



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

12th September 2025

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 at the start of this academic year 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.

The vision for our school community is:

Our desire is that the strong Christian foundation children receive at St Margaret's School will give them the confidence to explore the world around them with awe and wonder. We want to build a whole community based on the values of faith, hope and love. We strive for excellence aiming to develop children who are happy, intrinsically motivated, resilient and independent and who believe there is nothing they cannot achieve.

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 our Nursery and Reception children and their families into school over the past two weeks. They have come in beautifully and are already getting used to the routines in the classroom.

We continue to think about those who left us at the end of last term, our Year 6 pupils and families; Mrs Tomson and also Mrs Lightbourne who made the decision right at the end of term to move back to Bermuda to spend time with her family. We remember them in our prayers at this time of change.

We look forward to a busy happy year working in partnership with you all.

Have a lovely weekend.

Anita Delaney

Collective Worship

This week we have focused on the value of Love and how this can be shown through being generous. We explored the Bible verse: 'Love your neighbour as yourself' – Mark 12:31 and also thought about the story of The Good Samaritan. The children have been thinking hard about how they can show this value through acts of kindness and generosity towards others with many planting seeds of kindness this week.

We have also spent time thinking about Spirituality and the 'Ows', 'Wows' and 'Nows' of life. The 'ows' where we explore the spiritual possibilities of hard times; the 'wows' where we explore the spiritual possibilities of fantastic times and the 'nows' – those ordinary, quiet moments of life. The children had some lovely thoughts.

Picture News

Each week during Class Worship, the children discuss a key current event using a stimulus from Picture News. They also look to see where they can see our values of Faith, Hope and Love through each story. 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 point is:



Chartwells Catering

In September, Chartwells took over as the catering company for school. We have been really impressed with the range of food options so far and the children have particularly enjoyed the salad bar and flavoured water cooler. A huge thanks to Mrs Williams, Mrs Kelleher and Mrs Green in the kitchen for making the switch such a success. Please do pass on any feedback that you may have so that we can pass this onto Chartwells.

Meet the Teacher Meetings Y1 – 6

It was lovely to see so many parents attending the 'Meet the Teacher' meetings on Wednesday, hopefully you found these informative and reassuring. All information at these meetings will be uploaded to the website for parents who were unable to attend and for further reference.

Parent Workshops

This year we will be running parent workshops to share in some learning with your child. This term, these workshops will be phonics based for Reception and Year 1 and will have a reading focus for the rest of school. All workshops will begin at 9:10am in the hall where your child's teacher will firstly talk to parents 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 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.

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.

Earrings

We have made the decision to change our policy on earrings in school. We would still prefer and strongly recommend that earrings are not worn in school, we will now allow children to wear one pair of small plain gold or silver studs. These should be removed or covered for PE by the child. The children are responsible for the care of earrings at all times and staff are not able to remove earrings.

Harvest Festival – school and St Margaret's Church

Harvest Festival in school will be led by Year 3 on Friday 3rd October at 9:10am. 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 5th October at 10am it will be Harvest Festival at St Margaret's Church some of which will be led by pupils from Years 1 – 6 alongside Mrs Rimmer. It would be lovely to see as many families as possible at church on this date, please let Mrs Rimmer know via the school office if your child is able to attend.

Mrs Ashton's Coffee Morning

Mrs Ashton will be hosting a monthly coffee morning on a Thursday from 9am – 10am. This is an opportunity to come and have a chat with Mrs Ashton and other parents about any concerns / worries that you have and share experiences and support. There is no need to book, just turn up and you will be very warmly welcomed. This is open to parents in all year groups, please see the diary dates below.

School Fund

We welcome contributions of £10 per child for school fund. This money is used for the little extras that we are not able to buy from school budget such as craft supplies, additional reading books and play equipment. Payment is set up on Arbor – School Shop. You are able to choose a contribution of £2, £5 or £10. Thank you for your contribution and continued support.

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 2025 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.

Key attachments to Newsletter

We regularly receive information into the office that may be of interest to some families, this will be attached to the Newsletter. This week we have attached information about:

- EPAS attendance support drop in updates
- Parking issues at St Margaret's
- Slip into Slippers
- Hatchford Brook Family Hub's September timetable
- Parent online webinars for SEND support

Please keep in your prayers:

- Staff and pupils who left us last year as they begin their exciting new journeys
- The St Margaret's School Community as we begin a new year together
- St Margaret's Church as they continue to work together as they look for a vicar to take up post
- All of those in our school community who are in need at this time

Key dates for your diary:

Wednesday 17 th September	PA AGM 6pm followed by meeting
Wednesday 24 th September	Reception phonics workshop 9:10am
Thursday 25 th September	Mrs Ashton's coffee morning 9am – 10am
Monday 29 th September	Flu vaccinations
Tuesday 30 th September	Year 6 reading workshop 9:10am
Wednesday 1 st October	Year 1 phonics workshop 9:10am Slip into Slippers Day
Friday 3 rd October	Year 3 to lead Harvest Festival 9:10am
Sunday 5 th October	Harvest festival St Margaret's Church 10am
Thursday 9 th October	Year 2 reading workshop 9:10am
Tuesday 14 th October	School photos
Wednesday 15 th October	Open Day for prospective pupil admission September 2026 10am / 2pm. Please book via the school office.
Thursday 16 th October	Reception Olton Library Walk

Wednesday 22 nd October and Thursday 23 rd October	Parent's Evening 4pm – 7pm
Thursday 23 rd October	Mrs Ashton's coffee morning 9am – 10am
Friday 24 th October	Break up for half term
Saturday 1 st November	PA Bonfire Night
Monday 3 rd November	INSET Day
Tuesday 4 th November	Pupils return to school
Wednesday 5 th November	Year 3 reading workshop 9:10am
Tuesday 11 th November	Remembrance Service 10:45am led by Year 6
Thursday 13 th November	Year 4 reading workshop 9:10am
Thursday 20 th November	Mrs Ashton's Coffee Morning
Wednesday 26 th November	INSET Day
Friday 28 th November	PA Disco
Wednesday 3 rd December	Year 5 reading workshop 9:10am
Tuesday 9 th December	EYFS Nativity 9:15am
Wednesday 10 th December	YR – Y6 pantomime visit – Core Theatre Solihull
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch
Wednesday 17 th December	Key Stage 1 Nativity 9:15am and 2:15pm
Thursday 18 th December	Mrs Ashton's Coffee Morning 9am – 10am
Friday 19 th December	Carols and reading St Margaret's Church 2:30pm End of term. No Kidzone after school
Monday 5 th January	Spring term begins

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