



Term: Autumn 1 2020  
Year group: Reception

### 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 Reception!

I am excited about the first term of the academic year and welcoming your child to the school. This first year of your child's formal education is an important one. We aim to guide and support each child as they begin their learning journey. I am planning a wonderful term of learning focussed on 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 and short, more formal teaching sessions. If you have any questions please let me know. It would be best if you could make time to talk in the afternoons when you are picking up your child as we are all keen and enthusiastic to get started on our busy schedule in the mornings. I'm really looking forward to getting to know the children and yourselves.

-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	Recognising and writing our names. Differentiating and say the initial sound of words. Attach sounds to letters of the alphabet – s,a,t,m,i,p,n,o,d,e,b,c,k,g,f,h,l,r,u,j. Talk about stories we have read as a class. Texts: You be You by Linda Krants. The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas. Hair Love by Matthew Cherry. All Kinds of People by Emma Damon.	Point out letters and sounds from your child's name when you see them in the environment. Read stories together, talk about the pictures. Focus on letter sounds NOT names. Say /ssss/ NOT <ess>; say /t/ NOT <tee>.
Maths	Counting with 1 to 1 correspondence. Recognise numerals 1-5 and on to 6-10. Match quantity to numerals. Name 2D shapes.	Play counting games. Draw attention to numerals in the environment. Draw attention to shape sin the environment, naming them.
RE	Understand that God loves and knows each of us and we are all special. Celebrating a birthday. The Nativity and Christmas. Learning the Sign of the Cross and our school daily prayers.	Ask your child if they can remember the school prayers. Look out for special projects on the Class Dojo.

Understanding of the World	Differences and similarities between ourselves and others. Parts of the human body. How the brain works. Black History Month – October: focussing on Black Britons (school wide).	Welcome and talk about any questions your child has. Read books and look at pictures. Talk about your family, extended family, your heritage.
Communication and Language	Following instructions. Responding appropriately to questions and conversation with full sentences. Build vocabulary.	Ask for and expect a request from your child before giving them what they want or need. Eg "Can I have a drink please?" instead of "drink?" or "I'm thirsty."
PSED	Getting to know each other and making friends. Become familiar with new school routines and behaviour expectations. Build confidence and wellbeing.	Read stories about friends and different relationships.
Physical Development	Developing an effective pencil grip and use it with control over shape, line and form. Independent self-care skills. Run with control over speed and direction.	Have pencils and markers available. Praise and encourage your child's efforts to be independent.
Expressive Art and Design	Explore a number of different painting techniques and methods. Phonics craft; making craft skeletons; painting self-portraits; create a family tree/portrait.	Talk about colours, shapes and lines in the environment. Point out beautiful or interesting items and objects in nature. Keep an eye on Class dojo for messages about different projects that are going on at school.
PATHS	Introduction to the program and puppet friends – turtle, dog, hedgehog and duck. Positive self-esteem and positive thinking. Being a good friend.	Provide a role model of positive thinking and a happy attitude for your children to see. Label your own emotions and tell your children what you do to calm down or how you make good choices.

-All teachers at St Mary's Primary School follow the homework policy.

In year Reception we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
Across curriculum – maths, handwriting, literacy, understanding the world.	Thursday	Tuesday	Read the instructions and make sure your child understands. Talk and discuss. Support your child to complete the tasks independently.

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

PE is an essential part of the curriculum. Reception does not have a PE kit to wear as the school EYFS uniform is blue jogging bottoms or shorts and is already appropriate for PE activities.

PE days for Year Reception is Friday.

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on a Friday. Your child can wear sports trainers on this day.

### Classroom Reminders

Please, make sure your child is wearing the correct Early Years uniform. These items can be seen on the school website or in your initial enrolment pack letters.

ENSURE THAT EVERY ITEM IS CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME (including shoes).

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.

I will be using dojo points to reward good behaviour choices and hard work. As each child achieves 10 points they will receive a small treasure from a treasure box called a 'Dip in the Dark'. Please help your child to understand their emotional response to getting or not receiving a treasure, explaining that trying your best and making good choices will be rewarding and everyone will get points at different times for different things.

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.

Kind regards,  
Miss McDougall  
Miss Sam and Miss Joan

# 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.

3. Talk about the pictures and ask questions.



4. Share different kinds of books.

5. Read favourite books again and again.

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