



Term: Autumn 1 2020  
Year group: Nursery

## Information for parents

*"We come together at the start of a new school year. This year we come together in a new norm. We may be anxious and worried. We may be tentative and unsure. We may be just wanting to get back to doing what we do. Whatever we are feeling-today is a new start. A new day. A new beginning. And we come to this new start, this new day, this new beginning in the presence of God, our Loving Father"*

*(taken from the Prayer of Blessing for the beginning the new school year; SM Staff Inset Day, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020)*

Dear Parents and carers,

We extend a huge welcome to all parents new and old as we begin the 2020/2021 academic year at St Mary's R.C. Primary School. We wish it was under different circumstances but unfortunately, this is the situation we find ourselves in. We hope that you managed to have a relatively relaxing summer, spending time with friends and family following the easing of Lockdown.

The staff are obviously delighted to be back doing the job they love but no doubt, there is some nervousness about the months ahead. It has been wonderful to see the school full again after having reduced numbers since March and very quickly children are adjusting their known routines and behaviours.

As we commence the new academic year, we are reminded of our Federation's Mission Statement, which is based on the parable of 'The Mustard Seed and Yeast' (Matthew 13.31)

*"A man took a grain of mustard seed, and sowed it in his field. Indeed, the seed is smaller than all seeds but when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches."*

*We feel that at the heart of this parable is the notion of 'growth', that wonderful things can come from the smallest or humblest of beginnings and that each and every one of our children have God given talents that require nurturing and celebrating. In turn, these gifts from God can inspire and motivate others to succeed and to reach their full potential.*

Please support your child in their educational, emotional and spiritual growth by developing a 'Growth Mindset'. The 8 learning behaviours we focus on at school are:

- \*Being curious (curiosity)
- \*Having a go (perseverance)
- \*Co-operating
- \*Enjoying learning
- \*Improving
- \*Using your imagination (creativity)
- \*Concentrating
- \*Not giving up (resilience)

We very much look forward to an enjoyable and rewarding year ahead at St Mary's, working closely together with our wider school community, our parish and our partner school, Sacred Heart.

Welcome to Nursery!

I am excited about the first term of the academic year and welcoming your child to the school. We aim to guide and support each child as they begin their learning journey. I am planning a wonderful term of learning focussed the topic 'All About Me' which is all about getting to know each other. The children will be developing their skills across all areas as they learn through structured play. If you have any questions please let me know. I'm really looking forward to getting to know the children and yourselves.

Thank you.

Mrs Ostrowski

-Here is a brief outline of what your child will be learning about this half term:

Subject	Coverage	Suggestions as to how you can support learning at home
Literacy	<p>This term we will be reading a range of stories that celebrate the family. Children will have the opportunity to draw their families and talk about their families to their friends. The children will have the opportunity to roleplay using puppets.</p> <p>Some of the books we will be reading are: We're Going on a Bear Hunt, The Blue Balloon and So Much.</p>	<p>You can help your child by asking them to tell you about the stories they have heard at nursery.</p> <p>You can point out their name and logos such as Cbeebies, Tesco!</p>
Maths	<p>We will be singing counting number songs and rhymes. Children will be recognising and matching numbers to quantity. We will practise counting using a range of objects.</p>	<p>You can help your child by counting objects at home,</p>

	Children will be watching the 'Numberblocks' series, learning about the numbers 1 - 5 and finding out all about them. The episodes will be linked with activities in the classroom, allowing the children to explore a range of mathematical concepts.	counting steps. You can use size words, see who is the tallest in the family.
RE	This term we will be learning each other's names and the names of people in our school who help to look after us. We will be learning about God and how he knows each one of us by name.	You can help your child by talking about celebrations that you do together as a family.
Understanding of the World	We will exploring the topic 'All about me' and use a range of material and resources to create and learn about family and the relations with the wider community.	You can encourage your child to talk about their family. Look at pictures of Grandmas, Grandads, aunties and uncles.
Communication and Language	We will be exploring the class topic 'All About Me' and using a range of materials and resources to talk about our families and all the people who are important to us. We will be looking at our bodies and our faces, describing ourselves and talking about our likes and dislikes. We will be looking at our similarities and differences and we will be asking for family photos to display in the classroom.	Encourage your child to talk about the things that they like and dislike?
PSED	<p>During this first term of nursery we focus on the children feeling safe and confident so they can explore and play independently. We spend time teaching ground rules and expected behaviours and how we can all be respectful towards each other.</p> <p>We will be learning about our family, children will be building friendships and learning to work as a team. We will be engaging in circle time activities and games. We will also talk about what makes us special.</p>	Ask your child to tell you the names of their friends. What do they like to play together? Can they tell you the rules in nursery?

Physical Development	This term we will be learning to become more independent and to negotiate space safely. We will have the opportunity to develop their large motor skills. They will have the opportunity to move freely with a range of equipment such as the bunny hoppers, bicycles and hula hoops. We will be developing our fine motor skills, holding pencils, using tweezers and other tools.	Help your child by developing their finger strength, encourage them to peg things and do simple finger movements.
Expressive Art and Design	We will express ourselves by using a range of technology such as computers and toys where children will explore ways to make them work. Children will have the opportunity to express themselves through art, music, dance, dressing up and role play stories. We will explore the environment by looking at natural resources and junk modelling. The children will be playing instruments and learning new songs.	Ask your child to sing you some of the new songs they have been learning.
PATHS	We will be meeting the PATHS characters and introducing ourselves to them. We will be using our feelings chart to check how we feel and name our feelings.	Encourage your child to use words to describe how they are feeling.

-All teachers at St Mary's Primary School follow the homework policy.  
In Nursery we will follow this homework timetable:

Owing to the Covid-19 epidemic and the need to social distance, unfortunately there will be no assemblies or nativities in the Autumn term.

### Classroom Reminders

Please, make sure your child is wearing the correct Early Years uniform.

ENSURE THAT EVERY ITEM IS CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

All children must wear a coat to school, a cardigan is not enough. We play outside no matter the weather. 😊

Check that your child has a spare set of clothing hanging on their peg.

Reading books are changed on Mondays.

There are no before and after clubs this half term (Autumn 1) as this would result in the mixing of 'bubbles'. This will be reviewed at half term.

School staff understand how difficult it is for parents not to be allowed on the premises or to have the chance to speak to their child's teacher. Class teachers are at the doors/gates at the start and end of the day and quick messages can be passed on then. However, if parents have an issue that needs greater time please email via the office using [admin@st-marys-pri.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-pri.wandsworth.sch.uk) and the message will be forwarded to the relevant staff.

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Kind regards,

Mrs Liz Ostrowski  
Class Teacher

Miss Molly Porter  
Ms Belinda Boyce  
Ms Melissa Traynor  
Support Staff

# Reading with your child

A few minutes a day is all it takes to build key reading skills. Here are a few ways to build a better reader from birth to age five.

1. Create rituals and read together everyday.

2. Snuggle up close with a book.

4. Share different kinds of books.

3. Talk about the pictures and ask questions.

5. Read favourite books again and again.



“Good Readers are made on the lap of a parent.”