



# 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***

6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### **Newsletter 1**

A very warm welcome back to a new academic year which, as always, is filled with anticipation and hope. The children have settled beautifully into their new classes and are enjoying getting to know their new teachers.

We have spent time over the past few days thinking about our Christian vision and values and what these will look like for all of us in the St Margaret's family this year. We will continue to focus on these values of Faith, Hope and Love throughout the year and the belief that, 'I can do all things through the one who strengthens me.' Philippians 4:13.

We are delighted that we have been able to welcome all of our Nursery and Reception children into school this week. They have come in beautifully and are already getting used to the routines in the classroom. We have also welcomed other new families and Ms Sandhu who is teaching Year 3 alongside Mrs Chaplin. Welcome to our school family!

This week, we have also been thinking about last year's Year 6 pupils and hope that they have settled happily into their new schools. We have seen a number of them walking past school looking very smart and grown up and siblings have been telling us that they are happy and enjoying their new venture.

Have a lovely weekend.

*Anita Delaney*

### **Rev Dom news**

Rev Dom will be leaving St Margaret's Church on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September and taking up a new position in Buckinghamshire. He will be very much missed by all of us here at St Margaret's School and by myself particularly as he has supported me in some very difficult times. A huge thanks goes to Rev Dom for all of his guidance, prayer and support over the past seven years. Please keep him in your prayers as he and his family begin their new journey. We hope to see him in school one more time so that we can say a proper goodbye.

### **Meet the Teacher Meetings Y1 – 6**

As stated in the final Newsletter of last year, these will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September. There will be two repeated sessions, one starting at 5:00pm and the second at 5:30pm. These meetings will take place in the classroom and are designed to enable you to meet your child's new teacher, find out about learning opportunities and expectations and ask any general questions. If you have any specific questions about your own child, please ask these either via email or speaking to the teacher at the end of the day. There won't be time to do this during these meetings.

Curriculum Maps will be uploaded to the website by the end of next week and will be shared at the Meet the Teacher evening.

Any other information will be uploaded to the website for parents who are unable to attend. These meetings will be followed by the PA AGM at 6:30pm so please do stay if you are able, join the team and find out what wonderful events will be organised this year.

**\*There are no Meet the Teacher sessions for EYFS as these took place in the summer term.**

### **Parent Workshops**

This year we will be running parent workshops to enable you to come to school to share in some learning with your child. These workshops will be phonics based for Reception and Year 1 and Maths based for the rest of school with Maths workshops for Year 1 and EYFS later in the year. All workshops will begin at 9:10am in the hall where your child's teacher will talk to you and then you will have the opportunity to complete some activities alongside your child following this. Each session will end by 10:30am. Please see below information for further information regarding our key priorities in Maths and the dates for your child's class in the diary dates below.

### **No nuts**

Please can I remind all parents that we operate a strict 'no nuts' policy in school. We have a number of children and staff with nut allergies and exposure would be incredibly dangerous. Please note, this does include having Nutella or similar as a sandwich filler.

### **Key Stage 2 Snack**

Children in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to bring a snack for morning break but this should be a healthy snack such as a piece of fruit. On a Friday, they are welcome to bring a treat such as a small chocolate bar – packets of sweets are not acceptable.

### **Earrings**

We have a number of pupils who have returned to school wearing earrings. Our policy does not allow earrings to be worn to school therefore if your child is wearing earrings, please ensure that these are removed for Monday. If your child is unable to remove their earrings for any reason, then please contact their class teacher directly for a conversation about this.

### **PE Kits**

Please can I remind you that the only logos on a PE kit should be the school logo if you choose to purchase logo'd clothes rather than plain ones. The children should look as smart in their PE kits as they do in their full uniforms.

### **Home Learning**

Home learning will begin again w/b Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September and will continue in the same format as last year.

### **Year 4 swimming**

Swimming for Year 4 will begin on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September. This year we are asking parents to contribute to the cost of the transport to and from the swimming baths rather than to the cost of swimming lessons. This will be a voluntary contribution of £37.00 and can be paid on Arbor.

Swimming lessons take place at George's Swim Academy. Children should come to school in their PE kits on a Monday to make changing easier. They will need the following kit:

Boys – swimming trunks, towel, goggles (optional)

Girls – one piece swim suit, swimming hat, towel, goggles (optional)

Please ensure that all long hair is tied back – plaits are a good idea as they are easier to dry.

### **Harvest Festival**

Harvest Festival in school will be led by Year 3 on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 3:10pm. We would welcome donations of dried / tinned goods which we will donate to Birmingham City Mission. Parents are very welcome to attend this service. On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 10am it will be Harvest Festival at St Margaret's Church.

### **School Fund**

We welcome contributions of £10 per child for school fund. This is used to fund the extras such as craft materials, festive activities, games and additional books.

### **Medication**

Please ensure that any medication such as inhalers and epi pens are replaced in school as a matter of urgency. If you have not given us medicine in September 2024 then we do not have medicine for your child. If you require us to have Piriton or Calpol in school, please could you ask the pharmacist to print a label with your child's details on and the recommended dose. We have been assured that pharmacists will do this. Can I remind you that forms must be completed before we can administer any medication to children in school and medication must be brought to the office by a parent / carer and collected at the end of the day.

### **Message from MRs Thomas regarding Maths**

This year, one of our school priorities is a focus on maths fluency. Fluency in maths means retrieval of 'facts' from memory. This includes being fluent in recalling number bonds spanning addition and subtraction within numbers to 20 and using this to help us with number bonds up to 100,1000 and 1000000 as we move through school. Further up the school, fluency is also knowing our times tables and their linked division facts from memory. Fluency in maths is an essential skill that children need to be able to access trickier maths learning.

For example; if you ask a child to work out  $4 + 5 + 6$  then if they know that  $4 + 6 = 10$  without having to work it out (because they can spot that it is a number bond to 10) then this makes maths much easier for them.

When learners have a range of efficient strategies at their fingertips, they are comfortable applying their knowledge in different situations. Building mathematical fluency gives them the skills and confidence necessary to succeed as mathematicians.

Our reason for developing our teaching in maths fluency is a national rise in the number of children entering Year 7 without this fundamental knowledge. This is not what we want for our children at St Margaret's. We want to ensure that we have given them the best possible start with their sense of number. To help us do this, we are very lucky to have access to the 'Mastering Number' programme from Year One through to Year Five.

Mastering Number is a daily programme to develop pupils' fluency with an understanding of number to build firm foundations for future success in mathematics learning. In Years One and Two this will focus on addition and subtraction facts within 20 and number bonds to 20. The Year Three programme will focus on using these number facts to support the Year Three curriculum as it moves on to numbers to 100. In Years Four and Five, this project enables pupils to develop fluency in multiplication and division facts, and a confidence and flexibility with number that exemplifies good number sense.

Please see here for more information:

KS1: (Years 1&2)

<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/maths-hubs-projects/mastering-number-at-reception-and-ks1/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHaKvAgrU44>

**KS2: (Years 3,4,5)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wnV7iNwwCs>

<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/maths-hubs-projects/mastering-number-at-ks2/>

Nursery and Reception children have their own comprehensive fluency opportunities and Year Six children will have access to arithmetic booster groups which will help to consolidate all previous learning. These were a huge success last year with the children even asking if they could continue them in the last few weeks.

We will also be organising maths workshops for you to come and have a go at some activities with your children at school! These may not always focus on fluency, but they will give you some insight about how we teach maths here and are a wonderful opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Thank you for your continued support and all the support you give to your children at home. It really does make a difference.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Thomas

Maths Lead

Key dates for your diary:

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Swimming starts for Year 4
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the Teacher – for parents 5pm – 6pm PA AGM 6:15pm
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Phonics workshop Reception parents 9am
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Phonics workshop Year 1 parents 9am Flu Immunisations Slip into Slippers Day
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival led by Year 3 9:10am
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Day for prospective parents 10am / 2pm
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October and Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent's Evening 4pm – 7pm
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Break up for half term
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	INSET day
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Children return to school
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance day Service led by Year 6 10:30am
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 parent workshop – Maths 9:10am
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 parent workshop – Maths 9:10am
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 parent workshop – Maths 9:10am
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 parent workshop – Maths 9:10am
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 2 -Solihull Ice Rink Peter Pan
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Nativity 0:15am
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS / Key Stage 1 theatre trip
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 1 Nativity 9:10am and 2:30pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term church service – Carols and Readings 2:30pm No afternoon Kidzone Break up for Christmas
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET Day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Pupils return to school
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Year 1 parent workshop – Maths 9:10am
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2025	Year 2 parent workshop – Maths 9:10am
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	EYFS parent workshop – Maths 9:10am