



**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 2 June 2026**

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

Welcome back! I cannot quite believe we have reached our last half term together in Reception!

**The Curriculum**

This half term the main theme for our learning across all areas of the curriculum is 'Family and Friends'. We will be using the books 'Oi Frog' by Kes Gray and 'Hairy Macleary' by Lynley Dodd as our focus.

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

This half term the class will be thinking about how they have grown and changed throughout their lives. They will develop ways to express how they feel when change happens and know who to ask for help if they are worried about change. In particular, we start to think about our transition into Year 1!

**Physical Development (PD)**

The class will further develop their fine and gross motor skills. Handwriting continues to be a focus. 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 (see picture on handwriting folder - pencil held between thumb and index finger, with the middle finger only resting underneath). 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 different games to develop these skills: (physical) running, changing, direction, throwing, catching, striking, (social) communication, co-operation, turn-taking, respecting and helping others.

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

During this term, students will join in small group, class, and one-to-one discussions, sharing their own ideas using newly learned vocabulary. They explain why things might happen by drawing on language from stories, non-fiction texts, rhymes, and poems. They also express their ideas and feelings in full sentences, using past, present, and future tenses as well as conjunctions, with support and modelling from their teacher.

**Literacy**

**Phonics and Reading**

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

Please continue to practise all the sounds at home each day, as this provides a really important foundation for reading. We also encourage you to practise tricky words daily - using flashcards and turning them into games can make learning even more engaging and enjoyable!

It has been wonderful to see the children so enthusiastic about their reading, and the regular practice taking place at home is really helping to build their confidence. Thank you for your continued support.

### Writing

The children will be using their imagination and phonic knowledge to write simple sentences and complete 'extended' pieces of writing based around our focus book, leading up to retelling the story for ourselves towards the end of the half term. In the meantime, we will be making predictions in writing, recording our own thoughts and ideas, writing party invitations, and using speech bubbles to show our ideas. Through this work, we will be reinforcing what a sentence is and remembering the capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We are also working on incorporating some of the 'tricky words' we know how to read into our writing, using prompts in the classroom.

### 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 consolidate their understanding of concepts previously taught through working in a variety of contexts and with different numbers. We will be introducing a new mathematical resource called a **rekenrek** to the children, which they will continue to use regularly during Key Stage One. We will use these to reinforce and practice our subitising, comparison, automatic recall of simple number facts, and exploration of number patterns.

### Understanding the World

Students will be learning about the lives of the people around them and the important roles they play in society. They are exploring similarities and differences between the past and present through their own experiences and stories read in class. Through different settings and discussions, the children are developing their understanding of the past and how life is changing over time.

### RE

Our RE focus for this half term centres round the question "Which stories are special and why?" - Within this question we will look at stories that are special to Christians, Muslims and Jewish People.

### 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)

### **EARLY LEARNING GOALS**

As you may be aware, as the end of the Reception year each child is assessed against 'Early Learning Goal' (ELG) statements in each of the seven areas of learning, and their progress noted as either 'Expected' (your child meets the early learning goal in this area, and is at the expected standard for Reception), or 'Emerging' (your child is working towards this ELG but has not currently met this expected standard).

You will receive all your child's ELG assessments in their end of year report. This information is, of course, picked up by their class teacher in Year 1, and used to support their learning going forward.

### **RECEPTION ROUTINES AND INFORMATION**

**Children's school bags should be brought into school every day, including their reading folder.** Children should not bring any toys, books or food with them - we have everything they need. **Please keep only the reading materials within the zipped reading folder.**

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 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.

### SUMMER WEATHER AND UNIFORM

As the weather gets warmer please ensure you apply sun cream and your child brings a **sun hat or cap** (labelled with their name) to school. We spend a lot of time outside and it can get very hot. **Please apply sun cream on your child before coming to school.** We are not allowed to apply additional sun cream for the children so I recommend the 'all day' protection sun creams that are readily available. These have worked very well in previous years.

**Please ensure every item of your child's uniform is clearly labelled, including hats and cardigans!**

#### Donations

As it gets towards the end of the year, if you have any old uniform (even underwear, socks and shoes) you no longer use would be very much appreciated for our spare sets. Alternatively, any donations in September.

#### 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 Alisha McCarthy.

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)

### DIARY DATES

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 8.50am - Start of the Summer Term 2

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026 - Nursery, Reception and Year 6 Photos

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026 - Celebration Worship at 9.15am

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026 - Early Year's Stay and Play afternoon

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026 - EYFS/KS1 Sports Day

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026 - FOSMS Summer Fair

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026 - Celebration Worship at 9.15am

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 2.30pm - Last Day of Term

Once again, a huge thanks for your continued support and encouragement throughout this year! If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to us or to email me via the class email.

Rebecca Tarquini and Joanne Lane-Wood