



Term: Autumn 2 2020

Year group: Nursery

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:

Festivals, Colour and Light

Subject	Coverage	Suggestions as to how you can support learning at home
Communication, Language and Literacy	We will be finding out how to listen and respond to a range of stories and information books linked to our topic 'Festivals, colour and Light.' We will be looking at how stories are structured and we will be thinking about retelling events from familiar stories.	When you read with your child, ask them to tell you about the characters in the stories. Stop before the end of the book – what do they think will happen next?
Maths	This term we will continue to learn about number and watching Numberblocks. We will be comparing quantities and looking at how numbers are made up. We will be looking at shape and colour in our local environment.	Count objects with your child, take a group of objects up to 5 and see how many other ways you can make that number. For example $5 = 1+4$ $0+5$ $2+3$
RE	We will be continuing to follow the Come and See RE curriculum. This term we are focusing on how we celebrate birthdays and Advent as we lead up to Christmas.	You can help your child by talking about festivals and events that they have celebrated.

Understanding the world	We will be learning about a colour every week. They will be looking at pictures of different celebrations and festivals and taking part in Christmas celebrations.	Point out different colours that you see around your home, talk about favourite colours.
Physical	We will be continuing to move in different ways and use our climbing frame independently. The children will be writing their names in different colours each week.	Help your child to write their name, in lower case letters.
EAD	We have transformed our role play area into a 'Sensory Den' – a calm place to listen to music, feel different textures and smell some lovely scents! We will continue to represent our own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role play and stories.	Ask your child to teach you a song that they have learnt at school. Dance together to a favourite song.
PATHS	We will be continuing to learn about our friends Twiggle, Daphne, Henrietta and Duke, learning how to be a good friend.	Ask your child to tell you about their friends.

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

In the Nursery we will follow this homework timetable:

Reading	Reading books will be changed on Mondays . Please read with your child and write any comments in their reading record.
Homework books	There are activities for your child to do at home in their home learning book and letter formation each week. These are changed on Fridays .

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

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.

Supporting your child with writing at home

Early writing activities

1. Encourage children to look for print in their environment –road signs, food packets, shops, catalogues etc.
2. Try activities to develop fine motor skills e.g. cutting, using playdough, using tweezers, using clothes pegs, tracing.
3. Use a chalkboard to write family messages on.
4. Make labels for things around the house.
5. Write a shopping list – real or imaginary! Or any other sort of list.
6. Letter formation – practise forming letters using paint, in sand, using playdough or pastry.
7. Let your child write their own Christmas cards or birthday cards to people.
8. Use magnetic letters – your child can leave a message on the fridge.
9. Encourage and praise early squiggles and marks which show your child is beginning to understand writing.

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment with your child's class teacher at any time should you wish to discuss progress, attainment or welfare or if you have any questions or worries. We all want happy children who are ready to learn and happy families ready to support good learning!

Class Teacher: Mrs Liz Ostrowski

Support Staff: Miss Molly Porter
Ms Belinda Boyce
Ms Melissa Traynor