



ST. MARY MAGDALENE
C OF E SCHOOL
PENINSULA CAMPUS

*Excellence through innovation,
founded in faith since 1840.*

FEDERATION EXECUTIVE CO-HEADTEACHERS

Mrs Claire Harrison and Mrs Victoria Wainwright

HEADTEACHER

Mrs Diane Savva-Brown

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

Mrs Dayo Ajayi

Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Reception at St Mary Magdalene C of E School. I hope you have had a wonderful Summer break and are ready to embark on a whole new adventure with your child. My name is Mrs Nutton and I will be teaching your child. I am looking forward to getting to know your child and working with you to support your child in achieving their full potential.

Our learning this term will be focusing on '**All About Me**' as well as '**Celebrations**' after the October half term. These topics will enable us to discover the children's interests and how they learn best. We will be covering all areas of learning through our topics. In the first half of the term, we will be thinking about ourselves, who we are, what we can do and how we have changed. As the nights get longer, in the second half term, we will be thinking about celebrations and festivals. In RE we will be thinking about '**Who I am and where do I belong**' and '**Why is Christmas special for Christians?**'

Tapestry

In Reception, we use *Tapestry* to record and share your child's learning journey. This system allows staff to take photographs, videos, and write observations of the activities your child completes at school.

As parents and carers, you will have secure access to this information using your email address and password, so you can celebrate your child's achievements at home too. You should have already received an email to activate your account – please check your spam folder if it hasn't arrived. If you still haven't received it, please speak to me.

We also encourage you to share your child's learning experiences from home by uploading photos to *Tapestry*. These might include exciting activities or special moments at the weekend with family and friends. We will use these contributions, so children can share and celebrate their experiences with their classmates.

Communicating with the teacher

As you can imagine, morning drop-off and home times are very busy for teachers, and we want to give our full attention to the children. This means we may not always be able to stop for a conversation each day. If you have any queries or concerns, you are welcome to wait until all of the children have been dismissed if this is not possible, please make an appointment at the office if you wish to have a longer or more private discussion.

PE

PE takes place on Wednesdays. It is essential that your child wears their full PE kit to school every Wednesday, starting from 23rd September. Please ensure your child wears a white T-shirt, black/dark shorts, jogging bottoms as well as trainers or plimsolls and a tracksuit top. Please note that for your own child's welfare jewellery including hooped earrings are not to be worn. Only studs are allowed as stated in the school prospectus.

Please make sure that all of your child's belongings, including their water bottles, hats, gloves and scarves are clearly labelled with your child's name. This will help any missing items come back to your child quickly if they are lost or misplaced.

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1 Hendon Street
London
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Homework & Phonics

In Reception, there is a strong focus on phonics and supporting your child in learning to read. We follow the *Little Wandle* programme, introducing new sounds each week that your child will gradually use to read words. Your child will receive a homework sheet each Friday to complete. Please take some time to support your child to complete it.

On the homework sheet, you will find a link to the *Little Wandle* parents' information page, which contains further guidance on supporting your child with phonics. We have also provided an information sheet with advice on how to pronounce the sounds correctly and helpful phrases to support letter formation.

Reading books

Your child's reading books will be changed every Wednesday, from the 30th September. Your child will receive a phonics book that matches the sounds they are learning in school. Your child will also bring home a pleasure book for you to read to them and share together.

Your child will collect a tick on their reading bookmark for every book they read. Once they have collected 12 ticks, they will be awarded a special reading certificate during collective worship.

We recommend that you listen to your child read at least three times a week, as this will greatly support their reading and writing development. Each time you read with your child, please remember to sign their reading record. If a record is not signed, we will assume that the book has not been read.

If a reading record is lost, there will be a replacement cost of £1. Lost or damaged school reading books will incur a replacement cost of £6.

Pick up and drop off

Please encourage your child to be independent by walking into class on their own from the Reception gate. We are teaching them important routines, such as hanging up their coat and bag by themselves and sitting on the carpet ready for learning. Your support with this will help them build confidence and independence – thank you!

I look forward to working with you and your child and helping them get the most from their first term in school.

Kind regards

Mrs Nutton

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