



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School and Nursery, 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

Spring Term 1, January 2026

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

A very happy New Year and warm welcome back from the Nursery team! We are so pleased with how the children have returned to Nursery. We would also like to welcome our new children and their families that have joined Nursery this week!

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 TRADITIONAL TALES.

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 'Dreams and Goals.' This will include developing a positive attitude (towards learning), staying motivated when doing something challenging, keep going when something is difficult, working well with others and helping them to achieve their goals.

The class will continue to develop and learn how to look after themselves (Managing Self), going to the toilet independently, putting their coats, hats and gloves on independently and look after their things - these skills take a lot of practice! Please support your child by practicing these skills at home and **sending your child into Nursery in uniform and clothing items that support independence wherever possible**.

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. 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 develop proficiency, control and confidence with their fine motor skills. Nursery will take part in a PE session on Tuesday. Nursery do not need to have a separate PE kit for this.

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! As part of our class focus we will do a lot of learning around traditional tales and retelling stories in various ways. We have started the term by discussing our experiences of the theatre, plays and puppets. Our reading and puppet area (in the classroom) will provide lots of opportunities to retell stories and experiences. You can support your children by talking about any experiences of storytelling, the theatre or puppets they have, so they can share their knowledge in school. To support the children's storytelling, we will be focusing our learning around three different traditional tales. We will be looking in depth at the following traditional tales: Goldilocks and the Three Bears; The Three Little Pigs and The Three Billy Goats Gruff.



Literacy

Through our learning around Traditional Tales (and other high-quality texts) the class will be developing an awareness about the five key concepts of print. The five key concepts of print are: that print has meaning; print can have different purposes; we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom; the names of the different parts of a book and page sequencing. During our phonics sessions the children will be continuing to develop awareness of sounds and rhymes; distinguish between sounds and to remember patterns of sound. We provide the children with many opportunities to write and mark-make in the classroom, a precursor to writing. Depending on the children's starting points, we will be focusing on writing children's names this term, building on their fine motor skills. We will work on the tripod grip when holding a pencil. Please encourage your child to make marks, draw and write their name, in lower case letters (capital letters only at the beginning), at home too!



Mathematics

The children will be encouraged to investigate number and shape through a variety of activities each day. Our number focus this half term will be to make comparisons between different quantities, using words such as "the same", "more", "less" and "fewer". This can be a surprisingly difficult skill, which needs lots of practice! We will continue to focus on one-to-one correspondence and cardinality when counting different amounts of objects. In our Shape, Space and Measure learning we will be using more vocabulary to describe measures, such as size and weight and learning to order objects by size. This will link to our key texts of Goldilocks and The Three Bears and Three Billy Goats Gruff



Understanding the World and RE

We will be continuing to learn about people in our community and the world around us with a variety of resources and activities. Our role play area in the classroom is a fantastic space for pretending and re-enacting roles that we see in our lives and in the media. The children will be encouraged to act out familial roles; characters from books and explore different occupations such as designers, engineers and builders when we focus on texts such as The Three Little Pigs and Three Billy Goats Gruff. Investigating the settings of our key texts will also provide an opportunity to learn about different landscapes and habitats around the world e.g.: the mountains where goats live and the different countries where different species of bears live.



Our half termly RE focus is "Being Special and Where Do We Belong" where we will be looking at Jesus' life through the telling of Bible stories and we will also take a look at 'other religions' of the world. The children will learn about key religious symbols for Christians, Muslims and Hindus. They will find out about why many Christians believe that children are special to God and learn about the story of Jesus and the children.



Expressive Art and Design

We have seen some incredible displays of imagination by the children so far! This half term we will plan imaginative play opportunities and a range of art projects linked to our theme 'Traditional Tales,' such as creating puppets, masks and paintings of characters from the stories. We will give the children time to paint characters and objects, focussing on drawing shapes, then colouring them in to build up their picture. 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, for example tempo and dynamics, in the songs. They will be exploring how to create different sounds with musical instruments and how to express themselves through movement by listening to music.



Safeguarding

If you have a safeguarding concern, our Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is Miss Cheryl Payne. Her contact email is: dsl@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk. 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). Each child will also need a named bag for their peg containing a complete change of clothes inside - spare shoes are often needed too in case of an 'accident' or wet play - please include these too. This should be kept in school at all times and will go home only when it is needed. **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!





We are right in the middle of winter so please ensure your child remembers appropriate clothing; we spend a lot of time outside. Please make sure all hats, gloves and scarves are all clearly labelled. If you have any of Nursery's spare clothing, please return it to us as soon as possible - we are missing a few items from last term - we are completely out of socks and pants!



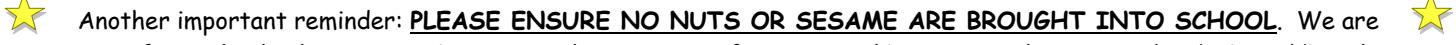
Please send your child into school with:

- a labelled water bottle that they can drink from independently - EVERYDAY
- 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. 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 when visiting the school library. Please make sure the book is kept safely in your child's reading folder with their 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!**
- We have displayed the family photos from last half term in our role-play area. If you are new to St Mary's or have not already sent in a photo please could you send one in via email and we can add it to the display. The children really enjoy looking at and talking about these photos regularly and it promotes a sense of belonging and inclusion.



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: This email is checked once a day.

A message after 9.00am will not be seen so please include the school's attendance@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk to ensure your communication is not missed or phone 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 our class email address is saved so it does not go into your junk folder.



Reminders

- Thank you so much for those who brought in the family photograph and voluntary contribution of £40 for the year's craft, gardening and cooking supplies. It is not too late to give us either of these and they would be really appreciated: any money left over will be used to support the children's learning.
- Applications for Reception class for September 2026 **close on the 15th January**. If your child is turning 4 years old before August 31, 2026, they are due to start Reception in September 2026. Enrolment in our St Mary's Nursery does not automatically mean you have a place in the Reception class for next academic year. You must apply for this on the Wandsworth Council website.
<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/apply-for-a-primary-school-place/>

More information can be found on our school website under Parents/Admissions.



Dates for the Diary

Monday 5th January - INSET DAY

Tuesday 6th January at 8.50am - Start of Spring Term 1

Thursday 15th January - Reception Admissions applications close



