

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER:

Ms Helen Comfort

(B.A.Ed.Hons, NPQH)

HEAD OF SCHOOL:

Mrs Rachel Hindle

(B.A.Hons, PGCE, M.A.Ed)



St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe

Dover, Kent, CT15 6SS

Telephone: (01304) 852639

Fax: (01304) 853671

e-mail: secretary@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk

www.stmargaretsprimary.co.uk

St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe Primary School on Facebook

@stmargaretscp on Twitter

'For Learning That Lasts A Lifetime'

28th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to make contact with you all as the summer holiday draws to a close and to welcome you to the new school year.

Our new Reception children will have a series of 'stay and play' induction sessions from Wednesday, 2nd September; please see your individual letter with details.

Our other classes are due to return to school as follows:-

Wednesday 2nd September – Classes 2 and 6 start.

Thursday 3rd September – Classes 1 and 5 start (Classes 2 and 6 continue to attend).

Friday 4th September – Classes 3 and 4 start (Classes 1, 2, 5 and 6 continue to attend).

Full information was sent out at the end of last term, please remind yourself of these arrangements by re-reading the letter. Basic information is as follows:-

Drop-off

Morning drop off will be between 8.35 and 8.55am. We have extended drop-off time to facilitate social distancing. Families must form a socially distanced queue and maintain social distancing when leaving the site. If just one adult per family comes on site that will help to reduce the number of people and make this easier and safer.

For access to the inner school site you can use either of the three gates – the playground gate from the Sea Street direction, the gate by Class 3 from the Chapel Lane direction or the Droveaway Gardens gate (which is only open at arrival and dismissal times).

Adults dropping the children off will not be able to come beyond the marker outside the gate. Staff will be at the gates and children are to make their way to class. Class staff will be at the classroom doors to welcome the children and guide any stragglers! Older siblings may walk younger ones to the part of the playground nearest to the classroom of the younger one if you wish.

If you have a message for the class staff or school office please email or telephone either before or after drop-off. Please do not speak with the staff on the gates at this point in order to maintain everyone's safety; we welcome telephone calls and emails as the safest means of communication at this time.



Collection at the end of the day

We are setting specific collection times for each class in order to help with dismissal.

Adults (pre-school children are permitted) will come onto the school playground to meet their child(ren). Access will be only via the playground gate and Droveaway Gardens gate at this time. Please wait as directed – look out for the marker cone near your child’s classroom; social distancing must be maintained.

Please note that there will be no access to the school building – including for the toilet or to visit the school office.

If just one adult per child comes to collect it will help to keep the numbers as low as possible.

Staff will send the children to you. Staff will telephone or email you with any messages either during or after the school day.

As always, let the school office know if anyone other than you is going to collect your child.

Please leave as soon as you have your child(ren) and continue to maintain social distance from other families; your support with this important matter is needed.

Dismissal times are as follows:

Class R: 3pm

Classes 1 and 3: 3.05pm

Classes 2 and 4: 3.10pm

Classes 5 and 6: 3.15pm

Childcare Services

Our Childcare Services will start on Monday, 7th September. If you haven’t yet registered for our Before School Childcare Service or After School Childcare Service and would like to, please ask the school office for a form via email or telephone.

Food and Drink

Children will need a packed lunch (if they are not having a school meal) in a hard plastic box – for ease of cleaning. They must have a bottle of water as the fountains are out of use. This bottle can be refilled during the school day. They may bring additional drink to have at lunchtime.

School meals will be available from the beginning of term and can be ordered on the day. These must be paid for online, in advance, direct to Whole School Meals <https://wholeschoolmeals.co.uk/how-to-pay/>. A copy of the menu will be sent via parentmail next week.

Face Coverings

You may be aware of developments this week regarding secondary school pupils and face coverings. The Government guidance for primary school children remains unchanged and is as follows:

Gov.uk ‘Guidance for full opening – schools’

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools> published 02.07.20, updated 07.08.20 states:



'PHE does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education.'

Face Coverings in Education Gov.Uk (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>) published 26.08.20 states:

'On the basis of current evidence, in light of the mitigating measures education settings are taking, and the negative impact on communication, face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. There is greater use of the system of controls for minimising risk, including through keeping in small and consistent groups or bubbles, and greater scope for physical distancing by staff within classrooms. Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided'.

We are following this guidance so face coverings for children are not needed. If you have concerns around this and wish to discuss please contact me or Mrs Hindle. Parent/carers at pick-up and drop-off can of course wear face coverings if they wish.

Typically staff will not be wearing face coverings unless they are, for example, administering first aid.

Coronavirus Symptoms

If a pupil develops coronavirus [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-symptoms) of new persistent cough and/or fever and/or change of taste or smell and/or has tested positive in the last 10 days for covid they must NOT COME TO SCHOOL, they must self-isolate and parent/carers must follow Government stay at home guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Parent/carers must follow Government guidelines to arrange a test for the child <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> and inform school of the outcome of the test.

If anyone in a pupil's household develops coronavirus [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-symptoms) of new persistent cough and/or fever and/or change of taste or smell and/or has tested positive in the last 10 days for covid the pupil and their family must NOT COME TO SCHOOL, the family must self-isolate and follow Government stay at home guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection> and arrange for that person to have a test and inform the school of the outcome.

If a child is unwell during the school day we will contact you for them to be collected; please ensure we have up to date contact details. If they have coronavirus symptoms you will need to follow the guidance outlined above.

The staff will be following these same protocols.



Quarantine Following Foreign Travel

If you have visited an area of the world for which a 14 day period of quarantine is required on your return to the UK, please do not send your child to school until this time has elapsed – please contact the school office to advise.

New Starters

We welcome 30 new children to our Reception Class this year as well as a handful of children and families to classes across the school.

In addition we welcome a number of new staff as this school year starts. Miss Chloe Conway will be our new Class 4 teacher. Mrs Nicola Kukaj will be class TA in Year 2 covering Miss Whitbread's maternity leave. Ms Isabelle Woodward and Miss Catriona Peacock are joining the Early Years team as Teaching Assistants as will Mrs Sarah Morris. Mrs Rebecca Comlay will be working in Year 6 as a Teaching Assistant and Mrs Natalie Cross will be doing so in Year 1.

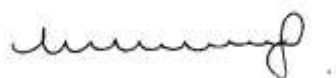
And finally....

I am sure that you are experiencing a range of emotions regarding the return to school next week. The beginning of the school year is always a mixture of nerves, anticipation and excitement – for the children, families and staff – and, as you will all know, these feelings are magnified this year.

I am really looking forward to everyone coming back together again in September. We have a robust risk assessment with control measures in place which successfully kept children, families and staff safe in the summer terms. Plans and protocols which will be in place next week will be kept under close review as we welcome more children and families back to school. I ask that you bear with us as we all settle into the new routine of this school year. I welcome your feedback so do please let me know on headteacher@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk how you feel the arrangements are working for you and your family.

Enjoy the last few days of the summer holiday and please be assured that we are all looking forward to working with you and your children during the forthcoming year and will be doing all we can to keep everyone safe, to support everyone's wellbeing and to provide a motivating and engaging curriculum.

Yours sincerely



H Comfort
Executive Headteacher

