



## 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

Spring 1 - January 2026

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

Welcome back! We are looking forward to the half term ahead.

#### The Curriculum

This half term we will be using the book "Let's All Creep Through Crocodile Creek" by Jonny Lambert as a starting point for our learning. Further to this we will be thinking about journeys more broadly as we learn across all areas of the curriculum.

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

This half term our focus is 'Dreams and Goals.' The class will be doing regular sessions to think further about having a positive attitude, working well with others, helping others to achieve their goals, keeping going even when we find things difficult and working hard to achieve their own goals and dreams.

#### Physical Development (PD)

The class will continue to develop their fine and gross motor skills. They will be developing their pencil control through mark making, fine motor and handwriting activities. Handwriting will continue to be sent home weekly. Please complete this with your children, encouraging them to hold their pencil with a tripod grip and form the letters correctly.

PE lessons will be taught by Miss Tuesday, on a Thursday. This half-term we will be focusing on ball skills. We will start by moving and stopping the ball with our hands, developing accuracy when throwing. Then, move onto dribbling and developing accuracy when kicking a ball.

**This term (and going forward), children should come into school on Thursday in their PE kit.**

#### Communication and Language (C&L)

Our focus book this half term is book "Let's All Creep through Crocodile Creek." Through it we will be looking at some new descriptive vocabulary and encouraging the children to use these new words and phrases in their own play and talk. We will be using our wider theme of journeys to talk about, and describe, new places and act out our journeys there. **If you and your family have been on any recent journeys, big or small, we would love to hear about them! Send an email with some photos and details!**

#### Literacy

The children are whizzing through the different letter sounds. Please continue to use your child's sound book daily to consolidate their learning, as the last graphemes and digraphs are added over this half term. We will then be consolidating the sounds learnt, and applying their phonic knowledge when blending and segmenting. Our focus in writing will be on accurately writing words, doing this through a variety of tasks linked to our focus book. Please practice reading your child's sound cards, tricky word lists and books regularly throughout the week, and **please let us know how they are getting on with their reading at home via the Reading Record Book.** If you have any queries about reading and phonics, please do email Miss Tarquini. Please note that only reading materials should be kept in the reading folder - handwriting sheets and other work should be taken out and kept at home.



### 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 increasing confidence with subitising within 5 (seeing the amount and knowing how many there without having to count) to explore patterns within 5, including patterns showing small groups and 'one more'. We will develop our verbal counting to 20 and beyond, and develop our accuracy when counting or representing numbers between 5 and 10. We will be exploring the composition of 5 in greater detail, and starting to look at composition of numbers within 10 being '5 and a bit'. Finally we will be continuing to use the language of comparison (words 'the same', 'equal', 'more', and 'fewer' (nb not 'less!')), and exploring how to make different groups equal.

### Understanding the World

Through our wider theme we will be focusing on the wider world, and starting to talk about different journeys we may take and different places, learning about lives and cultures that are different from our own. We will use journeys to start talking about maps and what they represent. We will be looking at different modes of transport and including looking at the differences between old and new.

### RE

The class will be learning about being special and thinking about what makes us special. We will be looking at Christianity, Islam and Hinduism for this unit of work.

### 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)*

*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.

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, even before reading books themselves start to come home.**

#### What Your Child Will Need Each Day

**Children's bags should be brought into school every day, including their reading folder. 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.

#### Week overview

Monday: Normal Day

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

Wednesday: Normal Day

Thursday: Children should come to school in their St Mary's **PE kit**, and suitable footwear. Reading folders are collected

Friday: New home learning will be set and placed in your child's book bag. We do not collect 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.

#### 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](mailto: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.**

#### 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-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:dsl@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk).

#### **Key dates**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January - INSET DAY  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 8.50am - Start of Spring Term 1  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January - Spring Term clubs start  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January - Year 6 Cake Sale  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January - Volunteer Induction Evening at 6pm  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January - Year 5 Cake Sale  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> January - Sayers Croft Week  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January - Celebration Worship  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January - Year 4 Cake Sale  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February - DT Day 3  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February - Year 3 Cake Sale  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February - Safer Internet Day  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February - FOSMS Quiz Night  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Anti-Bullying Day 2  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Year 2 Cake Sale  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Last Day of Term

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