



Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 8th September 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome

Happy new school year to you all. Goodness me, what a hot week it has been – here's looking forward to the weather starting to cool.

All staff received statutory safeguarding update training at the beginning of this week.

In assembly on Tuesday we worked with all children and staff to talk about what makes us 'us' – we thought about our school values of resilience, resourcefulness, respect and tolerance, responsibility and reflection. We will be taking one of these values each term to focus on in our assemblies and PSHE work. I will be starting with resilience in Monday afternoon's assembly and look forward to the children's ideas about what this means and how we can all work to be resilient.

Some of the children in Year 6 sat the Kent Test on Thursday. This is the test (sometimes referred to as the 11+) which children take right at the very start of Year 6 if their families wish them to, if they pass they are able to be considered for a place at one of the grammar schools. We talk parent/carers through this process in the summer of Year 5.

At the other end of the school our new Reception Class children have been superstars, happily coming into school and playing so well together during the day. There is a lot for them to get used to and they have all taken it in their stride. It has been really good to see and hear children and staff getting to know each other this week and to be settling into the routines of school life.

Individual School Photographs

These will be taken at school on Tuesday 12th September so smart hairdos, clean faces and tidy collars all round! We have the photos taken at this time of year to enable families to purchase copies to give at Christmas should they so wish.

Meet the Class Teacher Open Afternoon Wednesday 13th September 3.15pm

We are looking forward to families of children in all classes coming into school at pick-up time for our first open afternoon of the year. Please collect your child(ren) as usual from the classroom and then come back in via the main entrance. Staff will be in their classrooms, there will be a powerpoint with information for the year on the board as well as a copy for you to pick up. You will also be able to take have a look at your child's workbooks (where relevant).

Key Stage 2 Trip to Aladdin at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

Families of children in Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 will have received a Parentmail regarding our Christmas pantomime trip. The deadline for returning slip and monies is **Thursday, 22nd September**. As the letter explains we have to send back to the Marlowe any unused tickets by this date so the deadline cannot be extended; please support us and your child by responding in good time.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

The club offer letter has been sent out today via Parentmail. You will need to submit your requests via the Parentmail 'Forms' system. The deadline is next Thursday, 14th September. Notification of places allocated will be sent out the following week. Thank you to staff and volunteers who help to ensure we have this provision.

Site Manager Position

If you know of anyone who would like to be our Site Manager – we are recruiting at the moment – or if you are interested yourself do please follow the link to our advert [Site Manager Facilities at St Margaret's-at-Cliffe Primary School, Dover \(kent-teach.com\)](https://www.kent-teach.com) and/or share with interested parties. Please don't hesitate to speak to me, Mrs Windsor or Mrs Hindle to find out about the role.

Fruit Snacks

Thank you for providing fruit snacks for morning break. Just a reminder that these should come into school separate to packed lunches as lunch boxes are stored away and not accessible to children at morning break.

Car Parking

That old chestnut again! Our parent/carers are not permitted to drive and/or park within the Portal House school site; I have had another complaint from a member of their staff about this. A couple of our parents do work at Portal House so you may see them parking there and walking through, apart from them no-one else is to do so. I thank you for your support with this matter.

Wishing you all a good weekend – enjoying the sun if you like to or keeping cool if not!

Helen Comfort – Executive Headteacher





Message from Class 6

Our children have returned to school this year looking very smart indeed. They have demonstrated what fantastic role models they can be for their younger peers and have impressed many members of staff too. Special thanks go to our eight 'Buddies' who have been supporting our youngest members of the school at lunchtimes; Arthur, Will, Reuben, Max, Faith, Sophia, Reuben and Gracie.

In class we have been unpicking the nonsense poem 'The Jabberwocky' by Lewis Carroll; discovering the portmanteaus he uses as well as the syllable and rhyming structure used within the poem. We have also made huge efforts to recite some of the poem off by heart. In maths, we have been reading and writing numbers up to ten million. A brilliant start to the year!

Lots of our children have completed the Kent test this week, with many sitting the Dover tests this weekend. Good luck to all those involved in these tests.

Miss Brett

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge has been undertaken by many of our pupils throughout the holidays through Kent libraries. Thank you to those parents who have supported this summer task. The challenge finishes this Saturday; Dover Libraries should be in touch shortly to let us know our final ranking on the league table. Of the two updates they gave us through the summer, St Margaret's were third and then fifth out of all the schools in the Dover district. This is a huge achievement! If your child has taken part and been awarded a medal and certificate, we would love to share these in our celebration assembly next Friday 15th September.

Individual School Photographs

The individual pupil photographs will take place on Tuesday, 12th September – clean uniform, shiny faces and a big smile please!



Star Awards

w/e 8th September 2023

- Class R – All of Class R
- Class 1 – Chloe
- Class 2 – Toby
- Class 3 – Willow
- Class 4 – All of Class 4
- Class 5 - Charlotte
- Class 6 – All of Class 6



Attendance

Whole School attendance

05/09/23 - 08/09/23

95.7%

Whole School attendance

05/09/23 - date

95.7%

The Week Ahead!

Week commencing 11th September 2023

NO CLUBS

Monday, 11th September

- Class 6 Forest School Sessions this week – please see letter for details

Tuesday, 12th September

- School Individual Photographs

Wednesday, 13th September

- 3:15pm Open Afternoon – 'Meet the Teacher'

Thursday, 14th September

- Deadline to return extra-curricular club choices
- 3:15pm PTFA selling freeze pops in the gazebo after school (weather dependent)

Lunch Menu: Week 2

w/c Monday, 11th September 2023

£2.41 per day

[September-2023.pdf](#)
(wholeschoolmeals.co.uk)

To pay for your meals online, please go to:

<https://www.parentpayshop.co.uk/schools/wsm>

