



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

7th March 2025

Newsletter 12

Dear Parents

I hope that you had all an enjoyable half term break. It has been lovely to see the sun shining this week enabling us to really utilise our outdoor spaces to the full, it really does make life seem much brighter.

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.

On Monday, Reverend Sue Chandler led us in a special Eucharist Service where she talked to the children about Lent and Ash Wednesday. The children were wonderful as always and she was incredibly impressed with their amazing singing. Thankyou to Ian Carnell for supporting this service and Mrs Rimmer for her organisation.

All classes have been busy both inside and outside the classroom. Further information about exciting activities for each class can be found below. Please also remember to use this link [Our Classes – St Margarets – Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust](#) to access the Curriculum Maps for this term which will give you further information.

Information from workshops can also be found at this link, just click on the individual class.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Anita Delaney

Hope

This half term we will focus on our value of Hope and what this means to us. In Collective Worship, we will be using the Lent resources that have been provided by the Church of England Archbishop Young Leaders Awards.

The stories of hope from the Bible that we have shared in school over the past two weeks have been from the gospel of Luke; Luke 4: 1 – 13 – Jesus' 40 days in the desert and Luke 5 – Jesus the fisher of men.

Mrs Ashton

Mrs Ashton is not in school at the moment as she has had a knee replacement operation. She is recovering well and we hope that she will be back in school after Easter. In the meantime, if there is anything pastoral that you would like support with then please contact the school office and they will signpost you to the appropriate member of staff.

World Book Day

The children and staff had a wonderful day on Thursday celebrating World Book Day. The staff all came as characters from Winnie the Pooh and the children wore, as always, a wonderful mix of costumes. In the morning, Lee Benson an author led assembly talking about his journey to being an author and reading some of his work, he then did workshops for the younger children and signed some books. Other activities included older children reading to the younger children in school, and teachers swapping classes to read to other children. I was really sorry to miss this due to me being on safeguarding training. These days are so important for memory making.

Stars of the Half Term Spring 1

Congratulations to the following children who were awarded Star of the Half Term – we will enjoy our Star Tea Party next week.

Nursery – Ciara

Reception – Eevie

Year 1 – Louis

Year 2 –Cameron

Year 3 – Rhea

Year 4 – Harriet

Year 5 – Ishaan

Year 6 – Josiah

Kidzone – Salman

Parent Interface Meeting

Last Tuesday the governors led our second parent interface meeting which was looking at the extracurricular activities that we offer in school and how we support children's wider development. Thankyou to those parents who gave feedback via Forms and those parents who attended the meeting. In the next Newsletter I will give feedback and information about next steps.

Change of shoes

The children absolutely love the fact that we have created more space at lunchtimes and are particularly keen to be able to play on the field. Please can you ensure that a change of shoes is sent into school to enable us to allow as many children as possible onto the field, a spare pair of trousers is also advisable on particularly muddy days or when it is your child's football day.

St Margaret's Mother's Day Service

We have been invited by Mrs Rimmer to lead part of the 9:30am family service at St Margaret's Church on Sunday 30th March. The children will support leading the songs and other parts of worship. If your child is able to attend, please could you let the office or Mrs Rimmer know by Monday so that we can prepare the children for this. Thankyou to all parents who have already let us know that their children can take part. It is always lovely when we have the opportunity to worship collaboratively with the church.

Staff Car Park

We have noticed an increasing number of non-staff cars parking in the car park since we have not had a barrier in place. There will be a new barrier installed very soon but, in the meantime, please can I remind you that we do not allow parents / carers to park on site unless this has been pre-arranged with the school office, this includes parking before and after school.

We have also noticed an increase in the number of parents using the car park as a pedestrian short cut between the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 playgrounds at the end of the day. Please protect the children by using the pavement at pick up time.

Sickness and Diarrhoea

Please can I remind you that the school rule is that a child is unable to return to school until 48 hours after their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. If your child returns too soon then we will ask you to take them home again. This is to reduce the risk to others including staff. If you are unsure, then please do contact the school office for advice. Thankyou for your support with this.

Picture News

Each week during Class Worship, the children discuss a key current event using a stimulus from Picture News. We know that the children really enjoy this, and it was a suggestion from our Distinctiveness Committee that we share these with home. We would love to hear any feedback.

This week's talking points are:



Parent's Association Update

The PA have some exciting events planned for this term, please keep an eye on the Newsletter and class What's App groups for further information.

Class News

Nursery	<p>This half term, we are embarking on an exciting adventure into the world of animals! 🐾 We will explore the fascinating lives of jungle creatures, beloved pets, and intriguing zoo animals. We will also discover the adorable names of animal babies and compare the diverse habitats they call home.</p> <p>For the next two weeks, our journey will take us deep into the jungle. 🌿 We will use a variety of media to uncover amazing facts about these wild inhabitants.</p> <p>The children will dive into the enchanting story of <i>Rumble in the Jungle</i> by Giles Andreae, one of our featured books this half term. The children will bring the jungle to life by acting out the story with energetic actions and Makaton</p>
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	<p>signing. But the fun doesn't stop there! They will use their creativity to retell the story by drawing their very own story mountains.</p> <p>In Maths, we will be focusing on size and shape. We will learn that the same shape can come in different sizes and practice using words like small, smallest, big, biggest, large, and largest. We will also continue to build our number fluency by counting from 0 to 10 and recognizing written numbers from 0 to 5 and 0 to 10.</p> <p>We are making fantastic progress in phonics! We are now focusing on the 'k' sound. Please continue sending in the sound sheets so we can continue to share and celebrate the children's progress together.</p> <p>During our PE sessions, we will be mastering the art of throwing and catching bean bags and small balls with both hands. The children will also learn about the importance of physical exercise and observe how it affects their bodies, such as their hearts beating faster and feeling warm.</p> <p>Our sensory tray is a jungle adventure filled with squishy green slime and playful jungle animals. The children are having an absolute blast exploring and getting messy!</p>
Reception	<p>Reception have had a wonderful time so far with our Traditional Tales topic! On the first day back, we discovered biscuit crumbs and realised that the Gingerbread man had been running through our classroom! We then followed instructions and decorated a gingerbread man biscuit.</p> <p>Then we received a letter from Goldilocks telling us that she would like to learn how to make porridge and could we write her a set of instructions! We had such fun making it and writing the instructions.</p> <p>In Maths we have been learning about combining two groups and this week we have been learning about the numbers 9 and 10 and different ways to represent them.</p> <p>We have been thinking about Lent in RE this week and what we may be giving up. On Shrove Tuesday we made pancakes!</p> <p>We have now received riddles from Traditional Tales land to try and help them to find the missing characters. Over the next few weeks, we will be learning to write our own riddles!</p>
Year 1	<p>The children have been amazing learners again this week! In Maths we have been placing numbers on a number line and using our knowledge of counting forwards and backwards to help us with this. We continue to develop our knowledge of place value, and the children love playing this basketball game to show off their skills!</p> <p>Place Value Basketball - Dienes Game for 5 to 8 Year Olds</p> <p>We will be thinking about comparing numbers next week. Can you ask your child to tell you what these symbols mean?</p> <p>< > =</p> <p>Can they write an expression using these symbols? For example, $5 < 8$ or $6 = 6$.</p> <p>We will also be focusing on addition and subtraction again, so please support your child to recognise the + and – symbols as well as practising the addition and subtraction equations on the fluency squares that we had at our maths workshop.</p> <p>In English, we have been focusing on what makes an accurate sentence. Children have been spotting capital letters and full stops as well as adjectives, nouns and verbs!</p>

	<p>Can they find the verb (action word), noun (place, person or object) and adjective (describing word) in this sentence?</p> <p>‘The brown dog was running down the bumpy path.’</p> <p>In RE this week, we have been exploring Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday and the children acted out what Jesus would have done on Palm Sunday. Ask them what they did with the Palm leaves and why Palm Sunday has that name. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend when it comes and enjoy the sunshine!</p>
Year 2	<p>Year 2 have started the half-term brilliantly!</p> <p>Maths: We have now started our new topic of 'Multiplication and division' and children have worked hard to recognise, make and count equal groups. They have been introduced to the multiplication symbol 'X' and are learning the sentence stem 'X' means 'lots of' for example: $6 \times 2 = 6$ lots of 2 = 6 equal groups of 2. Next week, children will be making equal groups by 'grouping' and 'sharing' which leads them on to division and the division symbol.</p> <p>English: In English, the children have started their new topic which has a teaching focus of 'Dialogue' where they will be reading the story 'The Lonely Beast' by Chris Judge. This week, they have collected adjectives to describe the Beast and made predictions. Over the next few weeks, children will be expected to accurately use inverted commas (speech marks) to show dialogue alongside accurate use of capital letters. The children will be writing a story and at this point in the year should be using Common Exception Words correctly, write a coherent sentence and use adjectives and conjunctions to extend their ideas.</p> <p>Religious Education: The children had excellent retrieval last week of Holy Week and the Easter story. We will be looking at the different events in Holy Week and Easter as well as why the story is happy even though the Jesus' death was sad. The children have created artwork in their RE books showing their interpretation of colours for the feelings of 'sad' and 'happy'. The children were also very lucky last week to have time with Mrs Rimmer who came into our class to perform a 'God's Play'. Following the reading, children could explore different crafts and they were excited to create something from their own interpretation of the story.</p> <p>Well done!</p> <p>Year 2 Team</p>
Year 3	<p>Year 3 have settled back into their learning really well and we have enjoyed hearing about all the fun things they got up to during their half term break. The children have looked fantastic in their World Book Day costumes today and it has been lovely to see their love of reading shine through when they talk about their favourite characters and books. The children also visited Reception class, where they each paired up with a child and shared a story with them. In Maths, we have continued our learning about fractions. We have been looking at how we can use what we know about the numerator and denominator in fractions to help us decide which is greater and which is smaller. We have also been putting fractions in ascending and descending order. We will then be moving onto looking at counting in fractions on a number line and thinking about equivalent fractions.</p> <p>In Writing we have been looking at the poem, Last Night I Saw The City Breathing, by Andrew Fusek-Peters. The children thought about their favourite</p>

	<p>lines from the poem and illustrated them. We will continue looking at this poem in Writing, particularly focusing on the use of personification.</p> <p>In Reading, we have got stuck into our new class reader Emil and the Detectives. The children have enjoyed making prediction as to what might happen to Emil and how his money got stolen. We have explored what we know so far about his character and the relationship he has with his mother.</p> <p>In Geography and History, we will be starting a new topic all about Birmingham. We will be thinking about Birmingham's history and also looking at its geographical location and importance.</p> <p>In RE, the children have started to explore why Easter is important to Christians and will be looking at the theme of salvation and what this meant for Jesus and Christianity.</p> <p>In Science, the children will be exploring different light and how to tell whether it is a light source or a light reflector. They will then move on to looking at reflective surfaces.</p> <p>In Spanish, we have started learning the names of different musical instruments and will practise pronouncing these and using them in short sentences.</p>
Year 4	<p>We have had a fantastic first few weeks of Spring 2 in Year 4. Here is a summary of what the children have been up to:</p> <p>Maths: The children have been focusing on calculating the perimeter of rectilinear shapes. They began calculating perimeter on grids, moved onto calculating lengths using addition and learned how to find missing lengths. It has been great to see their confidence grow as they tackled these challenges.</p> <p>English: In our English lessons, the children have been exploring 'meeting stories', specifically "Little Vixen Street." They have been working on grammar features such as using a dash for additional detail and understanding past perfect and past progressive tenses. Their creativity and attention to detail have been impressive.</p> <p>PE: During PE, the focus has been on Tag Rugby. The children have been practising carrying the ball in two hands, picking up and placing the ball carefully, moving into space when receiving the ball, and of course scoring tries. Their teamwork and technique have improved significantly, and they have had a lot of fun in the process.</p> <p>Guided Reading: For guided reading, the children have been reading "The Midnight Fox." They have been using their knowledge of the text to make observations on character and plot and using evidence from the text to support their explanations. Their insights have been thoughtful and well-articulated.</p> <p>RE: In RE, the children have been exploring the question, "Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'?" They have been engaging in meaningful discussions and developing a deeper understanding of this important aspect of Christian faith.</p> <p>Geography: We have begun to delve into our Geography Topic of Oceans and Seas, first looking at the water cycle and now looking into the human uses of the ocean. We will soon be exploring the human impact on the oceans, including plastic pollution.</p> <p>We are proud of the hard work and progress the children have made this week. Thank you for your continued support.</p>

<p>Year 5</p>	<p>Year Five have continued to impress, striving to do their best in all areas of the curriculum.</p> <p>In Maths this week we have continued our study of decimals and fractions and have revisited our times tables in Maths starters, as well as in Mastering Number. We have tested their knowledge of multiples, as well as how to represent fractions and decimals using division in retrieval questions and have recently finished looking at decimals within worded problems. Ask your children at home if they know the first step to complete a fractions multiplication question. Later this week and next week we will be looking at rounding and percentages.</p> <p>In English this week we have been started our suspense writing task. The children have done some amazing work in their cold task and are working on their next section of the unit, which is to use powerful vocabulary to create suspense. They have had to use thesauruses and dictionaries to uplevel sentences, as well as to understand new vocabulary. The children have also looked at how to analyse a text, using a colourful representation to denote how different aspects of the toolkit is used in writing. Ask your child what they have looked for when analysing the model text (especially how suspense is created).</p> <p>Year 5 have continued their efforts in PE, where they are looking at Tag Rugby on Wednesdays, and Netball with the sports coach on Mondays. Ask your child if they can tell you the positions used in netball, as well as the passing style in Tag Rugby.</p> <p>In RE, they have started their study of Salvation, where they have looked at how Jesus saved human beings.</p> <p>In History, the children have created timelines to show when the Maya Civilisation was around and compare this to other periods of History.</p> <p>We hope you have a lovely weekend!</p> <p>The Year Five Team</p>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>Year 6 have settled back really well into routine after half term and are continuing to impress us with their hard work! We had a really useful workshop from the NSPCC to reiterate the importance of 'Speaking out to stay safe' and an exciting World Book day including sharing stories with our Nursery children and enjoying hot chocolate and biscuits during our reading for pleasure time.</p> <p>Next week we will be doing some practise SATs papers but we have discussed how these are nothing to worry about at all, and are to help us teachers see what areas they need more support and help with.</p> <p>We have been watching a video in English about a young boy who was part of a circus act and have been writing in role using the technique 'show don't tell.'</p> <p>In Maths, we have been really successful dividing and multiplying decimals by 10, 100 and 1000 using place value. We have also been adding, subtracting and rounding decimals. We continue to work hard on our arithmetic skills ensuring we are being accurate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please do use these helpful videos to support your child at home: https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/home-learning?year=year-6-new&term=spring <p>In History, we have started a new unit on Suffragettes and were outraged to find out how women were treated in the Victorian times!</p> <p>In Science, we have been learning about adaptation of different animals and how this fits into the theory of Evolution.</p>

	<p>In PE, we started a new unit on Netball by playing some small group defence and attack games.</p> <p>Finally, in RE we have looked through the Gospel of Luke for evidence of Jesus's resurrection and created witness statements to show this.</p> <p>Thank you so much for all your support,</p> <p>The Year 6 Team</p>
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Prayers

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Mrs Ashton and Mrs Tipton as they continue their roads to recovery

Year 6 pupils as they begin the preparation for secondary school

Members of our school family who have been recently bereaved

Members of our school community who are unwell

Families who are struggling at this time of year – both those known to us and unknown

Key dates for your diary:

w/b 10 th March	Test week in school
Monday 10 th March	Year 3 Personal Best Festival – Tudor Grange
Tuesday 11 th March	Year 5 visit Buddhist Centre visit
Tuesday 11 th March	Dogs Trust Visit (EYFS / Y1, Y3, Y4, Y5)
Wednesday 12 th March	Dogs Trust Visit Year 6 and Year 2 PA Meeting 6pm
Tuesday 18 th March	Science Day
Wednesday 19 th March	Year 6 Information Evening - SATS and Residential 5pm
Friday 28 th March	EYFS / KS1 Family Service 9:10am
Sunday 30 th March	School to support St Margaret's Church Mothering Sunday service 9:30am
w/b 31 st March	Year 5 Bikeability
Wednesday 2 nd April / Thursday 3 rd April	Parent's Evening
Tuesday 8 th April	Whole school tri-golf day
Friday 11 th April	End of term Easter Service St Margaret's Church 2:30pm Y4 to lead. No after school Kidzone. Break up for Easter
Monday 28 th April	INSET Day
Tuesday 29 th April	Children return to school
Wednesday 30 th April	Whole class photos
Monday 5 th May	Bank Holiday Monday
w/b 12 th May	KS2 SATs week
Weds 21 st May – Fri 23 rd May	Y6 Residential Willersley Castle
w/b 2nd June	Year 4 Multiplication Test
w/b 9th June	Year 1 Phonics Assessment
19 th June	Year 6 Bikeability
23 rd June	Year 6 Borough Sports
2 nd and 3 rd July	Year 6 Tag Rugby Festival

Friday 18th July	End of year service St Margaret's CE Church 2:30pm Children break up
Monday 1 st and Tuesday 2 nd September 2025	INSET Days
Wednesday 3 rd September 2025	Pupils return to school

Provisional INSET Days 25/26

1st September 2025

27th October 2025

13th February 2026

7th May 2026

20th July 2026

Please see below and attached information regarding the new Solihull Family Hubs.




Stay and Play mornings

We are so excited to offer you and your little ones our stay and play mornings which you can attend for **FREE**.

You can have a coffee and a natter while the children are enjoying exploring their creative sides or listening to a story, or just playing!

Available from newborns up to age 5 we are inclusive for all the family.

One Wednesday a month - 10-11.30am



26th February
19th March
16th April
21st May
18th June



To book on please call 0121 779 1750.

With lots of amazing themes with all the groups being designed to inspire imagination and nurture playing. When you join the fun we will welcome you in a relaxing, safe and nurturing environment.

Shirley Outreach Centre, Shirley Heath Junior School, Coombe Road, Shirley, B90 3DS

Toddlers Together



Jubilee Church and Ardenlea Court invite you to an **intergenerational toddler group!**

Come and join us as we bring together people from every age and stage of life to connect, have fun and make memories.

- ✓ Birth - 4 year olds
- ✓ Time to play
- ✓ Intergenerational activities and games
- ✓ £2 per family group per session

Details:



Tuesdays (term time only)
10:30am - 12.00noon



Ardenlea Court Care Home
139-41 Lode Lane, Bucknell
Close, Solihull B91 2AF



toddlers@jubileesolihull.org

Book Online Now!

www.jubileesolihull.org/community/toddlers-together

Advance booking essential due to limited spaces.



SPRING TERM 2025

Open to all Solihull parents and carers



BEING A PARENT GROUPS

Led by trained parent volunteers, the groups provide you with the tools to help manage challenging behaviour, improve communication, and build a positive relationship with your child.

The Being a Parent groups will be delivered both face-to-face and virtually, starting with a welcome session & then running weekly for a further 8 sessions:

TUESDAY	Virtual via Microsoft Teams	6pm – 7.30pm	28/1/25 – 1/4/25
WEDNESDAY	Dickens Heath School (B90 1NA)	9.30am – 11.30am	29/1/25 – 2/4/25
FRIDAY	Kingshurst Primary School (B37 6BN)	9.15am – 11.15am	31/1/25 – 4/4/25

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD

Led by Solihull professionals, the group aims to help you to manage challenging behaviour and improve communication, as well as building and understanding your relationship with your child. The group target age is 4-11 years unless specified, delivered face-to-face for 10 sessions:



TUESDAY	Windy Arbor Primary School (B37 6RN)	1pm – 3pm	14/1/25 – 25/3/25
WEDNESDAY	TEEN Alderbrook School (B91 1SN)	5pm – 7pm	29/1/25 – 9/4/25

FIVE TO THRIVE

For parents with children aged up to 2 years, the FIVE TO THRIVE building blocks explore practical things you can do to enhance your child's brain development, increase confidence in parenting and meet local parents.



MONDAY	TUESDAY
12.30pm – 2.30pm	The Bridge, Shirley (B90 3AG)
Riverside Family Hub (B37 5DP)	12.30pm – 2.30pm
6/1/25 – 10/2/25	7/1/25 – 11/2/25
Elmwood Place Family Hub (B36 0UG)	25/2/25 – 1/4/25
24/2/25 – 31/3/25	

Book your place now, or find out more by contacting Solihull Parenting Team at: bsmhft.parenting@nhs.net or book via the Eventbrite QR code below:

