

St. Margaret's Newsletter



Friday 15th September 2023

Learn every day, help each other and be happy.

What a very busy week! I have been very impressed with all of our children and how they have adapted to our return—the change in routines from the summer holiday to being back to school is a huge one. We recognise that this is a huge change not only for our children, but for our parental community. If we can help in any way to support you with this, particularly with transition points such as morning drop offs, please do let me know. This week we have been thinking about faith. Compassion Class performed an excellent class worship within which they considered what faith meant to them. There were some incredible quotes: 'Faith is like lego.—you don't see the model at first but you keep going brick by brick and you know it will work'. This is just one example about the depth of thinking that we encourage while our children are at school. It has been fantastic to see the children really engaging with their learning—explaining their thoughts and ideas across the curriculum in great detail. We are having a real focus on vocabulary and talking this term—I will be sharing this work with you in the coming weeks. I hope that you all have a great weekend!

TERM DATES

Non Pupil Day—Friday 20th October 2023

October Half Term—Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October 2023

Last day of Term— Friday 15th December 2023

Spring Term—Tuesday 2nd January to Thursday 28th March 2024

February Half Term—Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024

Non Pupil Day —Monday 19th February 2024

Easter Holiday—Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024

Summer Term —Monday 15th April to Tuesday 23rd July 2024

May Half Term—Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024 (**May Bank Holiday**—**Monday 6th May 2024**)

Messages from the Office &

Key Dates for your Diary:

- Please note that all year 3 and 4 children must be collected from the classroom by an adult. Year 5 and 6 children can leave school on their own.
- School photos at St. Margaret's will take place on Thursday 21st September. If you wish your children to have their photos taken together please come to the school hall from 8am onwards.
- For the safety of our children can we please remind you that you should not park in the school car park when dropping off and picking up your child from school. We have seen several incidents of parents trying to manoeuvre around the car park whilst children are walking behind their car. The only exception to this is if you are picking up a sick child.
- On Saturday 16th September from 10.30am to 3pm Widgeon Symbols and Dorling Kindersley Publishers will be holding a Family Fun Day in Appledore. Register at the ABF Gazebo on Appledore Quay. There will be a Family Trail Blaze through Appledore Village and a range of activities to take part in including potato printing, biscuit decorating, lego workshop, face painting etc.
- Appledore Book Festival have arranged for authors to visit us as follows: Tanya Landman in year 5 & 6 on 26th September, Isabel Thomas in year 3 & 4 on 27th September and Ross Welford in year 4 on 28th September.
- If you haven't already paid the next instalment towards the cost of the year 6 residential to London could you please do so as soon as possible.
- Our peripatetic music teacher has spaces for guitar, keyboard and ukulele lessons. If you are interested please contact the school office.
- We currently have a vacancy for a meal time assistant. If you are interested please contact the school office for more details.
- The Bremco North Devon Cross Country League will start at the beginning of October. It would be good to have representatives from St. Margaret's. There are six races and children need to run five races to get their medal. Please see entry details at <https://northdevonxcleague.weebly.com>. Race dates are: Sunday 1st October—West Buckland School, Sunday 5th November—Northam Burrows, Sunday 26th November—Coxleigh Barton Equestrian Centre, Sunday 14th January—Northam Burrows, Sunday 4th February—Northam Burrows, Sunday 3rd March—West Buckland School (finals and presentations)
- ***A child in year 6 has lost an 'Air Up' water bottle. If found could you please bring to the office.***

Our learning this week

We have been very busy this week. Here is just a snapshot of what we have been up to:

The way that we are doing our School Blog is changing. We have recruited a team of Year 6 who are going to write the Blog as a way of developing their creative writing. The team of William, Orla, Evie and Jasmine will be moving around the school, interviewing different classes to capture the flavour of the learning across the school. We are working with the team to develop the Blog and hope to expand it as the half term progresses. We hope that you enjoy reading!

If you would like to find out more information about the learning, each year group has a page on our website containing further information about the learning within your child's class.

School Blog

A Focus on Year 5

In Year 5 this week, they have been working hard in maths doing lots of ordering numbers and adding them together. Science has seen them experimenting with solubility (that's which things dissolve in water). Year 5 have also been playing a game called 'Blast off!' in PSHE - this sounds lots of fun. Topic has seen them weaving and singing songs both to an Anglo Saxon theme.

Biscuit and a Book!

We are very keen to celebrate all of our children's achievements both in and out of school. We have talked this week about the importance of effort and the change in mindset from 'I can't do this' to 'I can't do this YET'. Every week, one child from each class will be chosen to join me in my office for a biscuit while I read them a book. This week we enjoyed reading *The Gruffalo*—a classic! Trying our best is very important within our school day and this is just one way that we are recognising and celebrating this.

Class Teacher Awards—These are handed out weekly in our Celebration Worship.

Trust: Harry

Peace: Erin

Friendship: Charlie

Forgiveness: Esme

Hope: Ronnie

Wisdom: Beau

Thankfulness: Lydia

Compassion: Charlie