

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

Faith, Hope, Love

23rd May 2025

Newsletter 16

Dear Parents

I am writing this whilst enjoying spending time with our Year 6 children who are on their residential trip to Willersley Castle in Matlock, Derbyshire. The children have been taking part in a range of activities including canoeing, rifle shooting, rock climbing and grass sledging and have been enjoying their time together. Although we were incredibly proud of the way that they handled the SATs tests last week, we know that it is these experiences that they will remember as they journey on through life. I am sure that they will have many tales to tell when we all return.

Further information about exciting activities for each class can be found below. <u>Our Classes – St Margarets – Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust</u>

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

I hope that you all enjoy a very restful half term break and that the children come back re-charged ready for our final half term of this academic year.

Best wishes

Anita Delaney

Collective Worship – Love

Over the past 2 weeks we have focussed particularly on the value of 'Love', sharing the stories of Moses – the Baby in the Bullrushes and The Greatest Commandment. The children have thought about how we show love and how it can sometimes be a very difficult thing to do. We have encouraged the children to look for signs of this value throughout the school day both through the curriculum and at less structured times.

Garden Party 28th June 12 - 3pm on the school field

A joint message from the Parent's Association and Church Garden Party Committee

This event is now fast approaching and is a joint venture between St Margaret's Church and School. To support with this event there will be a Wacky Wednesday Socks Day on Wednesday 18th June in exchange for a tombola prize and a non-uniform day on Friday 27th June in exchange for a bottle or, for any keen bakers out there, homemade cakes, these do need to be nut free as we are a nut free school.

In addition:

- Please start collecting bottles of any kind wine, pop, sauce, shampoo, etc that we can put on the bottle stall. These can be taken to the school office FAO the PA.
- We also need clean, good quality children's books and toys so why not declutter the children's toy cupboards and pass them to us to recycle. These can be taken to the school office FAO the
- For all those green fingered people, please nurture plant cuttings for our plant stall or buy some extra bedding plants and make up a nice pot or hanging basket that we can sell. These can be brought to school on the day.
- For budding bakers, we would love to have lots of delicious home-made cakes (nut free) to sell on our cake stall. These can be brought to school on Friday 27th June or on the day.
- Finally, we need volunteers to help setup, man stalls on the day and help clear away after. It would be great if you could spare an hour or two to help or to come along with family and friends to enjoy this community event. Please use the PA volunteer sign up if you can help.

Thank You from the Garden party committee.

EYFS donations request from Miss Barter and Mrs Govier

Just a reminder that we are still looking for donations of any of the following to further develop our EYFS outdoor area:

- Large plastic bowls
- Plastic jugs
- Flexible plastic piping (medium width)
- Plastic funnels medium/large
- Clear plastic tarpaulin to go on shed for painting on
- Easels
- Material for den building e.g. tarpaulin, outdoor sheets/covers
- Clips for den building
- Crates
- Planters
- Pushchairs/dolls

If you do have anything to donate, then please either contact the office or Miss Barter and Mrs Govier.

Mental Health Support Team

Just a reminder to please complete the questionnaire below to look at how we can develop our mental health support in school.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=aef_rgcAiESMqsEJaexYJ8gScztxwgRGily6YWLWTv1UMkJHTDcyUVFBNkM1WkRBOUY0TDBDOFdUSC4u

All responses will go directly to the Mental Health Support Team; the results will then be shared with school and will inform next steps.

Thankyou for supporting with this.

Uniform

The children are now very welcome to wear their summer school uniforms:

White shirt, School tie, School jumper or cardigan

Or White polo shirt with optional school logo (to be worn in summer only)

Grey school trousers, shorts or Grey Skirt

Navy blue/ white check school dress

Grey or white socks

Black shoes (flat heels) if sandals; not open toed.

Free cycling tuition for children in year 3 upwards over May half term

There is free cycle training available to all pupils in Key Stage 2 over May half term. Please use the link below to book onto these.

Upcoming Courses

Staff Car Park Barrier

Just a reminder, as you may now have seen, we have finally had a new barrier installed. Please can we ask that for safety reasons, parents / carers **do not** walk underneath the barrier but use the pedestrian access when entering and leaving school. This will ensure that everyone is kept safe, and that the barrier does not get damaged. Thank you for your cooperation 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:





Music Lessons

Tom from Pro Music will be offering a taster instruments morning on Monday 2nd June for Years 2 – 5. Children can try drums, guitar, violin, piano and flute.



Class News

Nursery

The children have been thoroughly enjoying their time exploring the great outdoors. They have shown great curiosity about the various animals we might encounter, including foxes, badgers, and hedgehogs, as well as fascinating minibeasts like worms, spiders, slugs, and snails.

In our Nursery play area, the children have delighted in discovering woodlice, millipedes, and ladybirds. Using magnifying cups, they have had the chance to observe these tiny creatures up close, sparking lots of excitement and conversation.

Another highlight has been making bird feeders by threading Cheerios onto pipe cleaners. The children were thrilled to find the next day that the food had disappeared—though we suspect it may have been some cheeky squirrels rather than the birds who enjoyed the treat! In Maths, we have continued to explore positional language and direction, using a variety of objects to help the children visualise and understand these concepts. Building on this, we introduced the ideas of 'more' and 'less'. Using cubes, the children practised our stem sentences:

"One more of ___ is ___" and "One less of ___ is ___", helping to reinforce their understanding through hands-on learning.

We also had lots of fun with our Bee Bots, using them to explore directional language such as 'forwards', 'backwards', 'left', and 'right'. The children loved programming the Bee Bots and watching them move around, applying their knowledge of direction in a playful and interactive way.

This week, we have had lots of fun reading *Jasper's Beanstalk* as part of our Talk for Writing focus. The children did a fantastic job retelling the story, using gestures, key vocabulary, and Makaton signs to bring it to life. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and storytelling skills grow!

In PE, the children have been developing their balancing skills by navigating obstacle courses using a range of equipment. They have also been learning the importance of taking turns and working cooperatively. Our parachute games have been a great way to practise teamwork, with everyone joining in and supporting one another.

After the half-term break, we will be focusing on team games as we prepare for Sports Day. These sessions will take place outdoors as much as possible, so please ensure your child has a sun hat in school to help keep them safe and comfortable on sunny days.

In our RE lessons, we will continue exploring stories from the Bible. After the half-term break, our focus will shift to New Testament stories told by Jesus, where we'll reflect on the important morals and lessons these parables teach us.

Reception

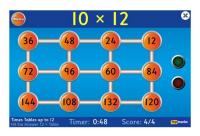
What a busy few weeks we have had in Reception! The children have loved learning about different habitats within our topic of 'Our Wonderful World'. We have been thinking about rainforests, the polar regions, seas and oceans, deserts and the African Savannah. Our Wednesday word last week was transparent! We had been learning about jellyfish and the children can now tell you what this means, a wonderful wow moment! The children had a lovely day at the Sealife Centre, there was a lot of excitement particularly in the tunnel when the sharks, stingrays and turtle were swimming over us! We have been working really hard in Maths continuing to think about numbers to 20 and we have also started thinking about addition. We know that when we add two numbers together,

the total is a bigger amount. In writing, we have created a text map about a sea creature that we designed. The children, as always, have the most wonderful imaginations. I have been so proud of their writing as the children are working so hard to use their phonics to support their spelling and some of us are even using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops!

Year 1

We can't believe we are entering our last half term in Year One! This year has flown by, and the children have achieved so much!

In Maths, we continue to think about place value (how many tens and ones are in a number). We are also using comparative vocabulary such as 'longer', 'shorter' to describe different objects. Please continue to practise number bonds to 10/20 with your children, as their recall with these is so beneficial. https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button



Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds - Topmarks Hit the Button is an interactive maths game with quick fire questions on number bonds, times tables, doubling and halving, multiples, division facts and square numbers. www.topmarks.co.uk

In English, we have been acting out different parts of our 'Victorian Adventure' using dramathe children loved this and they were so confident! We are also thinking about whether we need a full stop, question mark and exclamation mark to punctuate different types of sentences. We did this outside to help us stay active!

The phonics screening will be towards the end of the week beginning 9th June. Our trip is on Wednesday 11th too, what a busy week!

Please continue to support your children to read words accurately and slowly, paying attention to the digraphs/ trigraphs in words.

In geography we have been making messy maps and using directional language such as left, right, forwards, backwards. Ask the children what resources they used to represent key features of our classroom.

Have a wonderful half term holiday and as always, thank you for your continued support and all you do to help your children's learning at home.

Year 2

Summer 1 has really flown by and Year 2 have worked very hard.

Maths- the children have worked hard to grasp the concept of Time, it would be useful for them to continue to practise this skill at home. We have now finished our Statistics topic. The children have done well to identify and interpret different graphs and tables: Tally Charts, Block diagrams and Pictograms where a symbol may represent 1, 2, 5 or 10. At home you can practise using a Tally chart with your child, e.g. counting the amount of red cars or counting the amount of minibeasts in your garden or local park. Our next topic is Length and Height so any practise with rulers or meter sticks at home would be useful, we focus of m (metres) and cm (centimetres). To be at the expected level at the end of Year 2, your child must know their 2s, 5s and 10s Times Tables fluently, here is a link to a game we play at

school: https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button

English- Year 2 have written some fantastic suspense warning stories this week. They have used short sentences to create suspense and an 'unknown' feeling of terror in their audience. Ask your child the title of their story to see if they can remember what happened in their warning story. Even though we have practised this spelling rule, we are still finding the silent 'k' hard in 'knew' tricky to remember. As we enter Summer 2, please ensure and continue any extra practise with your child on the Year 1 and Year 2 Common Exception words which have been given out throughout the year. If you need a copy, please do ask.

Reading - We have been reading the classic novel, Harriet's Hare written by Dick King Smith. The children have enjoyed learning about the magical entity which landed on Harriet's farm in the early hours of the morning. We have practised our inference, retrieval, vocabulary, sequencing and pour predicting skills throughout the story. We have been focussing on our Fluency ready for our transition into Year 3.

Excellent half-term! Well done 🙄



Year 3

The children have been working hard and definitely deserve their upcoming half term break! In Writing, we have continued looking at the rags to riches tale of the Egyptian Cinderella. After planning our own versions of the story, we took some time to really focus on writing the five different parts of our own stories, i.e. the opening, build up, problem, resolution and ending. We also developed the editing of our work as well as thinking about how to improve it further. We used checklists to support us with this. Next half term, we will move onto writing instructions.

In Reading, we have continued to explore Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We have had fun creating our own ideas for inventions that could be made in Mr Wonka's factory and thought about the persuasive language we could use in our pitch to convince him to manufacture our invention. We will continue to look at this text next half term, where will be looking at describing and comparing the different characters' personality traits.

We have been enjoying our new topic of money in Maths and the children have been revisiting their recognition of different British coins and notes. We have been thinking about using coins and notes to make different given amounts. We have also been looking at converting pounds and pence, e.g. knowing that a 50p coin and three 20p coins would be 110p so could be converted to £1 and 10p. After half term, we will be looking at adding different money amounts and finding change.

In Computing, we have started planning our book trailers and will be using the iPads to film those this week. In preparation for this, we have been thinking about ways to convey messages through choice of music and images and used a storyboard to collate our ideas. The children will use film editing software; recording and adding sounds to their videos as well as text and transitions.

In History, children have been learning about the importance of the River Nile to Ancient Egyptians. They have also explored how Ancient Egyptians made their own paper and have made their own, inspired by these methods.

Science - We have started our new topic all about 'Animals and Skeletons'. This week we used the iPads to research different animal diets and investigate whether an animal was an omnivore, carnivore or omnivore. We also researched what 'class' an animal belonged to e.g. reptile, mammal.

R.E. - We have started our new topic about the 'People of God'. We read the story of Noah's Ark in the book of Genesis. The children learnt why God chose Noah to build the ark and how Noah had to put his trust and faith in God. We discussed the covenant that God made and how he sent a rainbow as a continued reminder of his promise. The children also questioned why Christians still listen to this story and follow its narrative today.

Year 4 Year 4

It has been another exciting and enriching week in Year 4, filled with creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration across the curriculum. Here is a snapshot of what we have been up to:

Maths

This week, we have been diving into the world of hundredths! The children have been learning how to divide 1- and 2-digit numbers by 10 and 100, exploring how this creates decimals. They have shown great resilience in understanding how fractions and decimals connect, and we are proud of their growing confidence in using place value to solve problems.

English

Our budding journalists have been hard at work writing newspaper reports on the important issue of ocean pollution. They have explored the features of effective reporting, including the 5Ws (Who, What, When, Where, Why), topic-specific vocabulary, and key facts. The children also reflected on what actions can be taken to protect our oceans—some powerful messages emerged!

₫ PE

In preparation for the upcoming Chance to Shine Cricket Festival, the children have been developing their skills in small-sided games. They have been working on teamwork, strategy, and scoring points through competitive play. It has been fantastic to see their enthusiasm and sportsmanship shine through.

Art

Inspired by the vibrant beauty of the rainforest, our artists have been exploring surface patterns in craft and design. They created mood boards with colour swatches and textures, which they then used to design fabric prints.

ICT

This week's focus in computing has been online safety. The children explored how companies promote products online and debated the use of bots in our digital lives. They also tracked their own tech time and discussed strategies for using technology in helpful—not distracting—ways. Some very thoughtful insights were shared!

Year 5

In Maths this week we have continued our study of decimals, and have revisited our times tables in maths starters, as well as in Mastering Number. We have tested our knowledge of multiples, as well as how to represent decimals using different representations, such as on a number line, in a part whole model and using the formal column method. Ask your children at home if they know the first step to complete a decimals addition/subtraction question, and how to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000. We have also started doing problem solving and reasoning on a Friday, where we have looked at specific questions from past papers and NFER papers and the techniques to answer them.

In English this week we have been looking at speech writing in preparation for writing speeches to become Head Boy and Head Girl. The children have done a Cold Task about why they should become the Prime Minister, and what they would do if they were in that position! Ask your child what their policies would be — I'm sure they will come up with some great ideas! If your child is thinking of running for Head Boy or Head Girl, we would ask that they spend some time over the Half term break, writing a speech for them to read to the rest of KS2 later this term. This should include: why they would make a great Head Boy/Girl; what qualities they have that would make them stand out; what they could offer to the rest of the school; and lastly, some extra information about themselves and why they would be the best for the job. If your child has written a speech, please email it in so that we can have a read! Year 5 have continued their efforts in PE, where they are looking at Tennis on Wednesdays, and have just had their last session with the Cricket coach on Tuesdays. They are well prepared and excited for their upcoming festival on 30th June. Ask your child if they can tell how to bowl in cricket, as well as how to serve in tennis.

They have also continued their study of Gospel in RE, where they have looked at the ways in which Jesus put himself in place for us. Ask your child the two most important commandments according to Jesus during his Sermon on the Mount. The children have also continued looking at Mountains in Geography, where they have started researching volcanoes. Ask your child if they know the difference between a mountain and a volcano. We are extremely proud of their continued efforts, and they continue to make the school proud, especially with their attitude to learning and behaviour.

We hope you have a lovely half term!

The Year Five Team

Year 6

We are so proud of how the children conducted themselves last week during SATs week. They worked so hard throughout the whole of the week and were truly fantastic. We enjoyed longer playtimes and fun activities in the afternoon alongside this.

Year 6 are so excited that the residential is finally here. We are looking forward to sharing with you all about our adventures when we get back and are sure the children will enjoy having half term to rest!

This week we also had the "big reveal" of our end of year production and have started learning the songs - the children are really enjoying these songs and they can find them on Spotify if they want to practice at home.

We have also got our new History topic on Ancient Greece underway!

We hope you all have a lovely break over half term and look forward to an action packed, funfilled final Half Term!

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 complete their SATs and begin the preparation for secondary school

Members of our school family who have been recently bereaved

Members of our school community who are unwell

Members of St Margaret's Church during this time of interregnum

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

Diary Dates

Monday 2 nd June	Animal-tastic visit to Nursery – postponed, we will inform
	you of another date as soon as we have one.
Wednesday 4 th June	Parents Meetings – Smartphones 9am and 5pm
Thursday 5 th June	Year 4 trip to the Sealife centre
Friday 6 th June	Y5 Pentecost Worship 9:10am parents welcome
w/b 9 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Test Week
•	Year 1 Phonics Assessment
	Festivals of faith Week
Monday 9 th June	Eucharist Service 10am (Parents welcome)
Wednesday 11 th June	Y1 visit to St John's House
w/b 16 th June	Assessment week (Yrs 1 – 5)
Wednesday 18 th June	Wacky socks Wednesday – wear wacky socks today and
•	donate a tombola prize for the Garden Party.
Thursday 19 th June	Year 6 end of year Diocese Church service
Thursday 19 th June	Year 4 Bikeability
Friday 20 th June	Year 6 Bikeability Day
Monday 23 rd June	Year 6 Borough Sports
Monday 23 rd June	Year 5 Chance to Shine cricket
Tuesday 24 th June	Careers and Aspirations Day
Wednesday 25 th June	New to EYFS Parent's Meeting 6pm
Friday 27 th June	PA Non-uniform day – Bring a Bottle
Saturday 28 th June	PA and Church Garden Party
w/b 30 th June	PSHE / Sex and Relationships Education week (more
·	information to follow)
Monday 30 th June	Year 5 Chance to Shine cricket
Wednesday 2 nd July	Year 6 Lyndon transition day
Thursday 3 rd July	Year 6 Tag Rugby
Monday 7 th July	Sports Day
, ,	EYFS / KS1 – 9:15am
	KS2 – 2pm
Thursday 10 th July	Moving Up Morning all children
Thursday 10 th July	Year 6 Langley transition day
Friday 11 th July	Open day (existing parents) 9:15am – 10:30am; 2:00pm –
	3:15pm
Monday 14 th July	Year 2 to Warwick Castle
Wednesday 16 th July	Year 2 Moving Up Assembly 9:20am
•	Year 6 Awards and Production 6:00pm
Friday 18 th July	End of year service St Margaret's CE Church 2:30pm
	No after school Kidzone
	No FDS football
	Children break up

Monday 1 st September 2025	INSET Days
Tuesday 2 nd September 2025	Pupils return to school

• Change to date

Provisional INSET Days 25/26

1st September 2025 3rd November 2025 26th November 2025 13th February 2026 7th May 2026 20th July 2026

Solihull Term Dates 25/26

Autumn term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 01 September 2025

Half Term Holiday: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025

Term Ends: Friday 19 December 2025

End of Term Holiday: Monday 22 December 2025 - Friday 02 January 2026

Spring term 2026

Term Starts: Monday 05 January 2026

Half Term Holiday: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

Term Ends: Friday 27 March 2026

End of Term Holiday: Monday 30 March 2026 – Friday 10 April 2026

Summer term 2026

Term Starts: Monday 13 April 2026 (May Day: Monday 04 May 2026)

Half Term Holiday: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Term Ends: Monday 20 July 2026

End of Year Holiday Starts: Tuesday 21 July 2026

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



TRANSITIONS (MANAGING CHANGE) WEBINAR

11TH JUNE 10-12PM OR 12TH JUNE 6-8PM

COME AND MEET WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS TEAM ONLINE (VIA MS TEAMS). WE WILL BE LOOKING AT HOW YOU, AS PARENTS/CARERS, CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD WITH MANGING CHANGE AND PERIODS OF TRANSITIONS. THIS WILL BE A GENERALISED WORKSHOP, PROVIDING PSCYHOEDUCATION AND PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR YOU TO GO AWAY WITH.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND, PLEASE SIGNUP VIA THE QR CODE BELOW OR ALTERNATIVELY, LET US KNOW VIA EMAIL.





EMAIL: bsmhft.parenting@nhs.net













ONLINE SAFETY WEBINAR

9TH JULY 10-12PM OR 9TH JULY 6-8PM

COME AND MEET WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS TEAM ONLINE (VIA MS TEAMS). WE WILL BE LOOKING AT HOW YOU, AS PARENTS/CARERS, CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD WITH STAYING SAFE ONLINE. THIS WORKSHOP WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH PSCYHOEDUCATION AND PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR YOU TO GO AWAY WITH.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND, PLEASE SIGNUP VIA THE OR CODE BELOW OR ALTERNATIVELY, LET US KNOW VIA EMAIL.





EMAIL: bsmhft.parentingenhs.net















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

