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'For Learning That Lasts A Lifetime'

4th September 2019

Ref: Office\Letters\Letters2018-2019\WelcomeSeptember2019.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 next 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.

After-School Childcare Service

We are very excited about our new after-school childcare service which has now started. If you have not already done so and you would like to access this service, you will need to register your child. The Childcare Service will then be available for you to use either on a regular or ad-hoc basis. Signing up for the Childcare Service will be on a first come first served basis as we will have limited spaces available. Please ask at the school office for a form.

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 6th September. Homework will be set during the week beginning 2nd 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. Remember to use our voucher code **STMCF** 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.

Mobile 'Phones

Please be reminded that children are not, under any circumstances, to have mobile 'phones with them during the school day or on school trips.

In the past we have, on occasion, looked after the 'phones belonging to a few of our older pupils during the school day. We will not be doing this any more so please ensure that your child does not bring a 'phone to school.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Play Equipment

Our play equipment in the playground is designed for children between 4 and 11 years old, pre-school children are not to use the play equipment at any time. 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 with the adult bringing them to school.

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.

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 2019/2020 have already been published, but I note these again below for ease of reference. Information regarding four of our staff training days is also indicated below. We have one further staff training days to be confirmed. Please note that children are not required to attend school on staff training days.

Term Dates 2019/2020

<u>TERM 1 2019</u>	Monday, 2 nd September – Friday, 18 th October 2019
<u>TERM 2 2019</u>	Monday, 28 th October – Wednesday, 18 th December 2019
<u>TERM 3 2020</u>	Monday, 6 th January – Friday, 14 th February 2020
<u>TERM 4 2020</u>	Monday, 24 th February – Wednesday, 1st April 2020
<u>TERM 5 2020</u>	Thursday, 16 th April – Friday, 22 nd May 2020
<u>TERM 6 2020</u>	Monday, 1 st June – Wednesday, 22 nd July 2020

Staff Training Days (children not required to attend school)

Monday, 2nd September 2019
Tuesday, 3rd September 2019
Friday, 18th October 2019
Friday, 22nd May 2020
1 day still to be confirmed.



Important dates for 2019/2020 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

05.09.19	Class 1 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
06.09.19	Class 2 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
09.09.19	Class 3 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
10.09.19	Class 4 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
11.09.19	Class 5 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
12.09.19	Kent Test Day for Year 6 children who have opted to take test
13.09.19	Class 6 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
17.09.19	School individual photographs
19.09.19	PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the reading room followed by their AGM
03.10.19 to 09.10.19	Book Fair in School – more information will be sent nearer the time
04.10.19	Classes 1 – 6 Harvest Festival at Church at 9:30am
04.10.19	PTFA Fundraising Night (Event type/Time to be confirmed)
07.10.19 to 11.10.19	Class 5 Residential Trip
08.10.19	Class R - Harvest learning activities in class at 2pm - parents invited to 'stay and play'
16.10.19	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm – Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher

Term 2

28.10.19	Class 6 Parental Consultations between 3.30 and 5.30pm (by appointment)
29.10.19	Class 6 Parental Consultations between 3:30 and 5:30pm (by appointment)
30.10.19	PTFA Film Night at 3:15pm
06.11.19	Class 6 Parents' information meeting regarding residential trip at 2:30pm
08.11.19	Class 5 Family Assembly at 9am
11.11.19	Classes R – 5 Parental Consultations between 3:30 and 6:30pm (by appointment)
13.11.19	Classes R – 5 Parental Consultations between 3:30 and 6:30pm (by appointment)
14.11.19	PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the reading room
22.11.19	PTFA Mufti Day – Children Tombola
29.11.19	PTFA Mufti Day – Adult Tombola
29.11.19	PTFA Christmas Disco (KS1 3:15pm to 4:15pm/ KS2 4:20pm to 5:30pm)
05.12.19	Class R Christmas activities in class at 2pm – parents invited to 'stay and play'
06.12.19	PTFA Christmas Fayre between 3:15pm and 5pm
10.12.19	KS2 Carol Concert at 2pm and 6pm in the Church
11.12.19 and 12.12.19	KS1 Christmas Play in the School Hall at 2:30pm
13.12.19	Christmas Dinner Day
16.12.19	'Party' Day
17.12.19	Classes R, 1 and 2 Cinema Trip. Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 Marlowe Theatre Pantomime trip.



Term 3

15.01.20	PTFA Film Night at 3:15pm
16.01.20	PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the reading room
17.01.20	Class 4 Family Assembly at 9am
22.01.20	Art Exhibition at the Pines Calyx (9am to 3pm)
31.01.20	PTFA Fundraising Night (Event type/Time to be confirmed)
12.02.20	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm - Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher

Term 4

04.03.20	Class 4 residential trip Parents' information meeting 2:30pm
05.03.20	World Book Day
06.03.20	Class 3 Family Assembly at 9am
09.03.20	Parent/Carer Consultations between 3:30pm and 6:30pm (by appointment)
11.03.20	Parent/Carer Consultations between 3:30pm and 6:30pm (by appointment)
17.03.20	Class R Mother's Day 'Spring' themed activities in class at 2pm – parents invited to 'stay and play'
19.03.20	PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the reading room
20.03.20	PTFA Spring Disco (KS1 3:15pm to 4:15pm/ KS2 4:20pm to 5:30pm)
31.03.20	Spring Concert. Class performances at 2:30pm in the school hall
01.04.20	Spring Concert. Class performances at 9am in the school hall

Term 5

21.04.20	Class 4 Swimming starts (every Tuesday for 5 weeks)
30.04.20	PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the reading room
08.05.20	BANK HOLIDAY (V.E. Day Celebrations) – School Closed
11.05.20 to 15.05.20	KS2 SATs week for Class 6
18.05.20 to 21.05.20	Class 6 Residential Trip
20.05.20	Open Afternoon (Classes R to 5) at 3:15pm - Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher

Term 6

02.06.20	Class 3 Swimming starts (Tuesdays - except Sports Day - for 5 weeks)
03.06.20	Class 6 Bikeability course starts
10.06.20	Class 5 individual parent appointments during school day re: Kent Test
11.06.20	PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the reading room
12.06.20	Class 2 Family Assembly at 9am
12.06.20	PTFA Mufti Day – Children Tombola
15.06.20	Class Photographs
16.06.20	Sports Day (PM)
17.06.20	Reserve Sports Day (PM)
19.06.20	Class 1 Family Assembly at 9am
19.06.20	PTFA Mufti Day – Adult Tombola
19.06.20	Class R Father's Day activities in class at 2pm – parents invited to 'stay and play'
24.06.20	Class R and Nursery Sports Afternoon 1:45pm
25.06.20	Musical Showcase in the School Hall at 3:30pm for children undertaking musical tuition
26.06.20	PTFA Summer Fayre between 3:15pm and 5pm

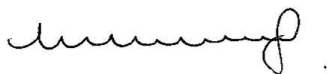


08.07.20	Class R to Class 1 transition meeting for parents 2:30pm
08.07.20	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm - Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher
16.07.20	Class 6 Play at the Village hall at 6pm
17.07.20	Whole School Grand Day Out
21.07.20	Class 6 Leavers' Service at 2.15pm in the school hall
21.07.20	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

