



Term: Autumn 2 2020
Year group: Reception

Information for parents

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back to school after the half term break. We do hope the children are feeling rested and refreshed and ready for the second half of the autumn term.

Despite the national lockdown and a re-instating of harsher restrictions and social distancing, St Mary's will continue to keep school as safe and secure for our children as possible, reinforcing our Catholic ethos in all that we do, prioritising teaching and learning, maintaining classroom routines and behaviour expectations and reinforcing the importance of nurturing and maintaining good personal, social and emotional health.

As mentioned in the newsletter before half term, Parent/Teacher consultations will take place over the phone on the **3rd December 2020**. School will close early at lunchtime on the 3rd December to allow teachers to contact parents by phone to discuss their children's progress. More details will follow regarding this.

This year Advent preparations and festive celebrations in school will need to be different to previous years, sadly owing to Covid 19 restrictions placed upon us all. However please be assured that plans are already in the making and further details will follow in the coming weeks.

Advent waiting is hopeful.

As we all move, with an understandable sense of uncertainty and unease, into a second National lockdown, and as we go deeper into winter and into the shortened days and longer nights, we must remind ourselves of John's Gospel, which tells us,

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).

God has already given us the one who loves, redeems, and heals the world. Indeed, for us, unlike for Mary and Joseph, Jesus has already come into the world.

As we prepare for the season of Advent, we bring with it the experience of the entire Church community, who has encountered the living Christ before us to give us **HOPE**. God's light and love always shine through whatever kinds of darkness that we might encounter: illness, grief, injustice or worries about work or relationships. So, we wait with hope. We wait with one another and not alone.

Let us be hopeful and let us look forward to better times ahead.

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.

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

Welcome back!

I hope you all enjoyed a break with your families and friends and that the children have returned happily to school for an exciting term. Our topic of Learning is 'Real Life Superheroes' this term. We will be learning about occupations such as firefighters, police and ambulance workers. 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(ren) as we are all keen and enthusiastic to get started on our busy schedule in the mornings.

Miss McDougall

Subject	Coverage	Suggestions as to how you can support learning at home
Literacy	Begin to form letters correctly. Reading and writing CVC words and then short captions and labels. Key texts this term: Supertato by Sue Hendra Superworm by Julia Donaldson Non-fiction books about the people who help us in the community.	Support your child to complete their literacy homework. Point out the people you see on your way to school who help us – bus driver, shop worker etc. Ask your child to recognise any sounds and words in the book you read at home.
Maths	Ordering numbers 1-10. Adding two groups together to find a total. Ordering items by length and height.	Play counting games. Draw attention to numerals in the environment. Use words 'all together', 'plus' and 'add' when talking about two small groups of things.
RE	Learning about Jesus' birthday. We will talk about Advent being a time of 'getting ready' and waiting. The Nativity Story – books, role play, songs and art activities.	Discuss your own family practises at Christmas time. Make or buy an Advent calendar to countdown with your children at home.

Understanding of the World	Exploring the characteristics, equipment and occupations of firefighters, police officers and ambulance workers. Learning about the function of uniforms. How people help us and how we can help others.	Go for a walk past the fire station. Read books or online books about community workers and the 'real life superheroes' in our community. Make a card for someone who helps you and your family.
Communication and Language	Small group role play – acting out characters from books and exploring different occupations. Responding appropriately to questions and conversation with full sentences. Build vocabulary.	Tell your child what new words mean, introducing them to more vocabulary. Read books. Expect a verbal response when you ask your child a question or if they make a request.
PSED	Children will be encouraged to challenge themselves to be brave and to speak in a clear voice in front of the class.	Play games that help your child to recognise a sense of achievement. Tell your children about a time you felt proud of yourself for being brave.
Physical Development	Variety of small motor activities and games to develop pencil control. PE – mostly indoors this term due to the weather.	Support your child with their homework. Use pencils, markers, crayons to draw pictures about a book you have read together or a picture of what you did on the weekend.
Expressive Art and Design	Using our focus text Supertato as inspiration to build with recyclable materials. Explore musical instruments and how we sound can change. Participate in a variety of craft and painting experiences.	Please bring in all your <u>clean</u> recycling boxes, containers, egg cartons, lids etc. Your junk could be our modelling treasure!
PATHS	What is a friend and what do they do? What can we do when we feel sad, angry, excited, happy etc. Stories, art and discussions that encourage positive self esteem.	Encourage appropriate expression of your child's emotions – labelling their feelings for them and then encourage them to talk about how they are feeling.

-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. We are lucky enough to have specialist teachers and coaches. Please send your child in wearing their PE kit on their PE day and they will wear it for the whole day. Any absences from PE need to be explained in a letter.

PE day for Year Reception is Friday.

Please remember your child should be wearing only small stud earrings, No hoop earring of any size are permitted to be worn by your child. These earrings should be removed on a Friday.

There are no before and after clubs this half term (Autumn 2) as this would result in the mixing of 'bubbles'. This will be reviewed at Christmas.

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 and the message will be forwarded to the relevant staff.

Kind regards,

Miss McDougall

Miss Sam, Miss Joan and Miss Fifi.