



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

Tuesday 13th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the spring term! We hope you had a joyful and restful holiday season. It has been amazing to see the incredible progress your children have made since September and how they've grown in confidence and independence within our Reception classes.

Together, we are committed to building on the strong foundation established during the autumn term to further support your child's learning and development.

Over the past term, the children have become familiar with class routines, expectations, and their learning environment. They've developed positive relationships with peers and staff, while gaining valuable skills in phonics, literacy, maths, and beyond. This term, we'll focus on deepening those skills, ensuring every child is challenged and supported to reach their full potential.

Phonics remains a key focus, and we are delighted to see many children confidently recognising phonemes (sounds) and more securely blending them into words. This term, we'll introduce more complex phonemes, such as digraphs and trigraphs, and continue to support handwriting and letter formation. Please continue to encourage your child to practise these skills at home.

Working towards accelerated progress in phonics and literacy, our classes are writing words and phrases with increased independence. This term, we'll guide them in developing their sentence-building skills and storytelling abilities through shared reading and creative writing tasks. In maths, the children's understanding of numbers has grown remarkably. Building on their knowledge of counting and comparing quantities, we'll now focus on developing number sense and problem-solving with practical resources to strengthen reasoning and mathematical vocabulary.

A few reminders:

PE

PE takes place on a Wednesday, and it is a wonderful opportunity for the children to build confidence, coordination, and teamwork through physical activity.

To help your child feel comfortable and ready to take part, please support them in wearing their PE kit to school on this day where possible. A suitable kit includes a white T-shirt, dark shorts or jogging bottoms, and trainers or plimsolls, along with a tracksuit top during colder weather.

As the weather becomes cooler, we kindly ask that all clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name. This helps items find their way back home if they are misplaced, something that happens very easily in a busy Reception setting!

For safety, we also ask that children wear small stud earrings only.

Early Morning Reading

We are pleased to continue our Early Morning Reading sessions on Tuesdays from 8.40-8.55am. These sessions provide a calm and positive start to the day and are a lovely opportunity to share a book together.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join their child for this session. If you would like to take part, please add your name to the sign-up sheet located on the classroom door leading to the playground.

We really value your involvement in supporting your child's love of reading and appreciate you taking the time to join us when you can.

Reading Books

Reading books will continue to be changed on **Fridays**. We really appreciate the time you spend reading with your child, even short, regular sessions make a big difference. When you read together, please add a quick note or signature in your child's reading record so we can celebrate their efforts in school.

To help keep books safe on their journey between home and school, we kindly ask that reading books are brought in inside a book bag or backpack wherever possible.

School reading books and records are shared resources used by many children. In the event that a book or reading record is lost or significantly damaged, a small contribution towards replacement may be requested (£1 for a reading record and £6 for a reading book). We completely understand that accidents happen and appreciate your support in helping us care for these materials.

We encourage you to stay connected with us through regular updates on your child's progress via Tapestry and other school communications. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's learning, please do not hesitate to speak with the class teachers. Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's learning journey. We are excited to see their growth this term!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Kuiper

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