



# ST MARGARET'S

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Autumn 1: Week 1

*Proverbs 22:6 'Train up a child in the way he should go:  
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.'*

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a sense of great excitement that I write to you this week: the term has begun and we have updated all corridors and shared areas across the school. Tirelessly, we worked over the summer holidays to prepare the school for the return of the children and seeing their faces on the first day of term certainly made it worthwhile. At St Margaret's, we pride ourselves on our amazing learning environment - an environment which inspires and excites - and I am happy to be able to share with you some photographs of the displays which adorn the walls of our corridors. They truly make every journey around St Margaret's an inspirational one.

Over the oncoming weeks, we will be sharing with you a range of planned trips as part of our Young Transformer's projects and please look out for details regarding after school clubs. As always, our Smarties before and after school club is popular - if you do require a space, please contact the school office to ensure that your child has a place.

I am sometimes asked by parents 'What is the best thing I can do to support my child at school?' Please read to them or listen to them read every day. Also, explore learning during the weekends if you can, going outdoors and enriching one of our subjects e.g. trip to the forest, science museum, sports events - this way they can continue their education with their family in a fun way. For those in Year 6 - please attend our Saturday school starting from next week.

I look forward to seeing you at the gates and in the playground.

Mr Hollinsley

**love... joy... patience... kindness... self-control**

# READING RECORDS

Your child will be given a new yellow reading record and a banded reading book for them to take home.

To encourage a love for reading and to support the development and consolidation of their reading skills, we ask that you read with your child or listen to your child read everyday. This can be for just 10 or 15 minutes and recorded in their reading log.

Any other books that the children read for pleasure can also be recorded in their log and will be celebrated by their class teacher.



# PACKED LUNCHES



We would like to remind parents and carers that St Margaret's is a Healthy School. Children should **not bring chocolate bars, crisps or fizzy drinks**, if your child does bring these in, they will be replaced with a piece of fruit and sent home with them at the end of the school day.

Please ensure that should you like to provide your child with a snack that it is a healthy option. Nut free cereal bars, yoghurt bars or fruit bars are recommended.

All children are encouraged to drink water regularly - please ensure that your child is bringing in their own water bottles, these can be refilled during the school day.

We are proud to be a nut free school!

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# ATTENDANCE

Attending school is important to ensure children are able to make the most of their education and reach their full potential. If you raise a child's attendance, you raise their academic chances. As a parent/carer, you are legally responsible for ensuring that your child receives a suitable education.

## What families can do:

- Be firm - send your child to school every day, all day, unless they are sick
- Develop good sleep and morning routines
- Schedule appointments and extra-curricular activities outside of school
- Avoid taking holidays during term time
- Seek help early before your concerns become serious

## Going to school more often will make a difference; attendance habits will follow your child into work and life. Each day missed:

- puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up
- can lead to lower achievement in reading, writing and numeracy
- can lead to gaps in learning and connections to friends



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# STARS OF THE WEEK!

Week ending:

15th Sept 2023

Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6



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# Presentation Awards

Year  
5

Amelia-Rose

Year  
6

Jada-Leanne

# Progress Awards

KS2  
Ibrahima

# Whole school attendance:

Our whole school attendance this week is

**95.08%**

Remember - Gates open at 8:30am. Please ensure your child comes into school by 8:45am.

# Attendance of the week:

Well done to

*Year*

*5P*

For winning 'Attendance of the Week' with the best attendance of:

**98.96%**

# Nurse drop in

The next nurse drop in is:

26th September 2023

9am - 10am.

If you are unable to attend the drop in session and wish to speak with a member of the team, please call:

03003001813

# Prospective Parents

There will be a few prospective admission information evening for parents of children going in to Reception in 2024 on the following dates:

Thursday 5th October 2023 @ 10am

Tuesday 14th November 2023 @ 5pm

Thursday 7th December 2023 @ 10 am

Thursday 11th January 2024 @ 5pm

# Term Dates



## **Autumn Term 2023**

### **First Half**

INSET – Monday 4th September, Tuesday 5th September and Wednesday 6th September 2023

Start – Thursday 7th September 2023

End – Friday 20th October 2023

Half Term: Monday 23rd October 2023 – Friday 27th October 2023

### **Second Half**

Start – Monday 30th October 2023

End – Wednesday 20th December 2023

Holidays: Thursday 21st December 2023 to Friday 5th January 2024

INSET – Monday 8th January 2024

## **Spring Term 2024**

### **First Half**

Start – Tuesday 9th January 2024

End – Friday 9th February 2024

Half Term: Monday 12th February 2024 – Friday 16th February 2024

### **Second Half**

Start – Monday 19th February 2024

End – Thursday 28th March 2024

Holidays: Friday 29th March 2024 to Friday 12th April 2024

## **Summer Term 2024**

### **First Half**

Start – Monday 15th April 2024

End – Friday 24th May 2024

Half Term: Monday 27th May 2024 – Friday 31st May 2024

Holidays May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May 2024

Spring bank holiday: Monday 27th May 2024 (during half term)

### **Second Half**

Start – Monday 3rd June 2024

End – Wednesday 24th July 2024

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**Essex Fire Museum Open Days**  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**(10.30am to 4.00pm)**



**Visits must be pre-booked via:**  
**[museum@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:museum@essex-fire.gov.uk)**

**Address: Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire station,  
Hogg Lane, Grays, RM17 5QS**

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