



# St. Margaret's

## C of E Primary School

*"I am able to do all things through the one who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13*

*Faith, Hope, Love*

12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Newsletter 8

Dear Parents

Happy New Year, I hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas break and managed to spend some quality time with family and friends. It has been lovely to see the children back in school this week and listen to their holiday news.

This half term is much shorter but is still a busy one, please do check the diary dates below for key information.

Have a lovely weekend.

*Anita Delaney*

### Collective Worship

Within worship this week, the children have thought about the value of Hope. The hope that they feel at the start of a new year and the hope that the birth of Jesus brought to the world. We have thought about Mary and Joseph's escape to Egypt and how we can still the busyness of our lives to make room for God.

*Lord Jesus,  
May the light of your love  
Burn brightly in our hearts today  
And bless us into your presence and peace  
Amen*

## **Volunteers in school**

We are still looking for volunteers to support in school particularly with hearing readers and running the school library. If you would be interested in volunteering, then please request an application pack from the school office. Miss Kitchen will then organise the relevant checks. If you are not able to help on a regular basis then please come forwards anyway as we often need volunteers to support with special days, trips and visits and other occasional events. Please note that we do ask that parents volunteer in a class that is not their child's own.

## **Additional INSET Day**

There will be an additional INSET Day on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 which means that the pupils will not return to school after half term until Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## **Naming uniform**

Please could you ensure that all of your child's clothes are named including gloves, hats and scarves. It is very difficult to return them to the right person without this information.

## **Movement on school property**

Please can I ask that parents refrain from walking under the barrier and across the school car park. Please walk a little further and use the pedestrian gate – this will ensure that everyone stays safe. Thankyou for your support with this.

## **Coffee with Mrs Ashton**

In her role as Family Support Worker, Mrs Ashton will be hosting a coffee morning on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January from 9am – 10am. This is open to all parents to discuss any concerns that they may have regarding family and home so please do pop in for a chat.

## **Attendance – the facts!**

We are very lucky at St Margaret's that attendance of pupils is very high so thankyou for supporting with this. We do, however, have a small number of pupils who are collected early on many occasions or dropped late in the morning, and this does have a significant impact on their learning. Where possible please make appointments outside of the school day. In order for us to authorise these we must see evidence of the appointment – this can be a letter / screen shot / text message. Please talk to the office if you are unsure.

The DfE are doing a lot of work around supporting good attendance in school, please read the following information which shows the impact that poor attendance can have on your child's academic achievement and mental health and well being: Please see below information from the DfE regarding absence from school:

The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- In 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.
- 36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs compared with 84% of regular attenders.

Attendance is also important for more than just attainment as regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.

## **Wear it Red Day**

We are delighted this year to support the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity's Wear It Red Day 2024. This will take place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Children may come to school wearing red and make a small donation to support this incredibly worthwhile charity.

### **Clubs**

We still have spaces available for a number of our Spring clubs, please contact the office for further information about these or book directly on Arbor.

### **Viking visit to school**

As a prize for our participation in Walk to School week, we have won a Theatre in Education experience of Hiking with a Viking. The Viking will arrive at school in time to greet the children so please prepare your child for this if you think that they may find this unsettling and will then deliver an assembly during the morning.

### **Art Club**

Please see the attached letter with information about an Art Club that is being run for children in Years 4, 5 and 6. Some children attended a taster session on Thursday evening, and these were just some of the wonderful pictures that they produced. Please contact the organisers directly if this is something that you think your child might be interested in.



The organisers will be holding an online information session on **Tuesday 16th Jan from 6.30-7.00pm** for any interested parents - not just the ones who attended the taster session.

Below are the details:

Topic: ART CLUB INFORMATION SESSION including next steps

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5231163332?pwd=VXpSVTRNR2Q1d2dFTTVqY0xibVZVdz09>

Meeting ID: 523 116 3332

Passcode: 223178

### **Snowy or Inclement Weather**

We will always endeavour to keep school open however, should there be any disruption due to inclement weather, we will inform you by posting information on the website and sending updates via Arbor. Please also listen to local news for any updates. Let's hope that this isn't needed!

### **Nursery Places September 2024**

We still have Nursery places available for September 2024. Please contact the school office for an application pack if you are interested.

The closing date for Reception admission in September 2024 is 15th January.

### **Winning House Autumn 2023**

Congratulations to the yellow house who were the highest scoring house at the end of last term. There will be an own clothes day for children in yellow house on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January as their reward.

### **Measles**

There has been an increased number of cases of Measles across the West Midlands. Please read the following information and do not send your child to school if they have suspected measles.

#### **What is measles?**

Measles is a very infectious virus, which spreads quickly if people have not had the MMR vaccine. Two doses of MMR are needed for maximum protection. A version of MMR is available which does NOT contain pork ingredients. Measles can cause severe illness, especially in certain at-risk groups including babies and small children, pregnant women, and people with weak immunity. Complications could mean hospitalisation, permanent disability, and in rare cases, it can even cause death.

#### **What are the symptoms of measles?**

- cold-like symptoms such as runny or blocked nose, sneezing and cough
- red, sore watery eyes
- high temperature (fever) which may reach around 40OC / 104OF
- a non-itchy, red-brown rash usually appears 3-5 days later (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body), spots may be raised and join to form blotchy patches – which may be harder to see on darker skin tones

#### **What do I do if my child has suspected measles?**

If children have symptoms of measles they **must** stay at home please do not bring any child with measles symptoms to the setting.

Key dates for your diary:

Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Coffee morning with Mrs Ashton 9am – 10am
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Viking visit (Walk to School week prize)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Non-uniform day for Yellow House
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Young Voices
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Wear it Red Day Break Up
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET Day
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Coffee morning Mrs Ashton 9am – 10am (appointment based)
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 Personal Best Festival
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	9:10am Family Service led by EYFS / Key Stage 1
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent's Evening
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent's Evening
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Easter Service St Margaret's Church led by Year 4 No afternoon Kidzone