



ST. MARY MAGDALENE

C OF E SCHOOL

WOOLWICH 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 Ranj Badesha

Monday 12th January 2026

Happy New Year and Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

We were so happy to welcome the children in Monet Class back after a lovely Christmas holiday. They have settled back into their routines beautifully and are, as always, full of excitement and enthusiasm for learning. We hope you all had a restful winter break and are looking forward to the brighter spring days ahead.

Please take a moment to read this newsletter, which shares what we will be learning in Nursery this term, along with some helpful ideas for supporting learning at home.

Amazing Animals and Traditional Tales: Throughout the term, the children will explore the fascinating world of animals and the habitats they live in. Through animal songs and a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, they will learn to name different animals and their babies, describe their features, understand how they adapt to their environments, recognise how animals help us, and learn how to care for them.

In the second half of the term, the children will enjoy reading and exploring much-loved traditional tales such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears and The Three Little Pigs. They will be encouraged to take an active part in the stories, helping them to develop new vocabulary and deepen their understanding of the texts.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development: Children will continue to develop a strong sense of themselves as unique and valued individuals. We will explore ways to keep our bodies healthy and active, including eating well, practising good personal hygiene, and staying physically active. Children will be encouraged to try new activities, face challenges positively, and build perseverance and a growth mindset. We will model and practise using positive language to support and encourage one another, helping children to set simple goals and begin to plan how to achieve them.

Literacy: To immerse the children in our animal theme during the first half of the term, our focus story will be *The Little Red Hen*. We will share the story together, introduce new vocabulary related to farm animals, and use the text to develop storytelling skills. A range of activities will be available in both the indoor and outdoor environments to support children in developing the language needed to create and re-enact stories.

In Spring 2, our focus book will be *The Gingerbread Man*. Children will take part in activities such as book-making and using the puppet theatre to further develop their imagination and storytelling abilities. Opportunities for mark-making will be available daily in both the indoor and outdoor provision, and children will be encouraged to practise tracing and writing the letters of their name each day.

Reading: We kindly ask that you try to read with your child every day, using either the book sent home from Nursery or books of your own choice. We also encourage regular visits to the local library to expose children to a wide range of literature. A variety of books are available in Nursery, and you are welcome to change your child's book as often as you wish. We would love for you to join us for **Early Bird Reading** every Friday morning between 8:40 am and 9:00 am. Children will also learn to recognise and read their own name through daily self-registration.

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Physical Development: PE and dance sessions take place throughout the week. Children will be encouraged to be physically active every day during their time in Nursery, using a range of equipment including bikes, scooters and climbing apparatus. Please ensure your child wears suitable footwear, such as trainers with Velcro fastenings. For safety reasons, hooped earrings should not be worn; only stud earrings are permitted, as outlined in the school prospectus.

Mathematics: Children will continue to practise counting accurately up to 5. They will take part in a range of activities to develop their understanding of number, including counting, recognising, matching and representing numbers accurately. There will be a particular focus on numbers **3, 4, and 5**, with children learning to subitise (the ability to recognise how many items there are without counting them one by one) and explore how these numbers are made. Later in the term, children will be learning how to describe position and routes using cars, toys and small world characters. The children will begin to learn the correct positional language to describe how these objects are travelling and where, such as 'under the bridge.'

Expressive Arts & Design: Children will have access to a wide range of art materials, allowing them to explore painting, drawing, collage, and creating 3D models of their favourite farm, jungle or forest animals. They will be supported in selecting and using resources effectively to add detail and different effects to their work to create a zebra or sheep skin, for example.

How You Can Support Learning at Home:

- Talk to your child about their five senses (hearing, smelling, seeing, touching, and tasting) and explore these through everyday experiences, such as tasting new foods or going for a walk to listen to natural sounds.
- Share non-fiction books about animals and talk about interesting facts together.
- Display numbers **1-5** at home (for example, on the fridge or in your child's bedroom) and encourage your child to recognise and represent them.
- Support your child in practising tracing their name to help develop early letter formation skills.

We are working with the children to write their names. Names should be written with a capital letter at the start and all other letters should be lower case. To help, it will be best if they are holding their pencil near the tip as shown in Fig 4.

Diagrams showing developing pencil grasp



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4

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Gentle Reminders

1. Please ensure that your child's coat and all personal belongings are clearly labelled.
2. We kindly ask that all books sent home from Nursery are looked after carefully. Please remember to return your child's book by Thursday so it can be changed in time for the weekend.
3. Spring half-term: Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026.
4. Trip to Marion Wilson Park Farm: Planned for Spring 2 (date to be confirmed). As Nursery operates on a 1:1 ratio, one parent or adult will be required to accompany each child.
5. Please support your child in developing independence by encouraging them to zip up their own coat. You may wish to start the zip and then allow your child to complete it. Well done to the children who are already able to do this independently!
6. We are happy to celebrate your child's birthday with a delicious treat but please remember it is a nut-free school - ingredients with NO NUTS please.

Please remember Nursery session times:

- Part-time: 8:40 am - 11:40 am
- Full-time: 8:40 am - 3:10 pm

We truly value your continued support with your child's learning at home and are always available to speak with you should you have any questions, concerns, or matters you wish to discuss.

Kind regards,

Mrs Turner, Mrs Rao and Mrs Jailany

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