



Message from the Headteacher

As we embrace the crisp autumn air, albeit a changeable feast with the sudden warm spell, and the vibrant colours of the season, I've spent quite a bit of time this week thinking about all that is great at St. Margaret's as I've been showing perspective new Reception children around. It's been a joy to continue to welcome so many prospective families through our doors, eager to explore what St. Margaret's has to offer their little ones for the September 2025 intake. If you know of any families with children due to start school then, please do encourage them to pop in for a tour and a chat. It's always a pleasure to share the unique spirit of our school community with potential new members.

This week I have been particularly impressed with our Rabbits class. Their impromptu art project in place of their postponed trip was nothing short of spectacular! Using natural resources that they found in and around our school grounds, they created stunning pieces that truly captured the essence of our beautiful surroundings in the style of the artist Andy Goldsworthy. Moments like these remind us of the incredible creativity and talent our pupils possess when given the opportunity to explore and express themselves.

On a more practical note, I'd like to gently remind everyone about the importance of school uniform. It's not just about looking smart; it's about fostering a sense of belonging and pride in our school. Please ensure all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name - it makes reuniting lost property with its rightful owner so much easier! And remember, our fantastic PTFA runs a well-stocked second-hand uniform 'shop'. You'll find more details about this brilliant initiative further on in this newsletter. It's an excellent way to keep costs down while supporting our school community.

We are thrilled to share some exciting news after a visit today from some special guests. St Margaret's Lawn Tennis Club has generously donated tennis equipment to our school, enhancing our sporting resources. It was my pleasure, along with four of our dedicated House Captains, to receive this wonderful gift. This donation will undoubtedly enrich our pupils' sporting experiences and provide new opportunities for them to develop their skills. We are incredibly grateful for the support of local organisations like St Margaret's Lawn Tennis Club, who play a vital role in nurturing our pupils' talents and fostering a love for sport. Their generosity will have a lasting impact on our school community. On behalf of the entire school community, thank you.



Lastly, I wanted to touch on a topic that's been cropping up in conversations recently - homework. I understand this can be a contentious issue, with varying opinions on its value and implementation. With this in mind, I'm currently preparing a consultation to gather parent views on this area. But it's not just about what we adults think - I'm also keen to hear from our pupils. After all, they're the ones doing the homework! I believe that by considering all perspectives, we can find an approach that supports learning while respecting family time and individual needs.

As usual, I hope you have a lovely and safe weekend.

Craig Ward – Headteacher



Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 18th October 2024

‘Celebration Assembly’

We are pleased to invite parent/carers to attend our Celebration Assembly.

Date: Friday, 25th October
Time: 2:45pm
Where: School Hall

We look forward to seeing you there.

Reception Class 2025

We are already starting to think about our next new Reception Class. Do you have a child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021? If so, they will be eligible to start school in September 2025.

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.



Star Awards

w/e 18th October 2024

Hedgehogs – Arthur

Rabbits – Chloe

Squirrels – Freddie

Badgers – Cassie

Woodpeckers – Ruby

Owls – Madeleine



Whole School Attendance

14/10/24 - 18/10/24 2024/2025 academic year

96.1%

97.3%



School Uniform Expectations

Our school believes in the value and advantages children gain from wearing a school uniform. Please see the list below showing our school uniform expectations.

Children should wear:-

Dark blue, grey or black trousers or shorts, skirt or pinafore dress.

Light blue polo shirt

Navy blue v neck jumper/cardigan

Blue check or striped dresses may be worn in the summer.

Plain navy, grey, black or white socks or tights.

Black school shoes which enclose the feet thus keeping them dry. Heels should be no more than one inch and trainers are not permitted, neither are sling backs.

ALL CLOTHING MUST BE MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD’S NAME

Forest School Sessions

w/c Monday, 21st October 2024

Woodpeckers Class

Things to remember:

- Wellington boots/old trainers
- Water resistant/water proof
- Trousers/tights





Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 18th October 2024

PTFA Pre-Loved School Uniform Shop

Do your children outgrow or lose their uniform faster than you can say 'school run'?

PTFA to the rescue!

You will be pleased to hear that the PTFA's Pre-Loved Uniform Shop is up and running. All items are in as new condition, and are FREE of charge (although we will of course accept your money if you'd like to offer a donation!). The uniforms are washed and ready for collection - it's like a hand-me-down, but fancier!

Please feel free to call us on 07904 123 554, or email us on smactfta@gmail.com to arrange collection.



Thank You

We would like to say a big thank you to the following people who have kindly donated items to the school this week.

Mrs Brown

Donation: some large books for Hedgehogs Class

Mr & Mrs Kennett

Donation: various paper resources

Mr & Mrs Watkins

Donation: some reading books

These items will all be great additions to the school's resources.



The Week Ahead!

Week commencing 21st October 2024

Monday, 21st October

- Woodpeckers Class Forest School sessions this week

Tuesday, 22nd October

- Deadline to return Before & After School Childcare booking forms for term 2

Friday, 25th October

- 'Celebration Assembly' – parent/carers invited to attend. Please come to the school office at 2:45pm

Lunch Menu: Week 2

w/c Monday, 21st October 2024

£2.45 per day

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

To pay for your meals online, please go to:

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

Community Noticeboard

The Edward Showler Foundation

If you are able to, please support Tom Showler (husband of Mrs Showler – TA in Hedgehogs Class) in his fundraising event in memory of his brother Edward Showler. Please find the link to his just giving page below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/3kin3months>



Christmas Craft Fair



Christmas Craft Fair
Saturday 26 October
11am - 3pm

- Unwrap the magic of local treasures, perfect for your Secret Santa shenanigans or to delight your favorite people!
- Our fabulous collection has something for everyone – kids, adults, pets, and even your home's cozy corners!
- Don't forget to soak in the holiday spirit with a scrumptious mince pie and a steaming cup of cheer!

Join us at St Margaret's Village Hall,
Reach Close, St Margaret's, Dover, CT15 6AP

St Margaret's Lawn Tennis Club

Wine & Wisdom Evening



Wine and Wisdom evening with raffle

Date: Saturday 2nd November 2024

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start

Venue: St. Margaret's Village Hall CT15 6AP

Cost: £40 per table (maximum of 8 per team)

Bring your own food and drink

To reserve a table please contact Peter Blake:

blakeprw@gmail.com

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