

St. Margaret's Newsletter



Friday 12th January 2024

Learn every day, help each other and be happy.

This week we have been thinking about courage. We talked in worship about Baptism and the children had some fantastic ideas about the symbolism behind the water being used and how Christians believe this represents the washing away of wrong choices that have been made. This led us to thinking about courage, which has become a focus of ours for this half term. We talked about how making the right choices can sometimes take a lot of courage, as can standing up and saying something when you see or hear something that you know is not right. We want children within our school to be courageous; children who take risks in their learning and put themselves 'out there' when faced with tricky challenges.

Over the next week we will be sending out attendance letters to all children who currently have an attendance of less than 90%. We are committed to supporting all of you in regards to attendance as I know very well that this can be a real challenge. As a parent myself, I understand how tricky mornings can sometimes be and want to let you know that we are here for you. I am hoping that for some of us the letter acts as a starting point to a conversation – we are always here to help!

I wanted to end the message from this week by talking about a great show of courage that we have had in school. There are a group of Year 3 & Year 5 children who approached me as they wanted to set up a lunch time club – a book club. Being aware that there was a possibility that few children would attend (as is normally the case in the first few weeks of a club) the children turned up, set up the library and got all the resources ready. It was a joy to see the way that they supported the children who attended (there were more than 10 of them!) and one child said that they would give the club 5 stars! I really like seeing this compassion and kindness between our children.

I hope that you all have a fantastic weekend.

Sam Malyn

Battle of the Bands

As a way of encouraging our children to work on their times tables, we have set up a Battle of the Bands on Times Table Rock Stars for the entire school! The battle runs until Friday 19th and the winning class will be announced in Celebration Worship next week! Please do get in touch if you have any issues with accessing Times Table Rock Stars.

Messages from the Office

- **Reminder Parents Meeting for London Residential trip** This meeting will be held at school on Thursday 18th January at 5.30pm
- **Reminder Year 5 swimming** will be alternate weeks. It's the turn of Forgiveness class on Wednesday 17th January. Peace class please come in P.E. kit on this day.
- **Reminder Year 6** will take part in mock SATS tests next week.
- **Reminder Monday 15th January** is year 3 sharing event at 11am. On Friday 19th there will be a year 6 sharing event at 2.30pm.
- **Music lessons arrangement** for next week due to year 6 mock SATS tests. Bekha will be in on Monday 15th in the afternoon instead of the Tuesday. James (drumming) lessons will be made up throughout the term.
- **Texts for Bikeability** for year 5 and 6 have been sent out. Please contact the office with any queries.
- **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.
- **Thank you** for the generous donations of school uniform. We are now in desperate need of **NEW** underwear for boys and girls as we have no spares left. Any donations of **NEW** underwear would be gratefully received.
- **Storytelling Day:**
Come and celebrate National Storytelling Week at Bideford Library. 1st February 4:00 - 5:00pm Folktales for Families - Stories & tales about Bears, Bees & Honey £1.00 per person Inc. honey on toast & drink. Booking is essential.
Email: bideford.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk
Tel: 01237 476075

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.

This week, in Year 3 we have had another exciting week. The children really enjoyed the visit from Clive Pig, which helped bring stories from the past to life. As well as this, we have painted our canopic jars with authentic Egyptian colours.

This week in Year 4 we have continued writing our story on Pompeii and we have started our science work exploring solids, liquids and gases. We really enjoyed the lemonade and raisin experiment! In maths we have been looking at multiply and dividing by 10 and 100 and continue to practise our times tables. In PE we have started to learn a space dance and the rules of hockey.

This week in Year 5 we have had a exciting week learning about fractions and friction. On Wednesday, we had a visit from the storyteller, Clive Pig who 'wowed' us with stories from the Viking era.

This week in Year 6 we have been getting to grips with a few new topics in our wider curriculum. We have started to learn about the Mayan civilisation in History and have been watching videos and looking at resources to get an idea about where, when and how they lived. In art we have looked at religion's influence on design and creativity. We saw how repeating patterns and shapes are used in Islamic art and what they represent; next week we will look at how stained-glass windows represent ideas and values in Christianity.

Class Teacher Awards

Trust: En

Peace: Luciann

Friendship: Charles

Forgiveness: Riley

Hope: Max

Wisdom: Alfie

Thankfulness: Cody

Compassion: Archie