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'For Learning That Lasts A Lifetime'

21st July 2023

Dear Parent/Carers

Farewells

We say a fond farewell to our lovely Class 6 children. They have had an ever increasingly busy end of year; residential trip to Hardelet in France, trip to Betteshanger Country Park and their end of year production. At the Leavers' Service this week each member of the class was gifted a book. They have also produced a yearbook with memories about all members of the class – a lovely keepsake. We wish them all well as they embark on their secondary education and thank them for all that they have contributed to St. Margaret's School.

As you will also know from previous letters we say goodbye to Mrs Chloe Fairhurst who is leaving St Margaret's CP this term. We thank her for her time with us – I know you will all join with me in wishing her well.

And Hello!

We welcome new staff to the team who will start with us in September. As previously advised we welcome Mr Benjamin Ayers who will be taking up a teaching position.

We also, of course, welcome our new Reception children as well as children who will be joining other classes across the school.

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to extend huge thanks to all members of our school community – children, families, staff and governors – who have all worked together so successfully during this last year. The staff have all been brilliant – working tirelessly, always with the best interests of the children at heart.

Looking Forward

We will be holding staff training days on Friday, 1st and Monday, 4th September. Children in all classes return to school on **Tuesday, 5th September** for the beginning of Term 1.

Drop-off arrangements will continue to be as follows:-

The three gates to access the playground will open at **8.35am**. Classroom doors will open at this time also and children will go straight into class. Children must arrive by **8.45am**. Parent/carers may bring children onto the playground. Please note this slight change of time – we have reverted back to pre-pandemic timings.



Collection Arrangements:-

All classes will be dismissed at 3.15pm. The three gates to the playground will be open from 3.05pm. Please come on site and stay on the playground in an area outside your child's classroom. Parent/carers collecting children from Classes 3 and 4 should wait in the area outside their classroom doors. When the staff can see you and have had eye contact with you they will send your child to you.

Before School and After School Childcare Services

These will resume from Tuesday, 5th September – has been sent out with regards making bookings.

School Meals

All children in Classes R, 1 and 2 will continue to be entitled to a free cooked school lunch every day and these are highly recommended.

Children in our current Class 2 who have benefited from the free cooked lunch will, from September when they join Class 3, pay for their cooked school lunches with children in Classes 4, 5 and 6 unless they are entitled to means tested Free School Meals. If you need help to apply for Means Tested Free School Meals please contact the school office.

The cost of a school dinner in September will be £2.41. **Please note** that payment online direct to Whole School Meals is the only method for payment. To pay online use the following link <https://www.parentpayshop.co.uk/schools/wsm/>. Cash/cheques will not be accepted.

PE Kits

From the beginning of the new term in September children in classes 1-6 will need to bring a PE kit to school. This should be in a draw-string bag which they will keep on their peg. **No carrier bags please.** Reception Class will only need plimsolls in a draw-string bag. Once the term begins teachers will let you know which days each class has PE.

Pierced Ears

Children cannot wear ear-rings during PE. If you are thinking of getting your child's ears pierced please do so at the beginning of the school summer holiday so they have time to heal in order for them to take their ear-rings out for PE lessons at school. Thank you for your support with this.

Water Bottles

Please send in a water bottle every day with fresh water. Children may bring an additional flavoured drink to have at lunchtime, but must drink water only during lesson time.

Dates

Dates for next year are being finalised and will be shared with you in September.

To confirm information already sent out, term dates are as follows:

TERM 1 2023	1 September 2023 - 20 October 2023
TERM 2 2023	30 October 2023 - 15 December 2023
TERM 3 2024	2 January 2024 - 9 February 2024
TERM 4 2024	19 February 2024 - 28 March 2024
TERM 5 2024	15 April 2024 - 24 May 2024
TERM 6 2024	3 June 2024 - 23 July 2024



Our five staff training days are currently scheduled to be:-

1st September 2023
4th September 2023
20th October 2023
30th October 2023
24th May 2024

In addition we have booked tickets for the Marlowe Theatre Pantomime for all children in Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 to attend before Christmas.

And finally....

I wish you all a good summer wherever you are and whatever you are doing and look forward to seeing you at school in the autumn.

Yours sincerely



Helen Comfort
Executive Headteacher

