



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

Nursery: Half-Termly Letter to Parents

Summer Term 1, April 2026

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

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 ANIMALS.

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 Relationships. This will include: continuing our ongoing learning of how to make friends, trying to solve friendship problems when they occur, help others to feel part of a group and know how to help themselves and others when they feel upset or hurt. As the children are becoming more aware of their own emotions, we are developing starting to develop strategies to manage them together.

The class will continue to develop and learn how to look after themselves (Managing Self), by selecting and using their own resources, asking for help when needed. Being dry and clean during the day and managing their own basic hygiene needs. Showing an awareness and understanding of the effect of what they eat on the body.

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. Nursery will take part in a PE session on Tuesday. Nursery do not need to have a separate PE kit for this. 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 use precision and control to manipulate resources and small equipment. This half term we will be bringing the skills developed in both gross and fine motor activities to develop the children's tripod grip for mark making.

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! The children will take part in circle times with 'Lola,' our listening leopard, who helps to teach the children the vital skills needed for listening. The children will have the opportunity to continue to develop their speaking, listening and understanding in the 'vet' role-play area. They will also be encouraged to develop other role-play scenarios around their own interests, e.g. Police Officers and Paramedics, using props, small world and open-ended resources. There will be daily opportunities for reading and the children will be introduced to a range of fiction books, nonfiction books, poems and

rhymes. These books include 'Not That Pet' by Smriti Halls, 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson, 'Tanka Tank Skunk' by Steve Webb and many, many more!

Literacy

The class will be focusing on our class focus book 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson. We will be delving into the world of animals through the eyes a ladybird. We will look at farm animals and wild animals and baby animals and their different names. From this starting point, the class will be engaging in extended conversations about the story, learning new vocabulary and using their own illustrations or props to retell the story.

In phonics the children will be orally blending and segmenting sounds in words to help build early reading skills. Through fun games and activities, children will practice putting sounds together and breaking them apart, like hearing "d-o-g" and saying "dog."

The children will be using their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. They will be encouraged to engage in making messages for others from their pictures, painting and in their play, recognising and writing some letters from their own name and begin to use groups of letters or letter-like shapes when writing.

Mathematics

The class will be encouraged to investigate number and shape through a variety of activities each day. The children will be consolidating their number knowledge so far and continuing develop their individual counting skills.

We will be focusing on mathematical concepts such as:

- Knowing that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle').
- Showing 'finger numbers' up to 5 and then 10.
- Linking numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral, up to 5 and then 10.
- Experimenting with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals.
- Understanding positions through words alone - for example, "The dog is under the table"
- Talking about and identifying the patterns around them.
- Extend and create ABAB patterns - stick, leaf, stick, leaf.
- Notice and correct an error in a repeating pattern.

Understanding the World and RE

This term, we will be learning about animals that live all over the world and the different habitats they call home. Our Animal topic will help children build on their knowledge as they explore how animals grow, learn about baby animals, and notice small similarities and differences between them. We will look at both farm and wild animals, talk about what they eat, where they live, how we can care for them, and whether they are born live or hatch from eggs. With a focus on relationships, we will also be encouraging children to think about the people they are close to and the communities they belong to. In addition, we will be introducing more technology into the classroom, including working in small groups with simple programmable 'Bee-Bots' to support early coding skills.

Expressive Art and Design

We encourage children to develop their imagination in all areas of the classroom and with a range of resources these include, the role-play area, loose parts, small world, art/craft, water, transient art, construction, with stories, puppets and many more!

Mrs Fenner will teach the class music every Tuesday. Using animals as our theme 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 when singing the songs, for example tempo and dynamics. We will also be focusing on practising their listening skills through moving to music and using sung instructions. We will encourage moving to the music in the style of the animals we are learning about.

Art will be taught by Ms Bosley (Tuesday) and Mrs Davidson and Miss McDougall (throughout the week). In Art we will also be thinking about how to represent animals through different media. This term we will be exploring animal coverings through a number of art and craft activities. Children will be encouraged to talk about their experiences of animals, what they feel about them and how they can feed that into their artworks. We are encouraging pupils to increasingly use their imagination during free-flow recyclable modelling to create habitats for different animals and more.

Nursery Trip

Nursery will be going on a school trip to Bockett's Farm on Wednesday 13th April. This will be a wonderful opportunity for your child to explore a real farm environment, meet a range of animals, and learn more about how to care for them. The trip will support our current learning about pets and animals in a fun and engaging way. Children will leave school at 9:00am and return in time for the normal 3:15pm pick-up. If your child attends Nursery part-time, they are warmly invited to join us for the full day on the trip. If you have a current school DBS and would like to volunteer to support us on the trip, please email the school or speak to a member of the Nursery team.

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 Mr James Phillips. Contact email for any concerns can be sent to:

info@st-marys-school.putney.wandsworth.sch.uk

WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS FOR NURSERY

Uniform can be ordered and collected from the office (or school website). If the weather starts to get warmer please ensure your child comes to school with a labelled sun hat and sun cream is applied before your child arrives at school. **It is very important that ALL of your child's clothes are labelled, especially jumpers/cardigans, sun hats and coats! They all look the same to us!**

Please send your child into school with:

- **a labelled water bottle that they can drink from independently - EVERYDAY**
- **a sun hat (when needed)**
- **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 or other sweets 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, and we have children with severe nut and sesame allergies. 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 on a Wednesday. Your child will receive a folder and a 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!**

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: these will be**

checked once a day. A message after this should be emailed or phoned into 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 this email address is saved so it does not go into your junk folder, and **please note any messages each night, as it may be about school the next day.**

Diary Dates

- Thursday 30th April - Drama4All workshop
- Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday (school closed)
- Wednesday 13th May - School Trip to Bocketts Farm

We are really looking forward to an exciting half term! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to us or to email via the class email.

Best wishes

Alison Davidson, Lisa McDougall, Marisa Winter & Marzena Cyz