



# 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*

26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

### Newsletter 2

Dear Parents

Over the past two weeks there has been a definite change in the weather with the drop in temperatures and amount of rainfall. Please do remember to send your child with a coat as we do go outside in all weathers.

Have a lovely weekend.

*Anita Delaney*

### Collective Worship and Spirituality

We have continued to focus on the value of Love, looking at how we can show love for our natural world by caring for creation. This week we shared the Parable of the Sower and the children spent time reflecting on what loving thing they could do for someone else this week.

Our Spirituality Leaders are growing into their roles, leading class collective worship and elements of whole school worship. They are very excited about developing these roles further.

### 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.

The talking points over the past two weeks have been:



Congratulations to Mason in Y4 who actually is a world record holder – what an amazing achievement!

### **Lost Property**

We already have a huge amount of lost property in school; it is all in the entrance hall with many things unnamed which makes it very hard to return them. Due to the limited storage space that we have, these boxes will be emptied at the end of each month so please do come and check as soon as you realise that something is missing and please remember to name all items of clothing.

### **Long hair**

Just a reminder that all hair that is shoulder length or longer must be tied back fully. We have had a few children in school over the past couple of weeks with hair 'half up' or completely down.

### **Earrings**

Whilst we have made the decision to change our policy on earrings in school, please can I remind all parents that any earrings worn must be small plain gold or silver studs, I have noted various colours and sizes of earrings this week. We would still prefer and strongly recommend that earrings are not worn in school, if they are, 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.

### **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.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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, even if you do not normally attend church. Please let Mrs Rimmer know via the school office if your child is able to attend.

This Harvest time, the church are supporting the Narthex food bank in Sparkhill which is run by the Trussell charity. They are in urgent need of :

UHT milk

Biscuits

Custard

Rice pudding

Tinned fruit

Tinned vegetables

If people would like to bring any of the above as a gift to the 10am Harvest service on 5th October, they will be gratefully received.

### **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.

### **Slip into Slippers for Older People’s Day Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, children are invited to wear their slippers to school in return for a £1 donation. Please do send in an outdoor pair of shoes for outdoor play. Donations should be brought into the classroom.






### **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.

### Class News:

Nursery	<p>It has been wonderful to see how settled and confident the children are as we begin our new term. This week, we have launched our exciting topic: "All About Me", exploring the big question: "How have I changed since I was born?"</p> <p>The children have enjoyed looking at their baby photos and comparing them to how they are now. We have noticed lots of changes—such as using a bottle as a baby and now drinking from a cup or sleeping in a cot and now having their own bed!</p> <p>Over the coming weeks, we will be learning about baptisms and baby naming ceremonies. If your child has any photographs or special items related to these or other faith-based birth celebrations, we'd love for them to bring them in to share with the class.</p> <p>In Maths, we've been exploring shapes, colours, and counting, with a focus on recognising numerals 0–5.</p> <p>Our Talk for Writing book this half term is <i>Titch</i>, and we have been using Makaton actions to help retell the story.</p> <p>As part of our Little Wandle phonics sessions, we are focusing on nursery rhymes. So far, we have learned <i>Incy Wincy Spider</i> and <i>Miss Polly Had a Dolly</i>, using props and Makaton signs. You might hear your child talking about getting wet in the rain—just like Incy Wincy!</p> <p>In PE, we are working on different ways of moving and balancing. A gentle reminder: all children need a pair of plimsolls in school for PE lessons.</p> <p>Book Bags only need to be brought in on Thursdays and will be sent home on Fridays. Please return the reading book and diary on Thursday so we can change them ready for the weekend.</p> <p>Exciting news—our class bear has been named Cuddles! Starting this week, children will take Cuddles home for the weekend. He comes with a bag containing clothes, pyjamas, a toothbrush, a brush, and a diary. Please help your child record their adventures with Cuddles using drawings, writing, or small photos. The children love sharing their weekend stories with the class!</p> <p>Cuddles will go home on Fridays and should be returned to nursery on Mondays.</p>
Reception	<p>What an amazing first few weeks we have had in Reception! The children have settled beautifully into the routine of school and are making myself, Mrs Rimmer and Mrs Dziama very proud!</p> <p>We are very lucky this year as we are also having another adult helping us, Mrs Khan, who I am sure you will be hearing lots about!</p> <p>The children have proudly been sharing their 'More about me' boxes that they have made over the summer, we only have a few left to go!</p> <p>As part of our Talk for Writing we have been using text maps to learn a range of Nursery Rhymes including Humpty Dumpty, 1 2 3 4 5 Once I caught a fish alive and Heads, shoulders, knees and toes. We have been learning how to innovate each of these too! For example, we changed 1 2 3 4 5 to Once I caught a shark alive!</p> <p>We have been having lots of chances to get to know all of the areas of our classroom and the outdoor area. I have to say, Reception are excellent at tidying up!!</p> <p>We have also been reading the story of Funny Bones and welcomed a visit from Herman the skeleton into class to help us learn about our bodies. We have also been thinking about how we have changed from when we were a baby to now.</p> <p>Last week we started our phonics lessons and wow the children have been amazing at embedding the routines already! We were lucky enough to have our grown ups visit today to see us do our wonderful learning!</p> <p>We can't wait to see what else is in store in Reception!</p>
Year 1	<p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>We have had a brilliant start to the year in Year 1! The children have settled in so well and we are so glad we have been able to make the most of the autumn sunshine.</p> <p><b>English</b></p> <p>We had a very exciting surprise last week – an urgent letter from a chameleon! He even left us a riddle, which led us to the story 'The Mixed-Up Chameleon'. We have been learning actions and</p>

	<p>had a go at sequencing parts of the story. We have also introduced our Everyday <b>Toolkit</b>: capital letters, finger spaces and full stops, which we use every time we write.</p> <p><b>Phonics</b> In phonics, we have been reviewing sounds from Reception and this week started our Year 1 phonics learning. We have looked at alternative spellings – for example the sound /ai/ as in <i>rain, play, lake</i>. Our tricky words this week are: said, says, you, do, like little, push, put, pull and full. Please keep practising these at home by spotting them in books or around the house.</p> <p><b>Maths</b> In Maths, we have been working on place value, representing numbers in different ways and talking about what they mean. A great way to practise at home is to gather a set number of objects (e.g. LEGO, teddies, apples) and ask: <i>What is one more? What is one less?</i></p> <p><b>Science</b> In Science, we have been learning about the seasons and noticing how autumn is changing the world around us. We have also started exploring the animal kingdom, thinking about the different groups of animals and what makes them special.</p> <p><b>R.E.</b> In RE, the children have begun exploring the question “<i>What do Christians believe God is like?</i>” Through the story of <i>The Lost Sheep</i>, they learned how Christians believe God is loving and caring. You could ask your child at home what the story shows Christians about God. Here’s what we’ll be learning next week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>English:</b> Writing our own mixed up animal stories.</li> <li>• <b>Maths:</b> Looking at Less than, greater than, equal to</li> <li>• <b>Science:</b> Continuing our learning about animal groups and their features.</li> <li>• <b>PE:</b> Developing our ball skills and practising key movement and coordination fundamentals.</li> </ul> <p>Also, a little note to say if you are having a clear out of any toys at home to send them our way as some of ours are currently looking like they need to retire! This could be plastic animals, building blocks etc</p> <p>Many Thanks, the Year 1 Team 😊</p>
Year 2	<p>The children have settled very well into Year 2, it is a huge change from Year 1 and the Year 2 team could not be prouder! They have done extremely well re-learning routines, settling into a different classroom and taking on their Year 2 role as 'top' of the Infants.</p> <p>Maths: We started our new topic 'Place Value' where children have been building on their past knowledge of Tens and Ones in a 2-digit number. Ask your child at home 'What is partitioning' it is 'splitting a number into its tens and one' 😊 Children have been partitioning 1-digit and 2-digit numbers into Tens and Ones. Place Value is the CORE of your child's Maths understanding, we then build on this throughout the year and of course in KS2. Please use examples at home for children to practise and access Mathletics e.g. 42 has 4 tens and 2 ones. Please also practise counting and recognizing numbers to 100.</p> <p>English: In English, the children have started learning to write an 'opening' with the focus being on Description. Year 2 have identified adjectives (describing words), expanded noun phrases (2 adjectives separated by a comma and separated by a comma). This week, Year 2 have made a large collection of describing ideas to describe the sneaky, tiny goblins which were in our model text 'Elf Road'. We had also started our Phase 5 Phonics Review which include Year 1 and 2 Common Exception Words and the different graphemes for the following sounds: ai, ee, si, ti, ture.</p> <p>Reading: In our class Reading lessons, we are kickstarting the year with 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson and Axel Sheffler - clearly a class favourite! The children have used information in the text to draw Stick Man's home and have used their inference skills to determine characters' feelings and different parts of the story.</p> <p>Well done Year 2 - Fantastic start 😊</p>

Year 3	<p>Year 3 have made an amazing start to their time in Key Stage 2, and have shown they are able to be responsible, respectful and ready to learn, and have been able to demonstrate to all of the staff how good they can be. They have shown a great attitude so far, and have had some real ‘Wow’ moments (as well as some ‘Ow’ moments) and have continued to show the hunger to improve that we expect in Year 3.</p> <p>In Maths so far, we have started our study of place value, comparing hundreds, tens and ones, and showing them using different manipulatives. We have also shown how to do this in Mastering Number, where the children have started recognising how to double numbers and count on and back. We have tested their understanding of place value through problem solving and reasoning questions, as well as with extra extension questions to push their understanding. 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.</p> <p>In English this week we have been looking at narrative writing, where the children have been describing characters and settings from a video with no audible prompts and then creating pictorial representations of their thoughts and descriptions of their very own monsters. Over the next week they will be planning, writing and editing their end of unit Hot Task, which will include a setting description and a character description.</p> <p>Year 3 have continued their efforts in PE, where they are looking at OAA on Wednesdays, and Football on Fridays. They have shown some amazing skills in Football and have been excellent with their teamwork and non-verbal communication in OAA.</p> <p>They have also started their study of Creation in RE, where they have looked at the Bible verses from Genesis, and have started to explore God’s creation in the classroom and outside in nature. We hope you have a lovely weekend!</p> <p>The Year 3 Team</p>
Year 4	<p><b>Year 4</b></p> <p>What a fantastic start to the new school year it has been! The children have settled into Year 4 with great enthusiasm, and it has been a joy to see their confidence grow as they embrace new routines, friendships, and learning challenges.</p> <p>Here is a snapshot of what we have been up to so far:</p> <p> <b>Maths</b></p> <p>We have been diving into <i>Place Value to 10,000</i>, using base 10 equipment, counters, part-whole models, and number lines to explore the value of each digit. The children have shown great curiosity and resilience as they build their understanding of larger numbers and how they can be represented in different ways.</p> <p> <b>English</b></p> <p>Our adventure story focus has been <i>The Catch</i>, which has sparked some brilliant discussions and imaginative writing. We have been working on using <i>fronted adverbials</i>, <i>verbs and adverbs</i>, and <i>expanded noun phrases</i> to bring our sentences to life. The children are becoming confident storytellers, and we’re excited to see how their writing develops over the term.</p> <p> <b>RE</b></p> <p>In our RE lessons, we have been exploring <i>The Gospel</i> and asking the big question: <i>What kind of world would Jesus want?</i> The children have shared thoughtful ideas about kindness, fairness, and helping others, showing a deepening understanding of Christian values and how they relate to everyday life.</p> <p> <b>PE</b></p> <p>Football has been our focus in PE, and the children have been learning how to <i>attack space</i>, <i>pass towards a goal</i>, <i>mark and defend</i>, and of course, <i>score goals!</i> Teamwork and communication have been key, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence and coordination grow with each session.</p> <p> <b>History</b></p> <p>We have begun our topic on <i>How children’s lives have changed</i>, starting with a look at Tudor</p>

	<p>times. The children were fascinated to learn about Tudor apprenticeships and how different life was for children in the past. This topic is helping them to appreciate the changes over time and reflect on their own experiences.</p> <p><b>Science</b></p> <p>In Science, the children have been learning about the environment and what we can do to protect it. They had some amazing ideas including recycling, saving water and not wasting paper. Thank you for your continued support. We're looking forward to continuing the term with lots of learning, enjoyment and growth.</p>
<p>Year 5</p>	<p>Class 5 have made a fantastic start to the year and have settled well into their new routines.</p> <p>In Maths, we have been exploring place value and looking at numbers up to one million. The children have shown enthusiasm for their learning, especially when tackling problem-solving questions.</p> <p>The class have read the first 4 chapters of Tom's Midnight Garden. They have been focusing on developing their inference skills by finding evidence using a quote from the text and explaining how this evidence supports their answer to a question.</p> <p>In English we have been focusing on an extract called Road's End. The children have written a character sketch detailing the main character's appearance and personality. They have been learning how to write a narrative in the first person, building tension and suspense using a range of different sentence types.</p> <p>We have started our Science topic called Mixtures and Materials. The children have learnt about thermal conductors and thermal insulator, as well as planning an investigation to find a suitable material to keep their teacher's drink warm when they are on playground duty.</p> <p>In Geography and History, we began by looking at where Olton sits within the UK, before moving on to study the larger cities and counties around us. This week, we are turning our attention to how Olton has changed over time and asking ourselves whether those changes have been for the better.</p> <p>In Art, the children have produced some incredible sketches of animal faces. We are very excited to get these on display so everyone can enjoy their hard work.</p> <p>In RE the children have been thinking about what it means to know God and the significance of this for Christians.</p> <p>Well done, Year 5 – a brilliant start to the term!</p>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>The children have settled into Year 6 wonderfully and are a real credit to you. They are demonstrating all the behaviours we want to see as role models for the rest of the school. They work incredibly hard in their lessons too.</p> <p>In maths, we have been thinking about the place value of numbers up to 10,000,000; including rounding and comparing numbers. The children used this to support them when rounding:</p> <p>Round to nearest 10      →      Ones column</p> <p>Round to nearest 100      →      Tens column</p> <p>Round to nearest 1,000      →      Hundreds column</p> <p>Round to nearest 10,000      →      Thousands column</p> <p>Round to nearest 100,000      →      <u>Ten-thousands</u> column</p> <p>Round to nearest 1,000,000 →      <u>Hundred-thousands</u> column</p>

Please see the White Rose Home Learning section which can support you with the children's learning at home:  
 Maths home learning | Home learning | White Rose Education  
 'Top marks ; Hit the Button' has been a hit, as always, with the children recalling their multiplication facts which is so important. <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>  
 In English, we have started our class reader 'Goodnight Mr Tom' and are exploring the characters and themes as well as practising our retrieval skills making sure we refer back to the text. In writing, we have been exploring a short film clip called 'Beyond the Lines' linked to WW2 and writing letters in role as a soldier, practising varying our sentence types for effect and using a range of punctuation in particular colons and semi-colons.  
 We are enjoying our Science topic on the Circulatory System, learning about the Heart and blood. In RE, we are looking at the key question: Creation and Science- Conflicting or Complimentary? This has brought up some incredibly thought-provoking questions around Genesis and evolution. Please join us at our Reading workshop next Tuesday 30th September at 9:15am  
 Have a lovely weekend!

### **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:

- Parking issues at St Margaret's
- Slip into Slippers
- Hatchford Brook Family Hub's September timetable
- Parent online webinars for SEND support
- A joint letter about attendance from Solihull Local Authority and St Margaret's.
- School Nurse information

### **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:

Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Flu vaccinations
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 reading workshop 9:10am
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Year 1 phonics workshop 9:10am Slip into Slippers Day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Year 3 to lead Harvest Festival 9:10am
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest festival St Margaret's Church 10am
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2 reading workshop 9:10am
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	School photos

Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Day for prospective pupil admission September 2026 10am / 2pm. Please book via the school office.
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception Olton Library Walk
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October and Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parent's Evening 4pm – 7pm
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Mrs Ashton's coffee morning 9am – 10am
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Break up for half term
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	PA Bonfire Night
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	INSET Day
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Pupils return to school Book Fair in school from 4 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> November
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 reading workshop 9:10am
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Service 10:45am led by Year 6
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 reading workshop 9:10am
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Mrs Ashton's Coffee Morning
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	INSET Day
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	PA Disco
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Year 5 reading workshop 9:10am
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Nativity 9:15am
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	YR – Y6 pantomime visit – Core Theatre Solihull
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 1 Nativity 9:15am and 2:15pm
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Mrs Ashton's Coffee Morning 9am – 10am
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols and reading St Margaret's Church 2:30pm End of term No Kidzone after school
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Spring term begins

#### **INSET Days 25/26**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

26<sup>th</sup> November 2025

13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

20<sup>th</sup> 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