

St. Margaret's Newsletter



Friday 5th January 2024

Learn every day, help each other and be happy.

Happy New Year! I hope that you have all had a fantastic holiday – I almost said restful but I know just how busy this holiday period can be! Thank you for your support with getting the children to school this week. It has been amazing to see all of the smiling faces when I have stood on the gate, despite the rain and the darkness! In school this week we have been focusing on supporting our children. We are aware of the mixed emotions that children can feel when coming back to school after a holiday and have put our time into supporting them all accordingly.

As with every new year, the temptation is to look forwards: to set new goals and challenges and to begin to plot towards achieving them. While we have been doing this, I have started this week by reflecting on what we have achieved with our children as a school. As a school it feels like we did so much together last term and I think that the Christingle Service at the church on the last day of term was a great way to represent who we are as a school. The way that the singing filled the church, accompanied by the image of 200 candles being lit, will be a memory that lasts with our school for a long time. We are really looking forward to seeing what we can achieve in the year ahead.

It has been great to hear all of the children's stories from the holiday season. In worship this week we have placed a real emphasis on the people that we all spent time with – thinking about how lucky we are to have others to share our special occasions with. One person who spent their Christmas day enabling people from within our community to share this time with others was Kelly from the kitchen. Kelly, her family and a brilliant team of volunteers catered for 40 people on Christmas day – a very special event that encapsulates the kindness that I am always talking to our children about.

I hope that you have a fantastic, well earned weekend. I am really looking forward to continuing to work with you to reach the best learning experiences for our children. As always, if you have any questions, please do contact me.

Sam Malyn

Smart Watches

As it is imperative we keep all of our children safe. I wanted to update you all on our approach towards the wearing of smart watches. As this technology continues to develop, we need to continue to review our approach to ensure that we are doing our best to keep all of our children safe. **Watches that can take photos are not allowed to be worn at school.** We are also aware that lots of smartwatches can send and receive messages when connected to a phone. For these watches to be allowed in school, **it is vital that all phones are handed in to be securely stored in the school office and are turned off.** I understand that this will cause disappointment but these functionalities enable a watch to be used more like a phone and the school policy with phones continues to be that they are locked away in the school office throughout the course of the day.

Messages from the Office

- **Welcome back—we hope you all had a peaceful Christmas and New Year break. As the next couple of months are likely to be cold, rainy and maybe even snowy can we please ask that your child has a coat in school every day for use at breaktime and lunchtime. Thank you.**
- **The dinner menu from last term continues until the end of this term. The menu is available on the website.**
- **There will be a parents' meeting for parents whose children are attending the London Residential trip. This meeting will be held at school on Thursday 18th January at 5.30pm**
- **FONs will be holding their annual general meeting on Monday 5th February at 2pm in the community room at St. George's. This meeting is open to everyone who would like to attend.**
- **Year 5 swimming will be alternate weeks for the two classes starting next week on 10th January with Peace. Could Forgiveness please come in P.E. kit on this day.**
- **The Clive Pig Workshops for year 3 and 5 will also take place on Wednesday 10th with year 3 in the morning and year 5 in the afternoon.**
- **Texts for bikeability for year 5 and 6 will be sent out next week.**
- **Year 6 will take part in mock SATS tests during the week beginning 15th January.**
- **On Monday 15th January there will be a year 3 sharing event at 11am. On Friday 19th there will be a year 6 sharing event at 2.30pm. Information on this has already been sent out in welcome letters earlier this week.**

Our learning this week

Fruit Snack

Please can we remind you that snacks at break time should consists of fruit. We have had a few children asking the school for food at this time. Please can I ask you to talk with your child about whether they would want fruit break and provide this if necessary. While we will always have emergency provisions, we do not have the capacity to provide for all children.

In Year 3, we've been learning some roman numerals this week and comparing multiples in maths. In writing, we have learned about mummification (including role play) and have started writing a set of instructions in our own words.

This week in year 4 we started exploring our new book for our English unit called 'Escape to Pompeii.' The children have enjoyed learning all about the Roman city and what happened there. This book links well with our new topic of the Romans where we have started to timeline the Roman empire and explore key events that took place there. We have enjoyed making our own mosaics in Art. In maths we have been exploring x by 10 and 100 and started our new class read "I am Lion".

In Year 5, we have been looking at multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000. The children have worked brilliantly to show their thinking—something that will really come in handy when we move on to more complicated calculations. In our writing sessions, we have started our new text, Erik the Viking. We have only read the first chapter and we are keen to find out what happens next!

The Year 6s have settled brilliantly back into school this week, well done to you all. We have started a new writing unit, creating a spooky atmosphere in our monster narratives. We've been working with fractions in maths, converting the denominators and comparing different amounts. In art we have started to look at the links between art and religion, focusing this week on the representation of pattern in Islamic artworks and even had a go at making our own.

Class Teacher Awards

Trust: Myron

Peace: Calin

Friendship: Clementine

Forgiveness: Finn

Hope: Ronnie

Wisdom: Isla

Thankfulness: Isla

Compassion: Orla