



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

10th October 2025

Newsletter 3

Dear Parents

It has been a really busy but very productive couple of weeks for all children and staff. We have now had a number of reading workshops and really appreciate all of the positive feedback from these including ways that we could make them even better. Over the next few weeks, we will be sending out a short questionnaire to see what other workshops / information evenings that you might find useful this year to support your child's learning and development.

Last Friday, Year 3 led a wonderful Harvest Festival worship which made us all think about how hard the farmers work, what Harvest looks like around the world, how lucky we are to have food to eat and how little some people have. On Sunday, some of the children joined myself and Mrs Rimmer at church to lead part of Harvest Festival. They read and sang beautifully and we were incredibly proud of them all. Thankyou Mrs Rimmer for organising this. Please see below some pictures from the church displays:



Please make sure that you check the diary dates below for upcoming events and read your child's class updates to see what they have been busy doing.

Have a lovely weekend.

Anita Delaney

Collective Worship and Spirituality

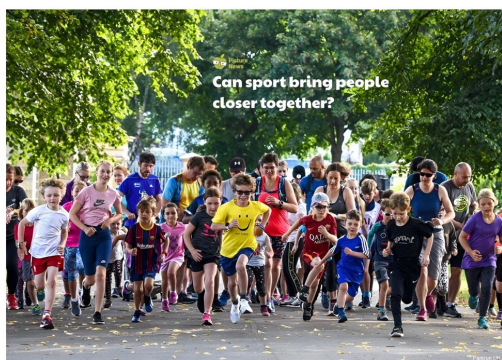
This week in worship, we have thought about how we should notice a need and show Compassion to those less fortunate than ourselves just as Jesus did. The children came up with some thoughtful ideas including listening to others and sharing their time.

The children are continuing to explore Spirituality, taking time to reflect and are sharing their 'Ows, Wows and Nows'.

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:



Bikeability Cycle to School Week

Next week (Monday 13th - Friday 17th) is 'Bikeability Cycle to school week' and we would love to encourage as many of our children as possible to cycle, scoot or ride to school. Our eco council are working hard in school to promote this week and encourage children to make sustainable journeys and ease traffic outside school

Open Day

Open Day for prospective parents of children due to start Nursery / Reception in September 2026 will be held on Wednesday 15th October at either 10am or 2:00pm. Please contact the school office to book for these sessions and please pass the information on to anyone that may be considering St Margaret's for their children

Parent's Evenings

Parent's Evenings will be held on Wednesday 23rd October and Thursday 24th October. A letter will be sent next week with information regarding how to book an appointment with your child's class teacher. These appointments are limited to 10 minutes. Please note that we are unable to offer appointments at any other time. Children should not attend these appointments.

Pumps for PE

Please can you ensure that all children have a pair of indoor pumps in school for indoor PE activities? These should be kept in school in a named pump bag.

Parent's Association News

PA Meeting dates	Location	Time
8th October	West Warwick's	7:30pm
12th November	School staffroom	6pm
14th January	School staffroom	6pm
20 th November	Adults only Christmas shopping evening	7-9pm

- Friday 24th October – Non-uniform day in exchange for a toy / sweets

As we enter a busy time of year, St Margaret's PA relies on your support to volunteer at events. If you or a family member can help out please contact your class rep or volunteer using PTA events.

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.

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.

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.

Please see below from South Solihull Sports Partnership

SOLIHULL EVENT EXPECTATIONS

COMPETITORS

- Respect your teammates, competitors, officials and event organisers
- Respect the rules of the game & theme of competition
- Be organised - arrive on time for your event, have the correct kit / equipment
- Be the best you possibly can be – always give 100% effort
- Be humble in victory and gracious in defeat - Have Fun!
- Help to make the School Games an enjoyable experience for ALL!

LEADERS

- Show respect for all competitors and participants
- Remain impartial - encourage, support and praise all participants equally
- Be organised and prepared - have a good knowledge and understanding of your event
- Be a positive role model - enthuse, motivate, inspire! Have Fun!

TEACHERS & OFFICIALS

- Prepare your team, make sure participants understand the intent of competition
- Make sure you understand the rules of the competition & be able to support your team
- Show respect for all participants, officials, leaders and event organisers, encouraging fair play
- Be organised – make sure your team arrives on time with the correct kit and equipment
- Be a positive role model – promote positive sporting values

SPECTATORS







- Show respect for all participants, officials, leaders and event organisers
- Respect the intent of the competition you are watching & the rules applied, remember they may be different to competitive sports outside school.
- Stay within all designated spectator areas and respect the environment you are in
- Be a positive, supportive and encouraging role model
- Do not video or take photographs of any young people at events including their own children.

Class News:

<p>Nursery</p>	<p>We are continuing our exciting topic ‘All About Me’, and the children have been thoroughly enjoying learning more about themselves and others. A big thank you to the parent who visited to talk about the needs and care of babies — the children were fascinated and especially surprised to learn that even the staff were once that tiny!</p> <p>We have also been exploring how families celebrate the arrival of a new baby, including baptisms, christenings, and naming ceremonies. If your family has any photos, special items, or traditions from faith-based birth celebrations, we would love for you to share them with us so the children can learn about the wonderful diversity in our community.</p> <p>We are hoping to welcome Rev Sue in the coming weeks, who will talk to the children about what happens during a christening — a lovely opportunity to deepen their understanding.</p> <p>In our maths sessions, we have been focusing on shapes, counting, and number recognition (0–5) through our fun Number Rumba and Mastering Number activities. The children have also been matching objects to numerals and are making fantastic progress.</p> <p>During our Little Wandle phonics sessions, we have been exploring voice sounds — the children have been brilliant at making their voices sound like steam trains, expressing disappointment, or mimicking the bounce of a ball. Their creativity and enthusiasm have been amazing!</p> <p>In PE, we have continued experimenting with different ways of moving and balancing. This week, we introduced soft balls, and the children had great fun</p>
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	<p>kicking, rolling, catching, and bouncing them. Just a reminder: all children need a pair of PE pumps in school — thank you for your support.</p> <p>Book Bags: Please remember to bring book bags in on Thursdays, with the book and reading diary, ready for changing on Fridays.</p> <p>Finally, our class bear Cuddles has already enjoyed two weekend adventures — keep an eye out, as Cuddles might be coming home with your child soon!</p>
Reception	<p>Reception have continued to impress all of the adults in class with how well they are learning and how they have completely embedded our classroom routines!</p> <p>We have been learning the story 'The Little Red Hen' using a text map and actions, the children have loved this story! This week we have begun innovating the story, by changing the animals and what happens. As a class we created 'The big black dog' and 'The little blue dinosaur'. At the end of this week, we will be creating our own text maps based on this story which we are excited about!</p> <p>In Maths we have been learning to create patterns and this week we have been busy comparing amounts by using the terms 'more' and 'fewer'.</p> <p>We have been learning about Harvest and would like to thank everyone who kindly brought in a donation to school.</p> <p>We have been continuing to think about why the word God is important to Christians in our RE lessons and the children have wonderful ideas on how to look after God's Creation. We also painted pictures to make people in our community smile who may not be as fortunate as we are to have family and friends that they see regularly.</p> <p>We are excited to see what the next few weeks will bring!</p>
Year 1	<p>We have had another busy and exciting week in Year 1, exploring lots of different areas of learning and having some truly memorable moments! On Monday, Mrs Tipton brought in her pet chameleon – Diego who arrived at the perfect time for our new unit in English. The children absolutely loved seeing him up close and seeing him change colour!</p> <p>English</p> <p>In English, we have been learning all about non-fiction texts. The children have been identifying features such as subheadings and headings and are beginning to plan their own animal information books. If you have any non-fiction books at home, your child might enjoy spotting these features and sharing what they find with you.</p> <p>Phonics</p> <p>This week in Phonics, the children have been continuing their Phase 5 learning, reviewing longer words and practising tricky words.</p> <p>Focus sounds (GPCs): <i>er, oo, oa, ai, ee, igh, ay, ou, oy, ea, ear, air</i></p> <p>Tricky words for this week: <i>all, are, I, of, one, here, today</i></p> <p>We will complete our Little Wandle phonics assessments by next week. Some children will take part in 'Keep Up' or 'Rapid Catch Up' sessions with Mrs Edwards or Mrs Fiteih to give them a little boost. If your child is involved, you will receive a note home. These sessions are short-term and designed to help children stay confident and on track. If you'd like more information, please come and chat with us.</p> <p>Maths</p> <p>In Maths, we have started our new <i>Addition and Subtraction</i> unit. The children have been using <i>part-part-whole models</i> and writing number sentences to show their understanding. We have been practising our stem</p>

	<p>sentence: “ ___ is a part and ___ is a part and the whole is ___.”</p> <p>The children have been working brilliantly at representing numbers in different ways and using resources to support their understanding.</p> <p>Science</p> <p>In Science, we are learning about <i>animal classifications</i>. The children have been exploring the features of different animal groups — for example, discovering that amphibians have smooth, moist skin and can live both on land and in water.</p> <p>R.E.</p> <p>This half-term, our key question is: “<i>What do Christians believe God is like?</i>” Through the story of <i>Jonah</i>, the children have been thinking about what it tells Christians about God and how they might show their beliefs in everyday life. We also talked about when and why Christians sing songs about God, such as during assemblies or church services, and how singing helps them to express their faith.</p> <p>Thanks for all your support at home, the Year one Team.</p>
Year 2	<p>Year 2 have been super stars!</p> <p>Maths: We are coming to the end of our 'Place Value' topic, please continue to practise counting in your 2s, 5s and 10s with your child at home. Place Value is core to your child's understanding of Maths. Children are expected to be able to identify tens and ones in any given number (to 100) and can 'partition' numbers along with explaining their thought process. Our next topic will be Addition and Subtraction.</p> <p>English: In English, we are trialling a new scheme and the children have been looking at a short film called 'Adventures are the Pits', our children are learning to write a short action narrative. The children have enjoyed watching the short film and have really impressed their teachers with their description and fantastic similes. We are learning to use expanded noun phrases and similes - ask your child for an example of these! We are also coming to the end of our Phase 5 Phonics Review which include Year 1 and 2 Common Exception Words and the following graphemes and words: a - wasp, aw - claw, ey - key, dge - bridge, are - square, ti - station. Please practise at home.</p> <p>RE: This half-term our children have been finding out the answer to... how do Muslims show Allah is compassionate in Islam? The children have learnt what compassion is and how we can show compassion to others. Each child remembered at least one way that compassion is shown in Islam and by Muslims. Some even went a step further and made links between Christianity and Islam! They have enjoyed learning about a different religion and it has been really lovely for some children to share about their own way of life.</p> <p>Well done Year 2! 😊</p>
Year 3	<p>Year 3 have continued their wonderful start to their time in KS2, and have shown they are able to be responsible, respectful and ready to learn. They have shown a great attitude 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, we have started our study of addition and subtraction after finishing our study of place value. We have also shown how to do this in Mastering Number, where the children have started well recognising how to add and subtract without crossing 10 or 100. We have tested their understanding of place value through problem solving and reasoning questions, as well as with extra extension questions to push their</p>

	<p>understanding.</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. They have moved onto their 'Hot Task', which is their final piece of writing. They have performed very well and have managed to impress us with their description and detail, as well as their recollection of the story.</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 communication in OAA. They have also continued 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.</p> <p>We hope you have a lovely weekend!</p> <p>The Year 3 Team</p>
Year 4	<p>Year 4</p> <p>It has been another exciting and productive week in Year 4, with the children diving into a wide range of learning experiences across the curriculum. Here is a snapshot of what we have been up to:</p> <p> Maths</p> <p>This week, we have been developing our number sense by comparing and ordering numbers up to 10,000. The children have also explored Roman numerals and practised rounding numbers to the nearest 10 and 100. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they tackle increasingly complex problems with enthusiasm.</p> <p> English</p> <p>Our focus has been on the short film <i>The Catch</i>, which inspired some brilliant creative writing. We have been learning how to use dialogue effectively to plan and write a recount from the perspective of the main character. The children have shown great imagination and empathy in their storytelling.</p> <p> RE</p> <p>In our RE lessons, we have been exploring the Gospel and asking the big question: <i>What kind of world would Jesus want?</i> Through the parable of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee, the children reflected on themes of humility, kindness, and fairness. Their thoughtful discussions have been truly heartwarming.</p> <p> PE</p> <p>Football has been a real highlight this week! We have been working on attacking space using dribbling and a range of passes to score goals. The children have shown excellent teamwork and determination on the pitch, and it's been wonderful to see their skills developing.</p> <p> History</p> <p>Our topic on Victorian Britain has sparked lots of curiosity. We have been comparing the lives of Victorian children who worked in factories and mines with those who attended school. The children were shocked by some of the conditions and showed great empathy during our discussions.</p> <p> Art</p> <p>In Art, we have been learning how to create a 3D effect using shading techniques. The children practised using highlights and shadows to bring their drawings to life, and the results have been impressive! Their attention to detail and creativity continues to shine.</p>

	<p>Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to another week of learning and discovery ahead.</p>
Year 5	<p>We have had a busy and exciting few weeks in class, diving into a range of subjects and sparking some brilliant learning moments!</p> <p>In Maths the children have been building on their understanding of place value, with a particular focus on rounding numbers. This week, we have moved on to our new unit: addition and subtraction. The children are already showing great enthusiasm and confidence!</p> <p>As part of our collective RE work, we have been exploring the theme of 'God' and the wonders of his creation. The children have produced stunning artwork featuring animals, trees, sunsets, and birds. Their pieces will soon be on display in the hall for you all to admire.</p> <p>In PHSE, we have been learning about 'The Rights of a Child' around the world. This led to some thoughtful discussions in class, as pupils reflected on how these rights are not always upheld in every part of the world.</p> <p>The children have enjoyed our practical science lessons, building electrical circuits to investigate if materials are electrical conductors or electrical insulators and testing whether different materials are soluble or insoluble when mixed with warm water. The children learnt that when a solute e.g. sugar dissolves in a solvent e.g. water it creates a solution.</p> <p>In football the children have practised passing accurately, while finding a space on the pitch. The children are developing great teamwork and coordination! In orienteering the children have also shown positive collaboration skills when taking part in different team challenges.</p> <p>We have been leaning a song called <i>The Gift of the Nile</i>—you may have heard it being sung at home! Last week, we also explored musical notation, helping us understand how music is written and performed.</p> <p>In English we are studying non-chronological reports based around the theme of rainforests. The children have been identifying the features of a non-chronological report, how to write a glossary and the use of relative clauses to add additional information to their writing. The class had an exciting visit from Mrs Tipton's chameleon (Diego). They asked some excellent questions to learn all about his habitat in the wild which will help them write their own non-chronological report in the coming week.</p>
Year 6	<p>It has been another busy couple of weeks in Year 6. The children continue to demonstrate all the values and behaviours we encourage as role models of our school! Thank you for coming to our reading meeting last week. The PowerPoint is on the website to look through if you couldn't make it.</p> <p>In English, we have moved on to a new non-fiction topic where we are learning to write a balanced argument. We have been debating lots of interesting topics such as should animals be sent to space, is Tourism positive or negative and are Premier League footballers paid too much. We are learning to use cohesive devices to help our writing flow.</p> <p>In Maths, we have been using our knowledge of multiples, factors and prime numbers and practising formal division and multiplication methods.</p> <p>When children are completing long multiplication, it is essential that they double check each step, as one inaccuracy can give a wrong answer. Please continue to use TTRS to support retrieval of multiplication facts. Here is the link to the White Rose home learning section for our current unit:</p> <p>https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/home-learning?year=year-6-new</p>

	<p>In History as part of our learning about WW2 we have been using sources to deduce information about the Blitz and about evacuation. This was especially thought provoking, and the children were able to show such empathy for the families we learnt about. The children are really interested in this topic and are sharing information about family members.</p> <p>Can you ask them these questions to check their retrieval:</p> <p>Why did Britain declare war on Germany in 1939?</p> <p>What does the 'phoney' war mean?</p> <p>What was operation Sea Lion and why didn't it work?</p> <p>What did people in Britain have to do during the Blitz?</p> <p>As part of our Remembrance service in November, we would love the children to email a photograph of (or bring something in linked to) a member of family who has served in the armed forces. We will be sharing these during our service and will return these all to you after the service.</p> <p>We have been enjoying learning different codes in Computing this week and linking this to Bletchley Park. Ask us about Ceasar Cipher and Pig Pen codes to see what we can remember! In Science last week we had a great afternoon investigating how exercise affected our pulse rates and plotted our results onto a line graph to compare with our partner.</p>
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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:

- FDS Half Term Football Club
- Hatchford Brook Hub October Timetable

Please keep in your prayers:

- 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
- The people of Manchester and all those affected by the events last week.
- People across the world who are being impacted by war and conflict

Key dates for your diary:

Monday 13 th October	Cycle to school week
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	PA Non-uniform Day in return for a donation of sweets or a toy 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 Book Fair in school from 4 th – 7 th November
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