



# 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

15<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome you and your children into St Mary Magdalene CofE Primary School! It is a pleasure to see the children settle smoothly into their Reception class, ready to embark on an exciting year of learning and growth.

We start the new academic year in Reception by establishing positive relationships with the children and supporting them to develop their confidence and independence in the new setting. This is an opportunity to get to know the children and help them settle into the new routines and learn class and school rules and expectations. The children will have ample opportunities to play and explore, building friendships and bonding with staff members.

A very busy year is ahead of us and learning this year will be extremely varied to ensure effective engagement from the children as well as meeting their individual needs. The class teacher will carry out direct teaching on the carpet of phonics, maths, literacy, RE and other subjects. In addition, she will set up indoor and outdoor provisions with different activities to supplement children's learning through play and movement. And when children start developing their reading and writing skills, one-to-one and group teaching will take place by the class teacher and support staff to help consolidate the learning.

We'll start the first half of the Autumn term with our topic 'All About Me'. Through reading books, class discussions and activities children will be inspired to think about themselves and their uniqueness. By looking at their baby photos they'll talk about how they have changed and what qualities and skills they have developed. This will extend to other areas of learning, like art for example where they'll explore media to create self-portraits. In the second half of the term our topic will be 'Lights and Festivals' a very festive time of the year filled with special celebrations like Diwali and Christmas. We'll immerse the children in experiences to deepen their understanding of the differences between communities and their traditions.

Phonics is taught every day; children learn a new sound and practise saying and forming it. We encourage children to practise writing their names and the alphabets at home. This is to reinforce their letter formation and strengthen hand and finger muscles. We will start sending two books home every week. Please listen to your child read their 'Little Wandle' phonics book daily to support them develop fluency and comprehension. And please share the children book by reading to them and engaging them in short discussions to support their language development and understanding. Please ensure that your child looks after their books and always returns them to school in excellent condition. Any lost or damaged books will unfortunately need to be replaced, and the cost will be passed on to the parents. We also kindly ask that water bottles are not placed in the same bag as the books, as leaks can cause damage.

Reading a focus book and engaging with it is vital to our literacy sessions. Children will develop vocabulary and sentence structure to re-tell stories, describe characters and invent their own simple stories. As they build their repertoire of sounds, children will start writing simple words and short phrases.

In Maths children will explore different things identifying qualities and sorting into groups. We will then spend a good time exploring numbers and counting. Children will learn about the composition of numbers and comparing quantities. This is along with developing their mathematical language and reasoning skills.

We encourage you to stay connected with us by checking the notices and messages. And please do not hesitate to speak to the teaching staff if you have any queries. We thank you very much for your continued support!

Yours Sincerely,  
Mrs Bdeir and the Reception Class Team

ST MARY MAGDALENE

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