

St. Margaret's Newsletter



Friday 1st December 2023

Learn every day, help each other and be happy.

“It is important to wait for things so that we feel happier when it finally happens.” This week we have been talking about advent and the meaning behind it. As with lots of events throughout our calendar year, we focus on the meaning and the ‘why’ behind them, rather than just focusing on the exciting things that we might be doing. We talked about how advent is a way to develop the skill of waiting—a skill that is becoming more and more of an art form within our society. I showed my age by telling the children about the days when we had to wait for our favourite song on the radio or program on the television and talked about how the development of on-demand services has made it more difficult to get used to waiting. The children, as always were very articulate when explaining their thoughts regarding the importance of being reflective and appreciating the good things that we have around us.

Thank you for continuing to support us by helping your child be ready for school within this sudden change of temperature. It is that time of year when everyone is coughing so please ensure that coats are always in school—I don’t mind being the grumpy one who tells the children to put them on! As always, I would like to reassure you that if you are ever unsure about whether your child is well enough to be in school, we will keep a close eye on them and contact you if we feel we need to. I totally understand how difficult these decisions are this time of year. Remember, if you need any help with this, please do contact us.

It is a lovely time around school with a great combination of children working really hard within their learning and then applying these same brilliant principles towards their Christmas rehearsals—the singing is sounding lovely! I hope that you all have a fantastic weekend.

Sam Malyn

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Kitchen Manager, Kelly is organising a Community Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day between 12 and 3pm at St. Margaret's School. She is inviting those in need of some company, friendship and support to this free Community Christmas event. She will be offering the gift of a warm welcome, tasty food, a present and smiles. To join on the day please reserve your seat so Kelly can ensure everyone is catered for. Contact Kelly on 07710566560 to book your place. The menu will be Creamy Vegetable Soup, Traditional Roast Turkey followed by Crumble, Custard and Trifle. There will be vegan, vegetarian and gluten free options available.

Messages from the Office

CHRISTMAS DATES

6th December—Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

11th December—Year 3 performance at 2.30pm and 5.30pm

12th December—Year 4 performance at 2.30pm and 5.30pm

13th December—Year 6 performance at 2.30pm and 5.30pm

14th December—Year 5 performance at 2.30pm and 5.30pm

15th December—Christingle in St. Margaret's Church 9.30am

- Bluebell House on Atlantic Way Westward Ho! Will be holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2nd December from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. This will include Arts and Crafts, Face Painting, DJ Mick, a tombola and refreshments.
- **We have had quite a few cases of sickness in school this week as part of a bug that seems to be going around. Can we remind you that it is our school policy that children stay off school for 48 hours if they have been sick. Many thanks.**
- The HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) website is now live and gives a programme of events for the Winter. Places are available for children who are accessing benefit related free school meals. Please visit <http://devon.cc/haf-winter-23> to find events in our area and to book a place. Previously issued HAF codes remain valid.
- **Please could we ask that all dinner money is paid up to date by the end of term. Please contact the office if you do not know your balance.**
- Christmas Dinner for the children will be on 6th December. FONS have very kindly agreed to pay for a dinner for each child and we are very grateful to them for this. This year the children have voted to go back to a more traditional roast dinner. There will also be vegan and vegetarian options available. All orders should have been returned by now to give time for the kitchen manager to order in the supplies. Please note that even if your child receives free school meals an order should have been returned. If your child has not ordered it is now too late and they will need to bring a packed lunch.

Our learning this week

The View from our Blogging Team

In DT this week, the Year 3s have been making soup (and they did it all by themselves) and they watched the movie Nativity 1. What is every parents' favourite Christmas song? Silent Night! An elf came into their classroom and left a note to them. In Art, they were taking inspiration from an artist called John Constable.

In Year 4, they've been doing some science about sound and in English they created a poem called I Put a Magical Stocking. The Year 5s have been splashing around in the pool this week. In Science, they have been testing mini parachutes. Luckily, the teachers didn't make the kids skydive! They went on a website called Canva which is a video editing website.

Finally, for Year 6 this week, we have been looking at an artist from Austria called Gustav Klimt and copying the heads from his painting The Kiss. In English, we have been learning about a story from Tony Ross called A Word In Your Ear but we have been looking at the short story Art from that book. It is a ghost story. Fortunately, the ghosts didn't haunt our pages.

This week in Year 3 we have written our own poems to do with Christmas which we will share during this year's Christmas performance. In Maths, we have improved our recall of multiples of 3s, 4s and 8s. Ask the children how they remember 8×8 ! We have also finished making our own vegetable soup. Most of the children were surprised with how nice it tasted and were enthusiastic to take these skills home and make soup of their own.

In Year 4 this week we have been very busy as we continue to work towards our Christmas performance. We have completed some great scientific investigations—experimenting on how sound travels. We had to create circuits with a buzzer and then experiment how we could muffle the sound. We are still working really hard on our multiplication facts—the children's continued efforts with this always amaze us!

Another busy week in Year 5! We are continuing to progress with our swimming and rehearsing for our Christmas performance and we are particularly proud of our efforts in our end of term 100 word spelling test.

This week in Year 6 we are in full Christmas mode. The preparations for our Christmas performance are going well and we have been belting out some Christmas songs. We have also pushed on with our websites in computing and hopefully they will be going live just in time for the Christmas holidays. In gymnastics we have been perfecting our forward rolls and teaching Mr Ovey lots of new gymnastic terminology.

Class Teacher Awards

Trust: Grace

Peace: Storm

Friendship: Jamie

Forgiveness: Forgiveness

Hope: Skyla-Rose

Wisdom: Benjamin

Thankfulness: Charlie

Compassion: Emma & Mollie