



Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 13th December 2024

Message from the Headteacher

First and foremost, I must commend our Hedgehogs and Rabbits classes for their theatrical adventure today. The excitement was palpable as they set off for the Marlowe Theatre to see 'My Pet Star'. These outings are more than just a fun morning out; they're an opportunity for our young learners to engage with the arts, spark their imaginations, and create lasting memories. I'm sure the experience will fuel many creative discussions and activities in the classroom.

Speaking of performances, I cannot express how proud I am of our Rabbits and Hedgehogs classes for their outstanding Nativity productions. The dedication and hard work of our pupils truly shone through in every aspect of the show. From the brilliant acting that brought the story to life, to the perfectly timed sound effects that added depth to each scene, and the clear, confident narration that guided us through the tale – every element was a testament to the pupils' abilities and the guidance of our devoted staff.

These performances are more than just entertainment; they're a celebration of our pupils' growth, confidence, and teamwork. Watching them support one another and rise to the challenge of performing in front of an audience is truly heart-warming. It's moments like these that remind us of the importance of nurturing not just academic skills, but also creativity, self-expression, and collaboration.

This time of year often feels like a whirlwind of activities and events, but it's also a perfect opportunity to pause and appreciate the incredible community we have here at St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe. The support and engagement from our families, the dedication of our staff, and the enthusiasm of our pupils all contribute to making our school a vibrant and nurturing place of learning. Next week we'll be sharing our new termly progress report. I've spoken to a fair few people on the playground over the past week about the merits of a slight shift in reporting arrangements and shared an example of the report format. I'm excited to be able to share your child's academic progress with you and look forward to the dialogue this will encourage between home and school.

As we look ahead to the holiday season, I want to ensure everyone is aware of our end-of-term arrangements. Please note that school will finish for the Christmas break on Friday, 20th December at our usual time of 3:15pm. Unlike previous years, we will not have an early finish.

As we prepare to bid farewell to 2024, I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. The achievements we celebrate and the memories we create are made possible by our collective efforts.

Craig Ward – Headteacher



'No Celebration Assembly'

Due to our Christingle Assembly taking place on Friday, 20th December we will not be holding a Celebration Assembly this week.

Countdown to Christmas!



18th December

- Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

19th December

- Party day

20th December

- Last day of term – school finishes at 3:15pm
- No 'Celebration Assembly' today



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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 stmacptfa@gmail.com to arrange collection.



Class Party Day 19th December

We would be most grateful if you could send a plate of party food in for **your child only** on a paper/plastic plate or in a plastic lidded box for your child to enjoy on Party Day next **Thursday, 19th December**. School Uniform to be worn as usual.

Reception Class 2025

Applications are now open for Reception Class September 2025. If you have a child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 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

Applications close on **15th January 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.

Wear A Christmas Jumper

Just for the fun of it we would like the whole school to dress up in a Christmas jumper on **Wednesday, 18th December** (same day as Christmas Dinner). The brighter the better! Please wear usual clothing on the lower half – school trousers/skirts. Don't buy a jumper especially for this event just wear something bright and add a little tinsel!



Star Awards

w/e 13th December 2024



Hedgehogs – All of Hedgehogs

Rabbits – All of Rabbits

Squirrels – Autumn, Ava & Jack

Badgers – Jonathan

Woodpeckers – Leah

Owls – Kieran

Whole School Attendance

09/12/24 - 13/12/24

03/09/24 – 13/12/24

94.5%

96.5%





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Thank you

We would like to thank The RV Coleman Trust for their generous donation to the school allowing us to buy equipment for our sensory room. The children will benefit greatly from the donation and the trust's kindness is much appreciated.



**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

Term 2 finishes

at 3:15pm

on Friday, 20th December

**Lunch Menu:
Christmas Week Menu**

w/c Monday, 16th December 2024

£2.50 per day

[Menu-Nov-2024-Mar-2025.pdf](#)

To pay for your meals online, please go to:

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

The Week Ahead!

Week commencing 16th December 2024

CLUBS HAVE FINISHED FOR THIS TERM

Tuesday, 17th December

- **Deadline to return Before & After School Childcare booking forms for term 3**

Wednesday, 18th December

- **Christmas Jumper Day** – children may wear a Christmas jumper to school
- **Christmas Dinner Day**

Thursday, 19th December

- **Party Day** - please send a plate of party food in for **your child only** on a paper/plastic plate or in a plastic lidded box.

Friday, 20th December

- **No 'Celebration Assembly' this week**
- **School finishes at 3:15pm**



Community Noticeboard

Time to Shine
Seniors
(7-11 years)

A term time group for children aged 7-11 years with a neurodivergent diagnosis, or displaying traits and behaviours

Wednesdays
Join us between 5:30pm until 6:30pm
at Deal Family Hub
Park Avenue, Deal, CT14 9UU

This is a drop off group for children only and will offer guided input around healthy friendships, managing emotions and developing communication and social skills, all while having fun and playing in a safe and secure environment.

A healthy snack, quiet space and our sensory room is also available throughout the session.

Please call 03000 420008 or email doverfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk and a Family Hub Practitioner will call you back to discuss and book your child's place.

Understanding your Child's feelings and Behaviour Information Sessions

A bookable session providing a safe, supportive space for parents / carers of children aged 0-11 to chat with one of our Family Hub Practitioners and learn new techniques, ideas and strategies to better understand and manage their child's feelings and behaviour.

Children are welcome to come along with you.

Book a 1-1 session with one of our Family Hub Practitioners on the numbers below.

Aycliffe Family Hub St. Davids Avenue, Aycliffe, Dover, CT17 9HJ 03000 420082	Buckland Family Hub St Nicholas Church, The Lincos, Dover CT16 2BN 03000 414941	Deal Family Hub Park Avenue, Deal, CT14 7TL 03000 420008
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Please call us to speak to a Family Hub Practitioner and book a session.
For more information please call us on the numbers above, or email doverfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk.

Time to Shine

A term time group for children aged 4-7 years with an autism diagnosis, or displaying traits and behaviours

Wednesdays starting 24th April
Join us between 3.30 until 5.00pm
at Linwood Family Hub
Park Avenue, Deal, CT14 9UU

This is a drop off group for children only and will offer guided input around healthy friendships, managing emotions and developing communication and social skills, all while having fun and playing in a safe and secure environment.

A healthy snack, quiet space and our sensory room is also available throughout the session.

Please call 03000 420008 or email openaccessdover@kent.gov.uk and someone will call you back to discuss and book your child's place.

Family Hub Courses



District conversations- an opportunity for parents to contact the family hub for information, advice, and guidance. Through 1:1 discussion with the hubs senior team. Please call **03000 422998** or email doverearlyhelp@kent.gov.uk to book a slot.

Bookable Behaviour sessions- accessible via Buckland and Deal Family Hubs- bookable 1:1 session for parents and carers to access support, information, and guidance around managing childhood behaviour. Sessions offered in a flexible way to meet individual need, sessions offered Monday-Friday between 9 and 5pm, we encourage families to contact their local centre to book a slot with a family hub practitioner.

Kent family hub website- [Kent Family Hubs - Kent County Council](https://www.kent.gov.uk/family-hubs) please visit our website for all current up to date information on our services and local sign posting links.

Community Noticeboard




Construction Club at St Margaret's-at-Cliffe Library
Saturdays
11 am – midday, starting on the 4 January
 Come and build, play, and create together!
 No need to book - just come along and join in
 Suitable for ages 4 – 11 years of age.
 All children must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult
 For more information please telephone 03000 41 31 31 or email stmargaretsatcliffelibrary@kent.gov.uk






Fully Funded School Support Course

Available in Levels 1, 2 & 3

6 Week Course
Mon - Fri
Daily sessions
1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

*Please go to our website for more detailed information.

www.studysmartuk.online

St Margaret's Nursery Christmas Raffle



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Win a wheelbarrow full of Christmas wine and snacks
 All proceeds going to St Margaret's Nursery

£1.00 PER TICKET!