EYFS (NURSERY & RECEPTION) CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2

6th November 2025

Dear families,

Welcome back to St Mary’s. It has been lovely to see how much more confidently the children come into Nursery and Reception, find what they need and get started with their day. Thank you for helping them settle into these routines. This half term, we will build on that growing independence by giving children more opportunities to explain their ideas, make choices in their play and work together.

Nursery — *Dinosaur Roar!*

Nursery will step into the world of dinosaurs through *Dinosaur Roar!*, dinosaur information books, songs and imaginative play. Children will look closely at fossils, learn that dinosaurs lived a very long time ago and talk about how different dinosaurs might have moved. We will use words such as *enormous, tiny, stomp* and *roar*, then give children opportunities to use them as they build dinosaur habitats, make footprints and invent stories with small-world figures.

Reception — *Stories and Celebrations*

Reception began the half term with the story of **Rama and Sita** as part of our learning about Diwali. Children have been getting to know the characters, putting key events in order and using props and pictures to retell the story. We will build on this through *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* and the Nativity story. Children will join in with repeated phrases, talk about what they notice and explain what happened *first, next* and *finally*.

Religious Education and Catholic Life

Across EYFS, our RE focus is **Branch 2 — Prophecy and Promise**. Children will learn that every person is loved by God and that **Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas**. In Nursery, children will hear about Mary and the birth of Jesus through pictures, songs, prayer and role play. In Reception, children will hear how Mary said yes to God, learn about Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem and use the crib to retell the story, including the visit of the shepherds. We will introduce and revisit words such as *Advent, Mary, Bethlehem, shepherd* and *crib* so children can use them when talking about what they have learnt.





Communication, Language and Literacy

In **Nursery**, children will listen to stories in small groups, join in with repeated words and phrases and answer simple *who* and *what* questions. Through rhymes and sound games, they will clap the beats in words and listen for words that start with the same sound. They will also explore lines, circles and zigzags using a range of tools and materials, and adults will encourage them to talk about what their marks and drawings mean.

In **Reception**, children will talk about characters and settings, predict what might happen next and retell familiar stories in order. In daily **Little Wandle phonics**, they will learn more Phase 2 sounds and tricky words, blend sounds to read words and reread short sentences to build confidence. Alongside handwriting practice, children will use the sounds they know to write labels, captions and short sentences. We will continue encouraging children to **say what they want to write aloud first**, then help them leave spaces between words and begin to use capital letters and full stops.



Maths

In **Nursery**, children will count objects to five, saying one number for each object and using the last number to tell us how many there are altogether. They will match small groups to written numbers and explore how two smaller groups can make a larger one. Dinosaur play will give us opportunities to compare which dinosaur is *longer, shorter, taller* or *heavier*, explore squares and rectangles, and use words such as *behind* and *next to*.

In **Reception**, **Mastering Number** will help children build a secure understanding of four and five. They will recognise small groups without counting each item, show the same number using fingers, objects and dot patterns, and explore how numbers are made up of smaller parts. For example, they might show five as three and two or as four and one. Children will also compare groups, find one more and one less, make repeating patterns and compare shapes, lengths and heights through practical play.

Understanding the World

In **Nursery**, children will explore the idea that dinosaurs lived long ago and examine fossils, textures and materials. We will notice what happens outdoors as autumn turns to winter and talk about how families mark special occasions, including Diwali and Christmas.

In **Reception**, children will explore light and colour, compare family traditions and talk about how people celebrate in different ways. They will use simple maps to show familiar places and describe

where things are. Outdoors, we will look for seasonal changes and encourage children to explain what they have noticed.

Personal, Social and Physical Development

Nursery children will continue to grow more independent in familiar routines. Adults will help them name feelings, ask for help, share resources and wait for a turn. Dinosaur movements will give children a reason to stomp, crawl, stretch, jump and balance, while activities such as dough, threading and drawing will strengthen their hands and help them use tools with growing control.

In **Reception**, children will practise recognising and talking about their feelings and finding ways to settle when upset. We will encourage them to manage familiar routines more independently and work cooperatively with others. Running, jumping, climbing and ball games will build coordination. Cutting, drawing and handwriting will help children develop more precise movements and use tools safely.

Expressive Arts, Music and Imaginative Play

In **Nursery**, children will explore colour and texture through dinosaur footprint printing, collage and model-making. They will use instruments, clapping and movement to explore *loud and quiet* and *fast and slow*, then use these sounds and movements in their dinosaur stories.

In **Reception**, children will mix colours, create repeating prints and join materials to make models and artwork inspired by celebrations. In music, they will practise keeping a steady beat, copying simple rhythms and singing together as we learn our Nativity songs. Role play and small-world figures will help children revisit stories and act them out with friends.

Keeping Safe with Technology

Across Nursery and Reception, we will continue to reinforce the message from **Smartie the Penguin**. If children see something on a screen that worries or confuses them, they should **stop and tell a trusted adult**.

Supporting Learning at Home

Share a favourite story and ask your child what happened first and what came next. You can do this in any language your family speaks. Nursery children can practise counting up to five by pairing socks or counting spoons as you set the table. Reception children might enjoy showing five fingers in different ways or finding two groups of toys that make five altogether. Reception families can also revisit the

sounds and reading materials sent home, following the Little Wandle guidance from school. Everyday tasks such as putting on a coat, looking after belongings or helping to tidy up give children opportunities to practise being independent.

Thank you for continuing to support the children’s learning at home. We look forward to celebrating their progress with you and welcoming you to our Nativity performances.

General Information

On **Wednesday 11 November**, we will mark **Remembrance Day**. We will talk with the children about why people wear poppies, take a quiet moment to remember those who died in wars and think about how we can show peace and kindness at school.

We look forward to sharing our Nativity performances with families. Please save these dates.

- **Nursery Nativity — Wednesday 2 December 2026**
- **Reception Nativity — Thursday 3 December 2026**

Have a lovely weekend,
The EYFS Team