



**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**

**Summer 1 April 2026**

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

Welcome back ☺ We hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and are looking forward to our final term!

**The Curriculum**

This half term the main theme for our learning across all areas of the curriculum is 'Celebrating Self'. We will be using the books *So Much* by Trish Cooke and *The Night Pirates* by Peter Harris as our focus.

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

This half term Reception will be focusing on their relationships with others, for instance with family and friends. We will be sharing our thoughts and feelings about making friends, falling out and being the best friend we can be. We are encouraging the children to think more and more about the impact of their actions on others as they learn, play and tell stories.

**Physical Development (PD)**

The class will continue to develop their fine and gross motor skills. Handwriting will feature highly this half term with a focus on letter formation. To support this learning at home please encourage your child to form their letters correctly, so that any old habits are corrected, and to use a tripod grip. Please note that this tripod grip differs from the thumb and two finger grip.



The PE lesson will be taught by Miss Tarquini, on a Thursday. This half-term we will focus on Dance. During this unit students will develop their expressive movements through the topics of 'everyday life.' They will explore travel movements and have the opportunity to copy, repeat and remember actions.

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

Reception will be reading a range of exciting fiction and non-fiction books this half term, linked to the themes of families and pirates. They will be learning new vocabulary surrounding these topics and building on their existing language skills.

We are encouraging children to be increasingly mindful of the needs of those listening to them when they speak. We are teaching the class to think about who they are speaking to, and how to keep them engaged as they tell a story or give instructions. Within their speech, we are looking to develop children's ability to express themselves increasingly effectively, for example using past, present and future tenses appropriately, and using added detail in their sentences. If you find your child is using tenses in error, the best way to develop this area of their speech is to simply model the correct sentence back to them, without needing to point out their error.

### Literacy

#### Phonics and Word Reading

This half term, we will be consolidating the phonemes, digraphs and alternative sounds that the children have learned so far. This will help ensure that all pupils develop a secure understanding, not only in identifying these sounds but also in recognising them within words.

**Please continue to practice all the sounds at home daily - this is a really important foundation for their reading. Please also practice their tricky words daily - using the flashcards in games can make this a bit more interesting!**

It has been amazing to see the children so enthused with their reading, and the regular practice they are doing at home really is paying off in building this confidence! Thanks for your ongoing support here!

#### Writing

Our focus texts will be *So Much!* by Trish Cooke and *The Night Pirates* by Peter Harris. By the end of our *So Much!* unit, pupils will be rewriting part of the story to include their own personal experiences. At the end of *The Night Pirates* unit, pupils will be creating a mini book about how to be a pirate.

We are encouraging children to incorporate some of the 'tricky words' they know from their reading (ones that cannot be sounded out/blended) into their writing. We have introduced what a sentence is, so we will begin experimenting with adding capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in our writing.

#### 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 continuing to subitise within 6 (seeing the amount and knowing how many there without having to count) and utilising 1 more/1 less, and doubles patterns to help this. Children will continue to develop verbal counting to 20 and beyond, including counting from different starting numbers. We will be exploring the composition of 10 deeply, and making and ordering sets of objects, linking this to their growing understanding of the ordinal number system. We will continue to practise odd and even numbers. We will also be recapping on 2D and 3D shapes including discussing their properties.

#### Understanding the World

This half term, our theme will be 'Celebrating Self', alongside our exploration of different families and pirates. Through stories and discussions, children will explore similarities and differences between themselves and others, learning about a range of family structures, experiences and ways of life. Our pirate theme will further develop their curiosity about the wider world, encouraging imagination, questioning and an understanding of people and communities beyond their own immediate environment.

### RE

Our RE focus for this half term centres around the question "Which places are special and why?" We will look at special places for Muslims and Christians. The class will reflect upon places that are special in their own lives and find out about places that are holy and important for many Christians and Muslims. We will find out about Churches, Mosques and their key features.

### 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.

*Art - Mrs. Bosely*

*Music - Ms. Fenner (will collect the children on Tuesday mornings)*

*PE will also continue with our PE teacher.*

## Reception Routines and Information

### School Trips

This half term our trip will be to the Natural History Museum where the children will take part in a workshop and get to explore some of the museum. If you are able to support us, but do not have a DBS through school we have a volunteer induction coming up. Please email myself or the office to find out when the next induction will be taking place.

### Home Learning Arrangements and What Your Child Will Need Each Day

Children's book bags should be brought into school every day, including their reading folder (with reading book and record). This is really helpful for us as we seek to support your child's early reading.

Children should not bring any jewellery, toys, books or food with them - we have everything they need. Please note that only reading materials should be kept in the reading folder - handwriting sheets and other work should be separate.

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. **Reading at home is incredibly important for the children's early learning - short, but frequent, sessions are most recommended.**

### Week overview

Monday: Normal Day

Tuesday: Children will have Music 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 for books to be changed (comments must be made by Thursday AM)

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

**Please ensure every item of your child's uniform is clearly labelled, including sun hats!** We also spend lots of time outdoors, so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. When the time comes, can I recommend all day sun creams, which are available at Boots etc., as your child should come with sun cream applied for the whole day.

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

[info@st-marys-school.putney.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-marys-school.putney.wandsworth.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](mailto:MASH@wandsworth.gov.uk)

#### Key Dates

13<sup>th</sup> April - Term Starts

24<sup>th</sup> April - Whole School Celebration Worship 9.15am

24<sup>th</sup> April - Y6 Cake Sale

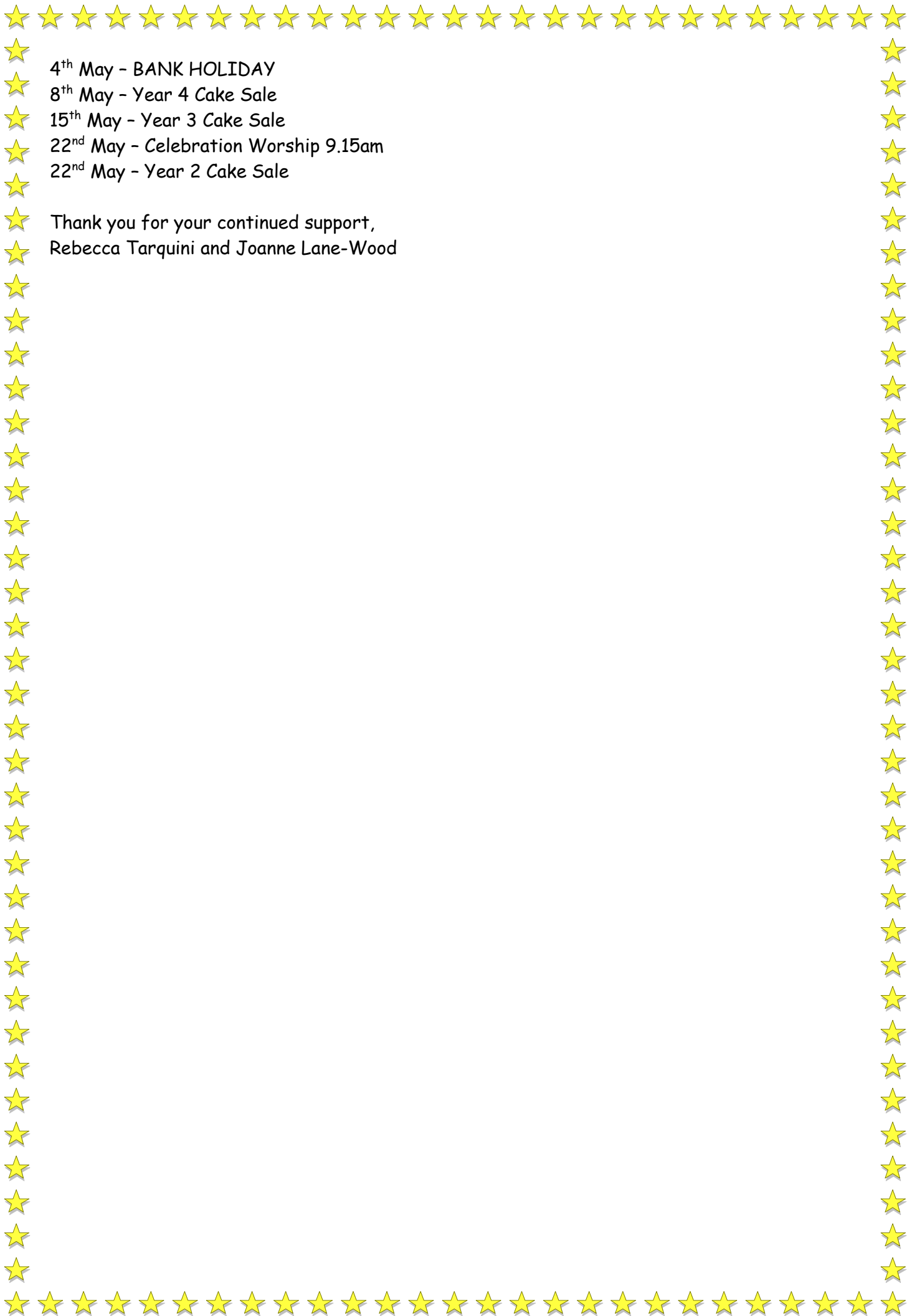
27<sup>th</sup> April - Year 2 and 3 Spring Concert - 9am

29<sup>th</sup> April - KS2 Eucharist at Church

29<sup>th</sup> April - Year 4 swimming begins

30<sup>th</sup> April - Drama4All workshop - N, R, 1, 2

1<sup>st</sup> May - Year 5 Cake Sale



4<sup>th</sup> May - BANK HOLIDAY

8<sup>th</sup> May - Year 4 Cake Sale

15<sup>th</sup> May - Year 3 Cake Sale

22<sup>nd</sup> May - Celebration Worship 9.15am

22<sup>nd</sup> May - Year 2 Cake Sale

Thank you for your continued support,  
Rebecca Tarquini and Joanne Lane-Wood