



# 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***

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

### **Newsletter 12**

Dear Parents,

It doesn't seem possible that we are at the end of another term next week. The year really is flying by and it is so lovely to see the progress that has been made by the children during this time. The past two weeks have been particularly busy with some really exciting learning opportunities for the children. Thankyou for supporting with costumes for World Book Day and Science Day, the children really looked spectacular.

Sadly, I missed World Book Day and the Family Service this year as I was in Liverpool working with the other headteachers from BDMAT and the Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust (LDST) looking at the development of Spirituality across the curriculum. This was a really useful 2 days which looked particularly at how important it is to give the children the time to pause, reflect and wonder throughout the day. Hopefully we can all take some time to do this over the Easter holidays.

Next week is another busy week as we enjoy our Easter Celebrations, remembering the Christian message that Jesus died on the cross to save us and then rose again. I am sure that many of you will have things planned for the Easter period and wish you a wonderful Easter break when it finally comes. Have lovely weekend.

Kind regards

*Anita Delaney*

### **Collective Worship**

This week we have focussed on the value of 'Love' and shared stories of 'The Last Supper', 'The Crucifixion' and 'The Resurrection'. The children have explored where 'Love' is shown in each of these stories and also found examples of this around school. Please do explore this value further at home with your child.

### **Science Week**

This week is British Science Week! The week kicked off with Mrs Smee kindly bringing her greyhound Tessa into school so that children could learn about why greyhounds are so aerodynamic and fast. Tessa and the children had a fantastic time. On Wednesday, the whole school took part in scientific investigations all day based around the theme of 'Time.' This included testing the best way to clean pennies, testing whether liquids are acids or alkali base using red cabbage and making towers out of marshmallows and toothpicks. We had lots of fun and asked lots of scientific questions along the way. We have also been enjoying looking at everybody's 'Selfies with Science' from home. Special thanks also to Mr McKenna who came into talk to children about his job using food waste to produce energy! A great week has been had by all. Thanks to Mrs Chaplin for organising this special event.

### **The Olympic Obstacle Relay 'Leap into an Olympic Leap Year'**

The children and staff have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in their Olympic challenge despite the rather wet weather. Thankyou to everyone who has raised money for this to go towards the PA target.

### **Year Group News**

Following on from some parent feedback, each Newsletter will feature some specific information about what each year group has been focussing on. Read on to find out some of the exciting things that your children have done in school since they have been back:

#### **Nursery**

*We have been busy bees in Nursery this term with lots of fun Easter craft, assemblies and of course World Book Day! All of the Nursery teachers are so proud of the children for their beautiful singing in the Family Service and how brave those who spoke were! In English, we have looked at the book 'Jasper's Beanstalk' and have learnt some Makaton signs to re-tell the story all together. In Phonics, we have really tried to focus on our oral blending for example: t-a-p your feet on the ground, h-i-t the floor and r-u-b your belly, have a go at these at home as it really helps with their fluency. Our hard work is paying off with our plants! We can see some stalks growing quite tall and we have loved measuring them to see which is the tallest.*

*It was so lovely to chat with you all at Parents Evening, we loved being able to share all of the children's successes. Over the holidays, please encourage your child to zip their coat up, putting their shoes on and taking them off and taking their jumpers off independently. The children have worked hard to do these all on their own and we don't want them to lose those great skills.*

*Thanks again for all your support, Miss Porter*

#### **Reception**

*Well, where do we start? Reception are having the most exciting time with our Minibeasts and Megabeasts topic!*

*Last week we had 5 caterpillars delivered to our classroom and they have already grown so much!! We can't wait to see them grow even more!*

*We have been busy planting seeds to grow an Easter Garden, they are growing almost as tall as all of us!*

*In Maths, we have been thinking about the composition of numbers. We are continuing to use our stem sentences \_\_\_ is a part and \_\_\_ is a part and the whole is \_\_\_\_.*

*This week started in a very unexpected, but extremely exciting way! We found dinosaur footprints in the classroom and were left photographs of a T-Rex and his family in our classroom! The T-rex was exploring our construction area as well as looking at our phonics display...!*

*We have been to the computer room to design our own dinosaur and then write a sentence about it.*

*I wonder what next week will hold!*

### **Year 1**

*What a fun and busy two weeks Year One have had!*

*In English, the children have been learning about the features of a letter e.g. a greeting, including a question, remembering to include punctuation and a closing farewell. They have been receiving many letters from the character 'Beegu' and have written their own.*

*In Maths, the children have been learning how they can use a number line to subtract one number from another.*

*The children continue to be enthralled with our 'Moon Zoom' topic and have been so excited to share their Space projects with us. It has been a joy to see their home learning projects, this has created some lovely speaking and listening opportunities for the children to share their creations with their class. The children were very proud to show their space projects to Mrs Delaney and have earned house points for their hard work. They have motivated and inspired one another. We have seen rockets, planet mobiles, pictures of the solar system and projects about the moon!*

*In History, the children have been learning about Apollo 11 and have started to learn about the Eagle. They know all about the Apollo 11 space crew. They can talk about Neil Armstrong, pilot Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin and Micheal Collins. They have been creating fact files about Neil Armstrong and have started to learn about the British Astronaut Tim Peake.*

*We continue to work hard on our phonic skills, and we are learning new graphemes (the written sound), digraphs (two letters that make one sound) and trigraphs (three letters that make one sound). The children will have homework over the coming weeks which will help them prepare for the year one phonics screening check. All the Year One staff are passionate about the children's progress in phonics and reading, reading is the gateway to learning in all subjects. Please continue to give your child as many opportunities as you can to read at home.*

*The children enjoyed a fun filled World Book Day and dressing up as characters which have inspired them. They all looked fabulous once again yesterday for 'Science Day' and thoroughly delighted in experiencing six different Science experiments. They rotated around each classroom and experienced a different Science experiment with each class teacher.*

*Thank you to parents for your continued support with homework, space projects and dress-up days! Keep up the great work Year One children and parents, the children are learning lots and having so much fun 😊*

### **Year 2**

*Year Two have been amazing over the past 2 weeks! They continue to try their best in all lessons, and we are very proud of them!*

*In Maths, we have been exploring 2d shapes, their properties and how to draw them. We know the definition of 'vertices' and 'sides' when it comes to shapes and should know our sentence stem: 'Vertices are where two sides meet'.*

*Children have done very well in remembering what they had learnt from Year 1 including the names of shapes. Please feel free to use the following videos:*

*How to draw 2d shapes: <https://vimeo.com/506146175>*

*How to count sides on 2d shapes: <https://vimeo.com/506146067>*

*In English, we have been learning to write a 'Journey Tale' with a focus on how to open a story. We have been reading the story 'The Lonely Beast' and exploring the setting, story map and the story structure. This week, children made their Opening Toolkit which included sentence openers, expanded noun phrases and dialogue! They have done a fantastic job and are starting to now plan their own hot task.*

*In Science, we have been looking at local habitats and living things! In Year 2, we have collected some lovely, wriggly creatures and are reminding ourselves what living things need in order to stay alive. Children have been making sure our worms have enough food, water, shelter, oxygen and the right temperature. Excellent work children! 😊*

*We hope you have a lovely weekend!*

### **Year 3**

*Year Three have had another very busy week this week! They are such a fabulous class and work so hard in everything they do!*

*In Maths, we have started our topic on Length and Perimeter.*

*Here is a link to the White Rose home learning section:*

*<https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/home-learning?year=year-3-new&term=spring>*

*Please also continue to help your children practise their 3,4 and 8 times tables. It is really important that they can say the whole equation ( $1 \times 3 = 3$ ,  $2 \times 3 = 6$ ) etc as well as being able to skip count (3,6,9,12...)*

*In English this week, we have been writing our own 'Warning' stories, by writing our own dangerous setting and thinking about exciting vocabulary we could use to describe it.*

*On Wednesday, we celebrated Science Week and the children spent a day trying different experiments with different teachers. They had a blast and learnt so much!*

*We are really looking forward to our trip around Birmingham next week. Please check your child's folder for the information we sent out earlier this week. Please also keep the recycling coming in- this will be used for our Design and Technology Day on Thursday to help us build a 3D model of Birmingham!*

### **Year 4**

*Year 4 have continued to prepare for their easter service with, reading lines, stage directions, costumes and props coming together.*

*We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible joining us for the service as we prepare for Easter.*

*We have recently enjoyed Art in a Day, exploring light and dark using painting and mixed media.*

*The children have combined techniques to show shadow and three dimensions to create still life compositions.*

*In Maths, Year 4 have moved onto fractions, recognising how the whole can be split into parts, counting in fractions beyond one and using mixed and improper fractions.*

*In English we have continued to improve our understanding on the structure and toolkit features of meeting stories.*

*This week we have planned a class meeting story as we prepare to shared write.*

*By the end of next week the children will have created, written, edited and published their own meeting stories.*

### **Year 5**

*Year Five have been brilliant as usual this past two weeks. They continue to try their best across the board, and we are extremely proud of them!*

*We have recently completed our NFER tests and have seen some amazing results in all areas! They have worked really hard and have shown how much they know.*

*In maths this week we have continued to look at decimals, using our knowledge of rounding to help us. We have created the stem sentences below to help us:*

- *When a number ends in 0-4 they round down*
- *When a number ends in 5-9 they round up*

*In English this week we have been looking at narratives from different points of view. Can your child tell you what our model text is called, and how it is written? We have also looked at elemental poetry and have seen some amazing description of fire, water and air!*

*We are focusing really hard on remembering our uses of a range of punctuation and sentence starters – please remind your child of these if they write at home.*

*In history this week we have continued to look at the Maya and how they used to live. Ask your child what a Maya house would look like, and what it would contain.*

*Year Five have also had our ‘Art in a Day’ where we created masks to celebrate the ‘Day of the Dead’, which is a festival in Mexico that celebrates ancestors.*

*We hope you have a lovely weekend, and a relaxing run up to Easter!*

*The Year Five Team*

## **Year 6**

*Over the last week or so, Year 6 have been busily working hard (as always). In Maths we have been learning to convert between decimals, percentage and fractions and finding fractions of amounts. Here is a video which explains some of the Maths they have been learning: [Year 6 Spring Block 4 TS8 Percentage of an amount - multi-step on Vimeo](#)*

*In English the children have completed some fantastic diary entries on an Antarctic expedition. They had captured such emotion in to their writing and really worked hard to apply everything they'd learnt; a pleasure for me to read.*

*In Geography, we have started to think about whether tourism in places such as Antarctica have a positive impact or a negative impact on the environment. We will continue to explore this over the coming weeks.*

*Finally, just a huge thank you from me as Year 6 all looked fantastic last week for World Book Day. We had a day off the normal curriculum and the children really enjoyed some fun activities.*

*Mrs Tipton and the Year 6 staff team.*

## **Sporting Achievements by Mr Steggles**

The Boy's Football team completed their final fixture of the season versus Meriden.

A quality defensive performance and a quick counterattack earned the team a 1-1 draw.

With this fixture we close another season of both Boys and Girls Football at St Margaret's.

We would like to thank the children and their parents for their efforts this season.

The Netball team competed in their first fixtures of the season versus TGPA St James A and B.

The girls played well, working hard to get up to the competitive speed of league fixtures.

We're looking forward to putting our training into practice as fixtures continue next week.

### **The Pond**

I am very excited to let you know that our pond has now been fully refurbished and is ready for use. A huge thankyou to the PA for raising the money for this, I know that it will be well used moving forwards. Who knows what we will find.



### **Parent's Evening**

Thankyou to all of you who have attended Parent's Evening this week, attendance was at 95% which shows just how important you see school as being. Hopefully you found the evening informative and found out more about your child and their achievements as well as some little tips to support them further.

### **Parking**

I am rather disappointed to have to email regarding dangerous parking outside of school again. On Wednesday, a red car was parked across the pavement at the zebra crossing which is not only illegal but also incredibly dangerous putting families in danger. Please can I remind everyone to park carefully and considerately. I have informed the parking enforcement team who will increase their patrols over the coming days. If possible, leave a little more time, park further away and walk.

Our School Council are currently working on a project with Mrs Thomas where they will be trying to address the problems of parking and speeding outside school as this is an area that they have also raised as a concern.

### **Family Service**

I was really disappointed to miss this special service last Friday although I did see the rehearsal earlier in the week. Thankyou for the lovely feedback that we have received. I know that the children were amazing and enjoyed learning their songs and lines. Thankyou Miss Barter for organising this.

### **World Book Day**

I also missed World Book Day this year but have heard about the wonderful costumes that the children wore to celebrate this special day. They also enjoyed spending time with the author Mike Rymarz learning how to write a book. Thankyou Miss Hussain for organising this.

### **Easter Services**

Next week we have two very special Easter celebrations. On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, children in EYFS will be having their Easter bonnet parade. This will take place in the hall at 9:10am and will last for approximately 30 mins. Please can we ask that no more than 3 adults attend per family. Children should make their Easter bonnet at home and bring in on Thursday morning.

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Year 4 will lead our whole school Easter Service at St Margaret's Church. The service will begin at approximately 2:45pm and, as always, we would welcome as many volunteers as possible to walk the children up to church. If you are able to help then please let the office know and everyone is most welcome to attend this service.

All children with the exception of afternoon Nursery will need to be collected from the church. Please note there is no afternoon Kidzone on this day. We will walk any children that do FDS football back to school, please let us know if you require this for your child.

The PA will be holding a cake sale after the service in the church hall and would appreciate donations of cakes for this. These can be brought into school on Friday morning and will be collected by the PA.

### **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.

### **Please keep in your prayers:**

Rev Tammy as she prepares to leave St Margaret's and move to her new parish.

Any member of our school community who has recently suffered bereavement.

Any member of our school community who is unwell or undergoing treatment.

Key dates for your diary:

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 to visit Birmingham (15 pupils)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 to visit Birmingham (15 pupils)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 Choral Spring Concert 9:15am
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	EYFS Easter Bonnet Parade 9:10am
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	2:45pm - Easter Service St Margaret's Church led by Year 4 No afternoon Kidzone
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Pupils return to school for Summer Term Swimming starts for Year 6
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	PA School Disco
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Y6 information evening SATs and residential
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	INSET Day (Polling Day)
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
W/b 13 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Reception visit to Sealife Centre
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	PA Quiz night
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 residential
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up for half term
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Level 3 Bikeability
w/b 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5 Bikeability Week
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	PA Garden party
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Choir to sing at Royal Albert Hall
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Pupils break up

\*\*Dates for Sports Days, INSET Days for the academic year 24/25 and other summer key events will be confirmed at the start of next term.