



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

1st March 2024

Newsletter 11

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term. This is another incredibly short half term but packed with activities and events. Please do keep checking the diary dates to make sure that you don't miss anything.

This half term we are thinking particularly carefully about the seasons of Lent and Easter in both Collective Worship and RE lessons. Lent is a time when Christians think about when Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. Jesus was tempted several times by Satan but was able to resist. During Lent, many Christians give something up as a test of their own self-discipline, but it is also a time that we can think of what we can do for others. Simple things that we can all do are helping everyone no matter what; making time for others; smiling; and keeping those in need in our prayers.

Have lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Anita Delaney

Collective Worship

Over the past 2 weeks we have thought about Lent and Palm Sunday in Collective Worship. The children have thought about where, in these stories, they have seen the value of faith and have also talked about where they see this in everyday life. A few examples include:



I had faith that my baby brother's cough would get better.

Jesus showed faith in God when he was tempted by the devil.

Last week, Rev Tammy delivered her final Collective Worship at St Margaret's and we hold her in our thoughts and prayers as she prepares to move to her new parish, we will certainly miss her. We will be saying goodbye to her in a special service on the last day of term.

This week, the Spirituality Leaders led their first Spirituality Worship asking the question 'What makes your spirit soar' and focusing on 'Feeling Grateful'. We shared the book 'Feeling Grateful' by Kobi Yamada and one of the quotes that particularly resonated with me was 'This day will never happen again. Everything is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Give thanks in this moment.'

Stars of the Half Term – Spring 1

Last Friday I had great pleasure in having afternoon tea with the following stars of the half term for Spring 1. Congratulations to the following children:

Eevie – Nursery
Tara – Reception
Charlie – Year 1
Delaney – Year 2
Zac – Year 3
Thomas – Year 4
Harry – Year 5
Christian – Kidzone

Year 6 will double up this half term as Mrs Tipton was not in school for the awards last half term.

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

Wow! We have had a fab start back in Nursery, we have chatted about what we got up to in the holidays and got straight to finding out about our new topic 'The Great Outdoors'. We have been learning about what a plant needs to grow and getting started on planting some seeds! The Nursery children are so excited to watch them grow!

If you have any old pots/gardening tools that you are no longer using it would be great to have them or if you are planting at home, then please feel free to send in pictures once they have begun growing as it would be great to share.

Reception

Since returning from half term, Reception have been having a busy time learning lots about minibeasts!

We started our topic by getting our wellies on and venturing outside in the outdoor area, onto the field and even into the woods to search for minibeasts and their habitats. We found lots of worms as it had been a very rainy day!

We have been learning the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. We have been doing symmetrical paintings of butterflies by painting one half and printing onto the other, we have been developing our fine motor control by using hole punchers to pretend it is the caterpillar biting holes into food!

We have been writing sentences to match an illustration from the story and have started to innovate the story as a whole class.

We created 'The Very Confused Slug'.

'Once upon a time there was a very confused slug who lived in a slug factory!

One sunny day he went looking for his slime.

On Monday he met a caterpillar and asked him for help, but he still couldn't find his slime.

On Tuesday he met a ladybird and asked him for help, but he still couldn't find his slime.

On Wednesday he met a snail and asked him for help, but he still couldn't find his slime.

Finally he met a butterfly who helped him find his slime and he was no longer confused!

In Maths, we have been sequencing the days of the week and this week we are representing the numbers 9 and 10.

We can't wait to learn even more about minibeasts in the next few weeks!

Year 1

Year One's topic for this half term is 'Moon Zoom'. The children have begun learning about 'The Space Race' between Russia and America. They have watched Neil Armstrong's moon landing and have enjoyed dressing up as astronauts.

Our Talk for Writing text in English is 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon, the children were so excited when video footage of a spaceship landing on the playground was caught on camera and then we discovered that Beegu had come to visit our Year One classroom.

We've already had some amazing space homework projects come into school.

Well done Year One, keep up the hard work!

Year 2

Year Two have been absolute super stars this week. They continue to try their best in all lessons, and we are very proud of them!

In Maths this week we have been exploring the 5 and 10 times tables using our knowledge of multiplication to help us. Division is the inverse of multiplication!

We want the children to remember that if they know the 10 or 5 times table then they also know linked division facts. These White Rose home learning video can help you support your child at home: <https://vimeo.com/490421912> (10s) and (5s) <https://vimeo.com/417922557>

In English, we have been writing poems about the very fierce and terrifying Tyrannosaurus Rex! Can your child tell you some features of a poem? You will also hear some amazing poetry during our Family Assembly next week!

In general writing, we are still focusing really hard on remembering our full stops, correct letter orientation and capital letters, please remind your child of these if they write at home.

In Art, children have been exploring different textures and mediums to create a collage. Their final pieces were breathtaking, with the children using their favourite techniques.

Year 3

Year Three have been absolute super stars this week. They continue to try their best in all lessons, and we are very proud of them!

In Maths this week we have been looking at dividing a 2 digit by a 1-digit number.

This White Rose home learning video can help you support your child at home:

<https://vimeo.com/772128909>

We also want the children to remember this sentence:

'Division is the inverse of multiplication.'

This video explains it very well.

[KS1 / KS2 Maths: Calculations - The relationship between multiplication and division - BBC Teach](#)

In English this week we have been learning about 'warning' stories. Ask your child/ren about 'The Caravan' story we have been learning. We used drama to retell the story and will be using direct speech and different sentence types in our own writing.

We are focusing hard on remembering our full stops and capital letters, so please remind your child of these if they write at home.

In Geography this half term, we are learning about Birmingham and how to use a key on a map to find different places. This will really come in handy on our walk around Birmingham!

Can you ask your child what a 'suburb' is?

Year 4

Year 4 have started to prepare for the upcoming Easter Service, putting themselves forward for roles and beginning to get to grips with their lines and stage directions. All children will have a speaking and action role and will now have their lines to begin practicing at home.

In English, we have started studying 'Little Vixen Street' - a meeting story between a fox searching the city for an evening meal and a mysterious figure surprised to see her. We have been working to get to know the story and understand the grammar and toolkit features that will help us when we begin to write our own meeting stories.

In Maths, we have been busy working out the perimeter of rectilinear shapes, from measuring the perimeter in different units of measurement to working out perimeters with missing lengths.

In PE, the children have enjoyed their new topic of tag rugby by learning the importance of keeping the ball in two hands to invade space and outwit their opponents.

In RE, class 4 have been looking at the easter story exploring the learning question – 'Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'?'

Year 5

Year Five have been absolutely amazing this week. They continue to try their best across the board, and we are (as always) very proud of them!

In Maths this week, we have been looking at decimals, using our knowledge of fractions to help us. We have created the stem sentences below while in class to help them remember:

- *Ten tenths is equal to one whole.*
- *Ten hundredths is equal to one tenth.*
- *Ten thousandths is equal to one hundredth.*

We want the children to remember that fractions and decimals are linked by division. This White Rose home learning video can help you support your child at home:

[Y5 Spring Block 3 TS4 Equivalent fractions and decimals on Vimeo](#)

In English this week we have been writing discussion texts. Can your child tell you the features of a persuasive/discursive piece of writing?

We are focusing really hard on remembering our use of indirect and direct speech – please remind your child of these if they write at home.

In History this week we have introduced the children to the Maya, and looked at chronological order in the form of a timeline. Ask your child what chronological order means.

Year Five have also been on an amazing trip to the Birmingham Buddhist Centre this week! Please ask your children about their experience and what they learnt.

We hope you have a lovely weekend!

Year 6

Year 6 have come back to school from half term so positive and ready to learn. As always it has been a busy week in the classroom. The children really enjoyed their first Netball lesson (even if it was in the hall because of the weather).

In Maths we continue to learn about decimals and how to multiply and divide these. Our English focus is on writing diary entries and I'm really looking forward to seeing the creative pieces Year 6 produce next week.

During our RE lesson, the children had a really thought provoking conversation about faith and what Christians believe about Jesus' resurrection. It was wonderful to share everyone's views and really think in depth about our value of faith.

Our highlight this week was definitely the Art Day on Thursday. The children learnt all about the artist Kenojuak Ashevak and produced some fantastic pieces of work in her style.

Enjoy your weekend!

Sporting Achievements by Mr Steggle

The children who have spent many rainy Mondays training and dark winter nights representing St Margaret's in the various boys and girls football fixtures finally had their much-anticipated reward – the new football kits have been received by players and worn in their first fixtures this week. We hope this has inspired players both present and future to be motivated to participate as the football season continues to rumble on. A huge thankyou to the Parents Association for funding these kits.

Netball club has now begun in preparation for the upcoming fixtures. Any Year 5 and 6 pupils looking to join the team and represent the school in a welcoming but competitive league are welcome to sign up via Arbor. We look forward to a successful Netball campaign this year.

Health Related Behaviour Surveys Years 2, 4 and 6

Please see the attached letter regarding the Health Behaviour Survey that we will be carrying out with Years 2, 4 and 6 sometime between 10th and 25th March. A copy of the survey will be left in the office should anyone like to view this prior to the children completing the survey.

Parent's Evening

You should have received a letter regarding Parent's Evening which will be taking place w/b 10th March. This is always a lovely time to share your children's achievements so far this academic year.

Family Service

EYFS and Key Stage 1 will be leading our family Service on Friday 8th March at 9:15am. This is a chance to celebrate all of our families in school. We would like to invite 2 family members per family in EYFS / KS1 to join us in the hall for this special celebration.

Science Week

Mrs Chaplin has sent information regarding this special week including a whole school Science Day on Wednesday 13th March where children are invited to dress up as scientists and take part in a range of science activities throughout the day. Thank you to those parents who have already volunteered to help, please do contact Mrs Chaplin if you feel that you are able to support this activity.

World Book Day

A letter has been sent out with information about World Book Day including the exciting information that we will be joined by local author Mike Rymarz. The children will have the opportunity to learn about being an author, hear extracts of Mike's books being read out and purchase books if they wish to do this. This is always such an exciting day in school.

Easter Service

Year 4 will be leading our Easter Service which will be held at St Margaret's Church on Friday 22nd March at 3:00pm. The Parent's Association will be selling end of term treats in the church hall following the service. There will be no afternoon Kidzone on this date.

Playground Markings

For those of you who are observant, you will have noticed the new playground markings on both playgrounds.

A massive thank you to our incredibly hardworking Parent's Association for funding this. The children are absolutely loving playing different games and exploring these. This is only the start of the outdoor face lift. Over the next few weeks, the pond area will also be re-developed meaning that we can utilise it as an outdoor curriculum resource and there will also be a new Trim Trail for Key Stage 2.



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.

Outdoor clothing for EYFS

If you have any old children's coats, waterproofs or all in ones that you no longer need, please could you consider donating them to school for use in the Early Years outdoor areas. Please bring them to the school office. Many thanks.

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.

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:

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| Monday 4 th March | Y3 Personal Best Festival |
| Thursday 7 th March | World Book Day |
| Friday 8 th March | 9:10am Family Service led by EYFS / Key Stage 1 |
| Monday 11 th March | ELSA diabetes study clinic |
| Tuesday 12 th March | Parent's Evening YR – Y6 |
| Wednesday 13 th March | Parent's Evening YN / Y1 |
| Thursday 14 th March | Parent's Evening YR, Y2 – Y6 |
| Monday 18 th March | Y3 to visit Birmingham (15 pupils) |
| Tuesday 19 th March | Y3 to visit Birmingham (15 pupils) |
| Wednesday 20 th March | Year 5 Choral Spring Concert 9:15am |
| Thursday 21 st March | EYFS Easter Bonnet Parade 9:10am |
| Friday 22 nd March | Easter Service St Margaret's Church led by Year 4 No afternoon Kidzone |
| Monday 8 th April | Pupils return to school for Summer Term |
| Friday 12 th April | PA School Disco |
| Wednesday 17 th April | Y6 information evening SATs and residential |
| Thursday 2 nd May | INSET Day (Polling Day) |
| Monday 6 th May | Bank Holiday |
| W/b 13 th May | KS2 SATs |
| Thursday 16 th May | Reception visit to Sealife Centre |
| Friday 17 th May | PA Quiz night |
| Wednesday 22 nd May – Friday 24 th May | Y6 residential |
| Friday 24 th May | Break up for half term |
| Tuesday 4 th June | Year 6 Level 3 Bikeability |
| w/b 10 th June | Y5 Bikeability Week |
| Saturday 6 th July | PA Garden party |
| Tuesday 9 th July | Choir to sing at Royal Albert Hall |
| Friday 19 th July | Pupils break up |