrate any particular, customs or festivals in your family please do send a couple of pictures or details to the class email, so we can talk about these in class! We are continuing to do lots of work on how to play in appropriate ways with friends, and how to solve disputes independently, or with the support of adults. **Health and self-care is a big part of your child's personal development. Please continue to encourage your child to be independent with their self-care, so they can take their coats and jumpers on and off, putting the sleeve the right way round by themselves, and working towards zips and buttons.**

Physical Development (PD)

The class will continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills through a variety of activities. Please encourage your child to make marks, draw and begin to write at home. We will have a real focus on forming your child's correct pencil grip this half term – before a different habit is formed. Almost all children should use a tripod grip (pictured to the right) where the pencil is held between thumb and index finger, lightly resting on the middle finger. Please focus on this whenever your child is writing. **It is important to form this habit now, so your child forms comfortable writing habits for the rest of their life!**

This half term in PE pupils will focus on the Fundamentals. They will recap responding to perform movements learnt on command, send and stop objects in different ways. In addition, they will practise developing balancing and moving around a space in different ways. **Children should continue to come into school on a Tuesday and Friday in their PE kit.**

Communication and Language (C&L)

Our focus book this half term is 'Astro Girl' by Ken Wilson-Max. We have several other stories we will read relating to our Space. Through these stories we encourage using spoken and written language in their play and learning. We will do various activities that will encourage them to talk about picture books using prediction, asking relevant questions and making connections with their own experiences.

Literacy

The class will continue to learn phonemes (single letter sounds – the smallest unit of sound) and begin to learn digraphs (a combination of two letters representing one sound, as in ch and ee) through the Jolly Phonics program. We will continue to send home the sound cards weekly on Friday. As we start to learn digraphs, we may vary the

amount of sounds we learn a week to allow for proper consolidation. Please practise them daily at home, and practice blending sounding words together to make simple words. **Please let us know how they are getting on with their reading at home via the Reading Record**. If you have any queries about reading and phonics please do email.

Mathematics

In our number work we will be continuing to create a secure foundation for the children's mathematics. We follow an 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 practising subitising within 5 (seeing the amount and knowing how many there without having to count) and developing their accuracy with counting and what counting actually means. Children are learning to compare different amounts using the words 'the same', 'equal', 'more', and 'fewer'. We will also introduce the concept of 'wholes' and 'parts' as we explore the composition of numbers within 5. In our shape, space and measure work we will be looking at simple time i.e. sequencing within the day and the week, and exploring simple repeating patterns.

Understanding the World

Through our topic, the class will be finding out about Earth, Sun, Moon, the planets and stars. As well as, learning about space travel.

RE

Our focus for this half term is to learn about and celebrate 'Christmas.' Through the Nativity story the class will learn about the meaning and importance of Christmas.

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.

Music – Ms Fenner (will collect the children on Tuesday mornings from the playground)

Art – Mrs Bosely

Reception Routines and Information

Home Learning Arrangements

We will continue to send home letter formation sheets each week to complete at home. Home learning will come home on a Friday and is due back in on the following Thursday. See the timetable below.

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. **Your child's reading will be really impacted by short, regular practice at home together**, and we really recommend finding a time that works for you as a family for daily reading practice.

Week overview

Monday: Normal Day

Tuesday: Children will have Music, Art and PE in the morning (Miss Tarquini is not in class in the AM)

Wednesday: Normal Day

Thursday: **Reading folders are collected**

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

Friday: New **home learning** will be set and placed in your child's book bag. We do not take home learning sheets in. However, it is very beneficial to your child's learning journey that these are completed the week they are given out to consolidate their learning. Reading folders are given out with added sounds to sound book and books will be changed.

Please ensure every item of your child's uniform is clearly labelled. We also spend lots of time outdoors, so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather!

What Your Child Will Need Each Day

Children's bags should be brought into school every day, including their reading folder (including its contents). This is really helpful for us as we seek to support your child's early reading.
Please make sure you check the bags every time they come home in case there are letters and important information for you. **Children should not bring any toys, books or food with them – we have everything they need.**

Drop Off and Pick Up

The first half-term went very well. **We are now asking that parents do not come on to the playground in the morning and drop off at the gate like the rest of the school.** The children are used to the morning routine and it sometimes causes distress for the children and other children. **Please can we ask for you to arrive promptly between 8:45 and 8:55.**

At the end of the day our dismissal in lines seems to be working well. **Please ensure you move away from the front of the line to another area of the playground as soon as your child has reached you, to enable us to dismiss the other children.** If people stay at the front, it means we cannot safely dismiss the next children, and it slows the process down. If you are next in the line please come forward to the cone. If you need to speak to a member of the Reception team, please wait until the rest of the class have been dismissed. Thank you in advance!

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 Miss Cheryl Payne. Her contact email is: dsl@st-marys-school.putney.wandswoth.sch.uk 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

Communication

If there are important messages e.g. a query for the Reception team, or letting us know about pick up arrangements **please email class2025@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.

Donations

- If you are discarding any **old clothes (including socks and tights),** please consider donating them to the Early Years
- If you have any clean/dry recycling (toilet roll tubes, egg boxes etc.) please feel free to donate and we can use for crafting/junk modelling
- Thank you to those that have already donated, we do ask for a cookery, craft, and gardening donation: Throughout the year, we will be cooking, gardening, making play dough and crafting. **In order to cover the cost of ingredients, which add up very quickly, we would like to ask for a donation of £40 for the year in a clearly labelled envelope.** If you would prefer to donate for each half term in advance, then please do speak to me. Thank you so much in advance.

Trips

We have a trip to the Science Museum (linking to our topic Space) on **Friday 28th November. Due to ratios we do rely on parent support on our trips. If you have a DBS and are able to attend, please let Miss Tarquini know.** If you feel you may be able to come on one trip or more, please do attend the next volunteer induction on Tuesday 18th November, as you will need to obtain a DBS through our school to support. If you have not attended the volunteer induction and don't have a DBS (obtained through us) unfortunately you won't be able to support us on trips.

Key Dates

Tuesday 4th November 2025 at 8.50am – Start of Autumn Term 2
Wednesday 5th November – Individual Pupil Photographs
Monday 10th November – Friday 14th November – Anti Bullying Week
Tuesday 11th November - Armistice Day Worship and 2 minute silence
Friday 14th November – Wicked Workshops
Friday 14th November - Odd Socks Day
Tuesday 18th November at 6pm - Volunteer Induction Meeting
Thursday 27th November – DT Day 2
Friday 28th November – Celebration Worship – lighting of the Christmas Tree
Wednesday 3rd December – Progress in Learning Meetings
Thursday 4th December – Progress in Learning Meetings
Friday 5th December - FOSMS Christmas Fair
Monday 8th December - KS1 & KS2 to watch Christmas show (in school)
Wednesday 10th December - EYFS to watch Christmas show (in school)
Thursday 18th December EYFS/KS1 Nativity at St. Mary's Church
Friday 19th December – Celebration Worship
Friday 19th December – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 19th December - Last Day of Term – Finish 2.30pm

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,

Rebecca Tarquini and Joanne Lane-Wood