

St Margaret's CE Newsletter

April 2019

St. Margaret's C.E.



Welcome Back



I hope you and your family have had an enjoyable Easter break; it was lovely to welcome the children back to school this morning, many of whom were keen to try out the new playground markings painted by Mr Boswell over the break.

The lead up to Easter was as always, incredibly busy: we engaged in a number of exciting events to further develop children's understanding of the Easter story. Oak Class

took part in an intensive dance workshop and created their own interpretations of each stage of the Easter story. Additionally during the last week before Easter, we welcomed members of the St Margaret's congregation into school to put on an 'Experience Easter' for children in Heron Class: while learning more about Holy Week, children thought about their own hope and dreams, friendships, how they can serve others and things they might need some help with. Moreover, the collection of Easter gardens on display on the final Thursday of the term were extremely impressive – thank you for your support in this aspect of the children's school experience.

Thanks are also in order, both for your support with our annual World Book Day where we raised £168 for Book Aid - as well as having an impressive array of #BookinaBox and costumes - and your support of our 'Rock Your Socks' day on the 21st March where a fantastic £261 was raised for the Down Syndrome Association.

Furthermore, back at the very beginning of last half-term we celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight – raising awareness of Fairtrade – thank you for your support with raffle tickets and thanks to School Council for their organisation of this event.

Enrichment

Children continue to access an extensive range of enrichment activities. Over the last half-term these have included a visit to Hollingworth Lake for Twist Class as part of their Stone Age topic and visits to the careers fair and a numeracy morning at Oasis for Heron Class. In addition Durban Class have visited Greenfield Primary as part of the ongoing Linking project and are looking forward to a joint Castleshaw visit over the coming term.





We have had a real treat this afternoon @stmargaretsoldh - children in Chamber and Reception have enjoyed a performance from members of the @BBCPhilharmonic. They loved it - thank you! #enrichment #musicmatters #earlyyears



At the beginning of March, Mrs Jones arranged for children in Reception and Chamber classes to be treated to a performance by a trio from the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra: this was an incredible opportunity for the children which they absolutely loved.

Our WE Schools group enjoyed a wonderful day in London at the beginning of March which celebrated the work pupils from all over the world are doing as part of their WE groups and inspired the children to take further action. Children watched some fantastic live performances and listened to world renowned speakers talking about issues such as mental health, equal opportunities for women and why we need to do something about the world's water – Mrs Turner and Mrs Whittle can't wait to see what this group of children decide to do next!

Other News

This week your child will bring home their class newsletter and homework challenges for the half-term. As well as the homework challenges linked to topic learning, your child also has their reading record to regularly update and weekly spellings to learn. Regular home reading continues to earn raffle tickets which are entered into a draw – our kindle draw for the last half-term will take place this Thursday in mass.

Thank you for your continued support in these important areas of your child's learning.

An incredibly early start for us @stmargaretsoldh this morning! Wembley Arena (and Prince Harry) we are on our way... #WESchools #pupilleadership #excited



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME.

Our school works with parents to provide the best education for each child and believes that regular attendance throughout the year is essential to every child's success and fulfilment.

We expect you to consult the school before booking holidays that mean your child will be absent, or before making any plans that will involve your child's absence from lessons or other commitments.

Holidays in term time cannot be considered to be authorised absences, so they will always be unauthorised absences (There is, however, a discretionary power held by Head Teachers to authorise absence in exceptional circumstances).

Section 444(A) of the Education Act 1996 empowers the local authority to issue Penalty Notices in cases of unauthorised absence from school. This means that when a pupil has unauthorised absence of 10 sessions (5 days) or more, in any term (where no acceptable reason has been given for the absence) or if their child persistently arrives late for school after the close of registration, their parents or carers may receive a Penalty Notice of £60 per parent per pupil if paid within 21 days rising to £120 if paid within 28 days. The penalty notice will need to be paid in full before 28 days of the notice being served. Failure to pay a penalty notice may result in prosecution.

KS1 SATs will take place in May 2019.

Unlike KS2 SATs, KS1 SATs don't have to be administered according to a nationally-set timetable in a specific week. Schools are free to manage the timetable and we will aim to administer the tests in the classroom in a low-stress, low-key way; some children might not even be aware they have taken the tests!

Dates for your diary

Thursday 25th April – Mass in school @ 9.30am – all welcome
 Thursday 2nd May – Nursery Stay and Play Week beginning 29th April - Mindfulness sessions in school for Year Six
 Throughout the month of May – KS1 SATS (see left)
 Week beginning Monday 13th May – SATS WEEK for all children in Year Six
 Thursday 16th May – Nursery Stay and Play
 Friday 24th May – School closes for May half-term



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