

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER:

Ms Helen Comfort

(B.A.Ed.Hons, NPQH)

HEAD OF SCHOOL:

Mrs Rachel Hindle

(B.A.Hons, PGCE, M.A.Ed)



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St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe Primary School on Facebook

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'For Learning That Lasts A Lifetime'

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Closure Arrangements

As you are doubtless aware, as of Monday 23 March, all schools in England will be **closed until further notice**. I am writing to update you with the latest information that we have available at present. Further updates will be provided as and when we are able. If you wish to read the statement from the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, it can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-colleges-and-early-years-settings-to-close>

School Work

Class teachers will be setting home learning activities during this period of school closure which all pupils should complete.

We will be emailing you and posting the work on the class page of the school website. We will update this work weekly.

Children who were at school on Friday of this week received an exercise book and pen/pencil. If your child was not present and you would like a book, please contact the school office to arrange collection (provided you are not in self-isolation). Alternatively, your child can use a book or paper which you provide.

We are using a number of web-based resources. Teachers look forward to having work, comments, queries emailed to them – please note the following email contact details for each teacher:

Mrs Hoile/Mrs Collins: c.classR@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk

Mrs Lewis: c.class1@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk

Mrs Geere: c.class2@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk

Mrs Wallis: c.class3@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk

Mr Ball/Mrs Norley: c.class4@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk

Mr Oliver: c.class5@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk

Miss Brett: c.class6@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk

You can of course continue to email me or Mrs Hindle, our contact details are as follows:

headteacher@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk; r.hindle@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk



General enquiries should be sent to the school secretary email account: secretary@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk

Please note that teachers will not be able to mark work on the children's return to school so therefore please do go ahead and mark the work yourselves or ask the children to use the marksheets (where provided). Where possible work can be emailed to teachers.

In addition to the work we are setting please do take time, if you wish, to explore others areas of learning including craft work, board games and exercise (if you have suitable space).

We will maintain communication with you throughout and as we have further ideas of how to support you with learning at home we will of course update you. There was mention on the news today of Bear Grylls (Chief Scout) having devised a 'package of 100 indoor activities to keep families "busy, focused and cheerful" and ward off cabin fever during the Coronavirus lockdown'. I am sure these will be well worth looking out for!

Please note that pupils should remain at home or in another appropriate indoor place during the school day, taking suitable breaks for their general wellbeing.

Absence coding

Throughout the period of school closure all pupils will be 'Y' coded. No absences, authorised or unauthorised, will be registered against pupils.

Examinations

The government have announced that school examinations will not take place in May and June, therefore our Year 6 and Year 2 pupils will not take their SATs, our Year 1 pupils will not have their Phonics Screen Check, our Year 4 pupils will not sit the Multiplication Tables Check.

Free School Meals

The most recent DFE advice on this states:

To support children eligible for free school meals, schools will be able to purchase meals or vouchers for supermarkets or local shops.

At the time of writing we continue to await guidance and will make contact when we have received this.

Safeguarding and other urgent concerns

There may be a need for parents/carers, pupils or staff members to urgently contact senior staff about safeguarding issues or other pressing matters during the period of school closure. Please use my email address headteacher@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk and/or Mrs Hindle at r.hindle@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk. We will be available on email during working hours and can be contacted about any matters.

Pupils who may attend school

We are being asked to provide childcare for those families where parents are key workers and they are not able to make any other arrangements for childcare. We have made contact already with these families.



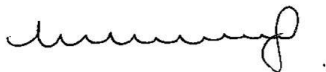
And finally...

We regret very much having to put these school closure arrangements in place and we thank you for your understanding and forbearance. It has been particularly hard for the children and staff who have not known this week as we finish whether or not we will be back together again before the end of this academic year. This has been most acute for our Year 6 pupils. We will give due consideration to how we can remotely celebrate their time at St Margaret's if we are not back together before the end of this academic year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all our wonderful staff who have worked so hard this week and last to allow us to keep the school open. Thank you also to parents and children for your understanding.

Our whole community is in our thoughts. I hope you are all able to navigate the next period of time with minimal difficulty and I look forward very much to when our school can be reunited and return to normal.

Yours sincerely



H Comfort
Executive Headteacher

