



## Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024



### Message from the Headteacher

#### Welcome to 2024!

With the school year beginning in September we are already part way through this academic year, that being said the turn of the calendar gives us all a welcome opportunity to reflect on the past and set new goals for the future. Have you given any thought to what these might be for you? I have set 'priorities' as my word for 2024 to help me focus both at home and at work on what really matters and is therefore most needing of my time and energy.

#### School Attendance

Thank you all for your continued efforts in getting your children to school regularly and on time. I am very pleased to say at St Margaret's CP you are all bucking the national trend this year with our overall school attendance at 96% being four percentage points above the national averages at the end of 2023.

We understand that illness can cause unavoidable absence from school and that some (but not all) medical and dental appointments may fall during the school day. Absence for these reasons will typically be authorised. As you will know, absence for holiday during term time will not be authorised. If we suspect holiday is the reason for absence rather than the given reason we will follow this up. Where applicable, penalty notices will be applied for in the case of accumulated unauthorised absence.

That being said, the headline figure is that the vast majority of our pupils are attending school well so keep up the good work!



#### Governor Class Visits

We welcomed school governors into all of our classes today to join the children and staff for their daily mathematics lesson. Governors visit school regularly so that they can understand how practice looks compared to the theory which we discuss at governing board meetings. One of the strands of our current School Improvement Plan is around the further development of number and place value skills and rapid recall of times tables.

Governors were impressed with the very good behaviour for learning seen in all classes, with the skills of the teaching and support staff in reviewing past learning and explain and modelling new learning and with how the children were confidently handling number-based work.

We have a vacancy for a parent governor on our board – look out for information regarding this which will be coming out next week.

#### Reception Class 2024

Do you have a child born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020? If so they will be eligible to start school in September 2024. We invite families to book an appointment to come and have a look around our school at a time to suit. Please spread the word to anyone you know with a child of the right age. The deadline for application for a place is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

I wish you all a good weekend.

**Helen Comfort – Executive Headteacher**

### Star Awards

w/e 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Class R – Gabriel

Class 1 – Ava

Class 2 – Maisey

Class 3 – Izzabella

Class 4 – Theo & Betty

Class 5 – Gil

Class 6 – Zara



### Reception Class 2024

Applications are now open for Reception Class September 2024. If you have a child born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 you can apply online for a place through the Kent County Council website:-

[www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places)

Applications close on **15th January 2024**.





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### Message from Class 6

Year six children have come back into school bright eyed and bushy-tailed, ready for an exciting term ahead!

We have already kick started our English poetry unit - 'The Fish' by Elizabeth Bishop which is a 76-line single stanza poem. The speaker catches a fish and then looks in depth at the colours, layers of skin, and its 'five-haired beard of wisdom', amongst other aspects, before deciding to let the fish go. Our art work for this term will be linked to this as well.

The children have been converting metric units in maths this week and they have been comparing miles and kilometres, as well as other imperial units. In science this term our topic is electricity, the unit will ultimately lead to them designing their own scarecrow (complete with electronic features) for a farmer and presenting it in a Dragon's Den style.

Lots of exciting things are happening in Class 6 this term!

Miss Brett

### Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following children who celebrate their birthday in January.

Albert	Year 3
Daisy	Year 5
Bella	Year 4
Adam	Year 2
Rory	Year 5
Isabelle	Year 3
Madeleine	Year R
Eleanor	Year R



### Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following children who celebrated their birthday in December.

Rosa	Year 4
Georgina	Year 3
Jack	Year 4
Aaron	Year 5
Quinn	Year 1
Aradhaya	Year 3
Daniel	Year 2
Demyd	Year R
Isabelle	Year 3
Christopher	Year 3
Judith	Year R
Mae	Year 6
Finley	Year 1
Veronika	Year 6
Lilia	Year 4



### Whole School Attendance

02/01/24 - 05/01/24

96.1%

05/09/23 – date

95.7%

### The Week Ahead!

#### Week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

##### Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January

- Class 3 Forest School sessions all week

##### Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January

- Class 6 Swimming - please remember swimming kit/towel, etc.

##### Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January

- Class 2 Trip— please see letter for details.
- The Lancaster Model Questionnaire – Class 6

##### Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> January

- Class 4 family assembly – 9am in the school hall

### Lunch Menu: Week 2

w/c Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**£2.45 per day – new price increase**

[October-23.pdf](#)  
([wholeschoolmeals.co.uk](https://www.wholeschoolmeals.co.uk))

To pay for your meals online,  
please go to:

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

