

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER:

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*'For Learning That Lasts A Lifetime'*

4<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Ref: Office\Letters\Letters2018-2019\WelcomeSeptember2018.doc

Dear Parent/Carers

Hello and welcome to a new school year. I hope you have all had a good summer. We are looking forward to getting to know all our new families over the coming weeks as well as catching up with all our returning families. I would like to thank you, on behalf of all the staff, for the cards, gifts and best wishes received at the end of last term – they were all very much appreciated.

Thank you also for supporting us with our school uniform; the children all look very smart and ready for learning!

### **Parent/Teacher Meetings**

As you will have seen from the important dates contained in this letter, there are some Parent Teacher meetings coming up for classes 1 - 6. Reception class parents have already had a group meeting and will have individual appointments with the class teacher during the first week. The meetings will take place in the classroom at 2:45pm and are an opportunity to hear about the year ahead including: curriculum, homework/reading, forthcoming trips/special weeks/events, ways to help at home and school, ways to raise concerns and ask questions.

### **SPORT**

We are working to provide ever more sporting opportunities for our pupils with a range of tournaments in a variety of sports being booked for the year. As you know children in classes 1-6 participate in two PE lessons a week, one of these being led by Dominic Castle, our Sports Coach. Over time we have seen ever increasing skill and fitness levels within the children as a result of this provision.

Please support us, and your child, by ensuring they have a full PE kit in school every day. As a minimum, children in classes 1- 6 need a pair of blue shorts, a team coloured T-shirt, a pair of plimsolls for indoor PE and a pair of trainers to work outside. These four items should be at school every day of the week and kept in a suitable draw string bag - **NO** carrier bags please.

We suggest that tracksuit bottoms/joggers and a warm top are brought in for outdoor games during the colder months.

Children in Class R will undertake their physical activities during Terms 1 and 2 in the garden and outside classroom. From Term 3 (January) onwards, the children will begin more formal P.E. lessons in the school hall and will begin to change into their P.E. kits.



I thank you in advance for your support with this important matter and look forward to seeing 100% sport participation at St Margaret's!

### **READING BOOKS AND HOMEWORK**

All children will bring home a reading book and reading contact book by 7<sup>th</sup> September. Homework will be set during the week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> September for all classes. Further information regarding homework and home reading expectations will be shared at the forthcoming parent/teacher meetings for Classes 1-6 (see dates below) and via the class newsletters.

Reception class parent/carers – please ensure you have bought your child a Reading Book Bag which can be purchased from [www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk). Remember to use our voucher code **STMCFC** for free delivery. These bags are essential in keeping our stock of reading books in good order.

We recognise that as they move into upper Key Stage 2 children will start to not use a reading book bag and ask, therefore, that parent/carers assist their children in looking after the books.

### **SAFETY REMINDERS:**

#### **Cars**

Please may I remind car drivers that **only staff** are permitted to drive onto the school premises between **8:30am and 3:30pm** and those parents who have a prior arrangement with the school due to mobility reasons. Please also be advised that the zig-zag areas outside the school gates are **not to be parked on between 8:30am-9:30am and 2:30pm-4pm**. These measures are in place to protect all members of our school community and your co-operation is anticipated and appreciated.

#### **Play Equipment**

Our play equipment in the playground is designed for children between 4 and 11 years old. The children are supervised during the break and lunch times by staff when using it. The equipment is **NOT** to be used by any children before or after school hours, including between 8.35-8.45am when the staff are on duty.

#### **Scooters/Bicycles in the Playground**

For the safety of all our children, please would you ensure that your children (including pre-school children) do not ride their scooters or bicycles in the playground of the school at any time.

#### **Morning Routine for Class R**

The school day starts at 8:45am, with the classroom door being opened at 8:35am. Please ensure you are punctual. Late arrivals (i.e. after 8:45am) must report to the main school office.

As part of their transition to KS1 the children will begin lining up outside the classroom later on during their Reception year and we will notify you when this change to their routine will start.

#### **Morning Routine for Classes 1 and 2**

In Terms 1, 5 and 6 staff from Classes 1 and 2 will come onto the playground from 8.35am and families can gather on the end of the playground by these classrooms. The whistle will be blown at 8.45am for the children to line up and be taken into class by the teachers. Please note that this is NOT a playtime, the playground equipment is not to be used and the children are not to run around.



In Terms 2, 3 and 4 teachers will open their classroom doors between 8:35am and 8:45am for the children to go straight into class.

Children who arrive after 8:45am must enter the school via the main school entrance.

### **Morning Routine for Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6**

Teachers from Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 will open their classroom doors between 8:35am and 8:45am for the children to go straight into class. Children who arrive after 8:45am must enter school via the main school entrance.

### **New! Enhanced Parentmail Applications**

From now on we will be using two new applications through the ParentMail system. You will now be able to complete forms and give consent/permissions to us online rather than bringing paper into the school office. You will also be able to book your own parents' evening appointments online using your computer, tablet or smartphone.

You will receive confirmation through your ParentMail account once a form or appointment booking goes live. It's all very straight-forward, but if you need help you can visit the ParentMail help site: <https://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/>

Please note, you will need to be registered on ParentMail to be able to use these applications – if you haven't received a registration email or text, please contact the school office.

Once registered, if you have an Android or Apple smartphone, we would highly recommend you download the ParentMail App so you can complete forms or book appointments on your phone as soon as they go live! To do this, simply search for "ParentMail" in your App store.

### **TERM DATES**

As you will know from previous correspondence, holiday during term time will not be authorised and Penalty Notices (a fine) can be issued to parents who take children on holiday during term time. To assist you in booking holiday outside of term time term dates for 2018/2019 have already been published, but I note these again below for ease of reference. Information regarding our five staff training days is also indicated below. Please note that children are not required to attend school on staff training days.

### **Term Dates 2018/2019**

<b><u>TERM 1 2018</u></b>	Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> September – Friday, 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2018
<b><u>TERM 2 2018</u></b>	Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> October – Wednesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2018
<b><u>TERM 3 2019</u></b>	Thursday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> January – Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019
<b><u>TERM 4 2019</u></b>	Monday, 25 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday, 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
<b><u>TERM 5 2019</u></b>	Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> April – Friday, 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
<b><u>TERM 6 2019</u></b>	Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> June – Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019

### **Staff Training Days (children not required to attend school)**

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018  
Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019



Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### **Important dates for 2018/2019 Academic Year**

I thought it would be helpful to give you advance notice of some of the events, meetings and festivals that will be taking place during this academic year. Please make a note of these dates in your diaries.

#### **Term 1**

06.09.18	Kent Test Day for Year 6 children who have opted to take test
06.09.18	Class 1 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
07.09.18	Class 2 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
10.09.18	Class 3 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
11.09.18	Class 4 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
12.09.18	Class 5 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
13.09.18	PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the reading room followed by their AGM
13.09.18	Class 6 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
18.09.18	School individual photographs
24.09.18	Class 6 Cake Sale – 3pm in playground
27.09.18	Class R Parent Workshop: Reading and Phonics at 2:15pm
05.10.18	Classes 1 – 6 Harvest Festival at Church at 9:30am
05.10.18	PTFA Quiz Night/Murder Mystery Night (Event type/Time to be confirmed)
08.10.18 - 12.10.18	Class 5 Residential Trip
09.10.18	Class R - Harvest learning activities in class at 2pm - parents invited to 'stay and play'
15.10.18	Class 4 Cake Sale – 3pm in playground
15.10.18	Class 6 Parental Consultations between 3.30 and 5.30pm (by appointment)
16.10.18	Class 6 Parental Consultations between 3:30 and 5:30pm (by appointment)
17.10.18	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm – Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher

#### **Term 2**

31.10.18	PTFA Film Night at 3:15pm
06.11.18	Class 6 Parents' information meeting regarding residential trip at 2:30pm
08.11.18	PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the reading room
08.11.18	Open Event for prospective new parents at 2pm
09.11.18	Class 5 Family Assembly at 9am
12.11.18	Classes R – 5 Parental Consultations between 3:30 and 6pm (by appointment)
14.11.18	Classes R – 5 Parental Consultations between 3:30 and 6pm (by appointment)
16.11.18	Children In Need
23.11.18	PTFA Mufti Day – Children Tombola
30.11.18	PTFA Mufti Day – Adult Tombola
30.11.18	PTFA Christmas Disco (KS1 3:15pm to 4:15pm/ KS2 4:20pm to 5:30pm)
07.12.18	PTFA Christmas Fayre between 3:15pm and 5pm
10.12.18	Class R Christmas activities in class at 2pm – parents invited to 'stay and play'
11.12.18	KS2 Carol Concert at 2pm and 6pm in the Church
12.12.18 and 13.12.18	KS1 Christmas Play in the School Hall at 2:30pm



14.12.18 'Party' Day  
18.12.18 Christmas Dinner Day

### Term 3

10.01.19 PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the reading room  
16.01.19 PTFA Film Night at 3:15pm  
18.01.19 Class 4 Family Assembly at 9am  
23.01.19 Art Exhibition at the Pines Calyx (9am to 3pm)  
01.02.19 NSPCC Number Day  
01.02.19 PTFA Quiz Night/Murder Mystery Night (Event type/Time to be confirmed)  
13.02.19 Open Afternoon at 3:15pm - Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher

### Term 4

06.03.19 Class 4 Parents' Swattenden information meeting 2:30pm  
07.03.19 World Book Day  
08.03.19 Class 3 Family Assembly at 9am  
11.03.19 Parent/Carer Consultations between 3:30pm and 6:30pm (by appointment)  
13.03.19 Parent/Carer Consultations between 3:30pm and 6:30pm (by appointment)  
14.03.19 PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the reading room  
15.03.19 Comic Relief Day  
18.03.19 Class 5 Cake Sale – 3pm in the playground  
22.03.19 PTFA Spring Disco (KS1 3:15pm to 4:15pm/ KS2 4:20pm to 5:30pm)  
26.03.19 Class R Mother's Day 'Spring'themed activities in class at 2pm – parents invited to 'stay and play'  
04.04.19 Spring Concert. Class performances at 2:30pm in the school hall  
05.04.19 Spring Concert. Class performances at 9am in the school hall

### Term 5

23.04.19 Class 4 Swimming starts (every Tuesday for 5 weeks)  
29.04.19 Class 3 Cake Sale – 3pm in the playground  
02.05.19 PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the reading room  
03.05.19 Class 2 Family Assembly at 9am  
06.05.19 May Day – School Closed  
13.05.19 to 17.05.19 KS2 SATs week for Class 6  
13.05.19 Class 2 Cake Sale – 3pm in the playground  
15.05.19 Open Afternoon at 3:15pm - Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher  
17.05.19 Class 1 Family Assembly at 9am  
20.05.19 to 23.05.19 Class 6 Residential Trip

### Term 6

04.06.19 Class 3 Swimming starts (Tuesdays - except Sports Day - for 5 weeks)  
05.06.19 Class 6 Bikeability course starts  
10.06.19 Class 1 Cake Sale – 3pm in the playground  
13.06.19 PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the reading room  
13.06.19 Class R Father's Day activities in class at 2pm – parents invited to 'stay and play'  
14.06.19 PTFA Mufti Day – Children Tombola

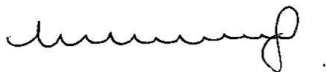


17.06.19	Class Photographs
18.06.19	Sports Day (PM)
19.06.19	Reserve Sports Day (PM)
21.06.19	PTFA Mufti Day – Adult Tombola
24.06.19	Musical Showcase in the School Hall at 3:30pm for children undertaking musical tuition
26.06.19	Class R and Nursery Sports Afternoon
28.06.19	PTFA Summer Fayre between 3:15pm and 5pm
10.07.19	Class R to Class 1 transition meeting for parents 2:30pm
10.07.19	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm - Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher
18.07.19	Class 6 Play at the Village hall at 6pm
19.07.19	Whole School Grand Day Out
22.07.19	Class 6 Leavers' Service at 2.15pm
22.07.19	Family Picnic at 3:15pm

Although this is a fairly full list of dates, it is not exhaustive and we will, of course, notify you of any additions or changes as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to another successful year. Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to any of the staff – we are always very happy to clarify any aspect of our work and to help you with matters related to your child.

Yours sincerely



**Ms H Comfort**  
**Executive Headteacher**

