



Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 21st March 2025

Message from the Headteacher

It has been another busy and productive week, and I would like to share some important updates with you all.

Firstly, I hope this week's parents' evenings provided you with a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress. These meetings are crucial in maintaining open communication between home and school, and we appreciate your engagement in your child's educational journey. Your involvement is instrumental in ensuring the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

In a similar vein, our new style termly progress reports will be distributed during the last week of this term and most children this week have been busy working through tests to support the teachers' assessments of the children's progress. These reports offer a comprehensive overview of your child's academic achievements, personal development, and areas for growth. We encourage you to review these reports carefully and discuss them with your child, celebrating their successes and identifying areas where additional support may be beneficial. I have also tweaked them slightly this time around with more information on attendance.

I am immensely grateful for your participation in our recent 'Stop, Start, Change, Continue' feedback initiative from parent's evenings. Your insights and suggestions are invaluable in helping us refine and improve our school practises. I am pleased to share below a summary of the feedback comments for your perusal. Your input directly influences our decision-making processes and helps shape the future direction of our school.

I did this same exercise with staff on my very first day at St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe way back in September and as I said to them, I'm excited to receive the feedback and act on those things that I can, but with no promises! Upon reviewing this feedback, a general theme that has emerged is centred around clubs and sporting events. We recognise the importance of extracurricular activities in fostering well-rounded development and providing opportunities for our pupils to explore their interests and talents. Currently, we rely on the goodwill of staff to provide these opportunities for our children and as I'm sure you'll appreciate, this year has been a tough one for our team as we redesign our curriculum, support professional development and get used to new ways of working, so time has been limiting factor. I am looking at ways to increase the offer without costing the earth for either parents or the school, but I did note (and a big thank you to them) a few parents mentioned on their Post-It notes that they would be happy to run certain clubs. I will be looking into this as a matter of urgency and will get back to those parents asap. If anyone else has a particular interest and would like to volunteer, please let me know.

Another theme, homework. A very 'Marmite' topic, as you'll see from the feedback. A while ago, we undertook a consultation with parents around homework, which we repeated with the children and staff. We have completed all that work, looked at the key themes and have prepared a slightly different way to approach homework which will start at the beginning of term 5. Keep an eye out for more information about that. In a nutshell, there will still be homework – the children in their feedback were very keen to continue having homework – but it will be more clearly focused on English (reading and spelling) and maths (and times tables) with additional tasks focused on the project being taught in class and consistent across the school.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration. I look forward to sharing more updates and celebrating our collective achievements in the coming weeks. I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Craig Ward – Headteacher

Stop, Start, Change, Continue Feedback

STOP

- Homework for yr R-5
- Forest school - it's the same thing all the time! Very boring
- Equality for all pupils not just SEN – perception (from pupils) that SEN get extra attention at expense of non SEN
- Coach trips to Dover are crazy – Waivers for carpooling parents better idea
- Fines for taking kids out of school for 1 holiday a year. As long as the child has a good attendance record.
(The DfE set this rule, so I must follow it)



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START

- Homework – perhaps the option of homework sheets for maths and list of spellings for English
- Homework to be more independent for children
- Raffle tickets to start up again
- More relevant homework – spelling, maths
- Make it clearer how people can support school – class readers, pta, trip supervisors
- Support co- parents more to be a positive influence in school life
- Suggest local walks instead of Forrest school (village pond, Bay, bird watching in fields)
- More focus on future technologies (scratch etc)
- More school sports – football, cricket and against other schools
- Improvements to club offerings
- Email when child gets star if week so we can come to the assembly *[we started doing this towards the end of last term]*
- Y1 trip to bay – please re-arrange after was cancelled last year
- Minibus for transport *[I have a plan!]*
- More relevant homework
- More self-sufficient homework
- More opportunity for sports teams representing the school – football netball etc
- More swimming lessons
- More sport within the community/competitions through school to represent
- Beach School
- More dance
- More TA support in classes
- Inter-school football matches
- Rugby
- Lego club
- More varied sports (cricket/tennis)
- Rugby Team
- Homework Club
- More sports in general, especially younger years
- Bring back craft/art club (after school)
- More regular feedback on child's progress
- Informing parent if child is receiving a star of the week award so we can attend *[we started doing this towards the end of last term]*
- Helping children into school who struggle
- Parents meetings with teachers to learn how best to help their children with phonics
- More relationship with St. Margaret's of Antioch
- Extra lessons for those falling behind
- More clubs/lunchtime clubs
- Sign Language
- Notify parents if child is getting awards at celebration assembly *[we started doing this towards the end of last term]*
- Spelling tests



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- More sports teams, continue fun activities but encourage competition and teamwork
- Buy the field and build a carpark (everyone would donate). Safer.
- Communication/presentations about neurodiversity
- Meaningful school sports teams fixtures programme
- Start more variety of afterschool clubs again
- Movement time in class – get some energy out – refocus for learning time

CHANGE

- Homework to spellings and maths (times tables)
- Cost of school uniform – support / advertise PTA uniform
- Celebrate external / extra-curricular achievements of pupils especially sport – i.e gymnastic success or cricket team win *[we do this in our weekly celebration assemblies – just send in certificates/medals/info and we can celebrate all successes together]*
- Lunchtime play split- makes kids rush as they want to play and don't eat properly
- More variety in after school clubs per age group / ours is bored if colouring club and mixed skills on offer
- Homework needs to be more spelling / times tables instead of craft. Would prefer weekly or 2/weekly spellings
- Make ASC cheaper or option to pay less / pick up earlier
- Booking for BSC and ASC maybe not a term in advance and maybe online?
- Bigger window for drop off
- More choice for clubs
- Greater focus on SENCO: Individual needs
- More competitive sporting opportunities for all year groups
- More school discos and movie nights
- ADHD related equipment in classrooms
- Spelling tests
- Tell parents about certificates beforehand so us parents know which celebration assembly to attend
- Y4 dismissal through Y3 door (risk of child going home with wrong adult)
- Homework can be 'vague'. More exercise based with answer sheets maybe
- More time for lunch
- More forest school
- More integration in the community
- More forest school
- More time to move in class
- Do sign language instead of French
- Homework to focus more on basics (spelling & maths)

CONTINUE

- Family assembly
- Celebration assemblies
- Family assembly
- Communication
- Engaging with parents and carers
- Dojo photos and updates - nice to see what children are up to



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- Level of communication
- Dojo
- Family assembly
- House cup
- Keep doing what you're doing
- Forest school each term - ring outside is fun!
- Homework style is great! (Class1) realistic expectation as it's always being done or not
- Family assembly
- Great parent / carer communication
- Parents assembly and at end congratulating kids for doing well
- Dojo
- Family assemblies
- Sense check previous regimes – out with the old in with the new
- Bring wonderful – much appreciated
- Weekly spellings
- Family assembly
- Continue with the much-improved communication we have received this year
- Current class structure for another year for those that have integrated *[more news on this coming soon, once reception 2025/26 places are offered by KCC (and accepted by parents!)-but it's all positive!! 😊]*
- Forest school
- Family assembly
- Communication and engaging with parents
- Asking for feedback – it's refreshing to be asked and feel listened to
- Being the amazing, adaptable teaches you all are
- Reading assembly
- Mr Ward being the face of the school. Legend!
- Retaining good quality teachers
- The improved communication and engagement with parents from this year
- School app Dojo
- Celebration assembly & giving parents heads up that star of the week is coming
- Listening to parents
- Enterprise, Grand Day Out, Celebration assembly, forest school
- Communication
- Class Dojo
- Celebrating the children's achievements
- Panto

Whole School Attendance

17/03/25 - 21/03/25

96.2%

3/09/24 – 21/03/25

96.1%



Star Awards

w/e 21st March 2025

Hedgehogs – Demyd

Rabbits – Jessica

Squirrels – Grayson

Badgers – Esmee

Woodpeckers – Sophie

Owls – Seth





Thank you

A huge thank you to our PTFA team, and everyone who has supported PTFA events, for the donation of 6 brand new iPads. Each class will be receiving one to make sharing our learning journey on ClassDojo even easier (and making the quality of the photos so much better!). Thank you all for your continued support.



'Celebration Assembly'

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

Date: Friday, 28th March

Time: 2:45pm

Where: School Hall

We look forward to seeing you there.

Badgers Class Enterprise Week

Next week, the children in Badgers Class will be busy becoming entrepreneurs! The children will be working to design, create gifts, cards and sweet treats for Mother's Day. They will be selling their gifts to children across the school during break times on **Friday 28th March**. Gifts, cards and sweet treats will range in price from between 50p to £1.

The purpose of Enterprise Week is to teach the children about creating a business as well as how to manage their budget and profit. Of the monies raised, half will be donated to a charity of the children's choice while the other half will be spent on a treat for the class.

If your child wishes to bring in some money to spend on Friday, please ensure it is in a named purse or wallet. The children will be making enough items so that there is enough for each child to purchase something at the cards & gifts stall as well as something at the sweet treats stall, should they wish.

Thank you
Mrs Helal





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Forest School Sessions

w/c Monday, 24th March 2025

Squirrels Class

Things to remember:

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

PTFA Pre-Loved School Uniform

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.

Circus Discount Vouchers

We have some discount vouchers for John Lawson's Circus, which is coming to Deal at the end of the month. The voucher is for a reduced entry cost of £9.50 a person. If you would like a voucher, please come to the school office to collect one.



The Week Ahead!

Week commencing 24th March 2025

Monday, 24th March

- Squirrels Class Forest School sessions all week

Thursday, 27th March

- Deadline to pay and return extra-curricular clubs form

Friday, 28th March

- Suggested 2nd payment instalment – Owls Class Residential Trip
- 'Celebration Assembly' – parent/carers invited to attend. Please come to the school office at 2:45pm

Lunch Menu: Week 2

w/c Monday, 24th March 2025

£2.50 per day

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

To pay for your meals online, please go to:

parentpayshop.co.uk/schools/wsm/

Community Noticeboard

**St. Margaret's Lawn Tennis Club
Spring Open Day!**

Saturday 5th April 2025
at
Tennis courts/cricket pavilion
CT15 6AF
from
10.30am onwards

If you're looking to start playing or get back into tennis, come and join us to find out more about the club and what we offer. All ages and abilities welcome.

Bring a racket, balls and other players supplied!

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THE WEST END EXPERIENCE Club

£35 PER DAY
Hobby £25*

FOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL YR 2-6!

**MONDAY 7TH-FRIDAY 11TH APRIL
10AM-3PM**
ST MARGARETS AT CLIFFE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Workshops delivered by performers that have been in the Musicals themselves!

WICKED | BUGSY MALONE | MAMMA MIA | MATILDA

TO BOOK YOUR SPACES
VISIT WWW.DANCEFITWITHEMILY.CO.UK
OR EMAIL dancefitwithemily@gmail.com

Emily Powell | [emily_powell.25](https://www.instagram.com/emily_powell.25)

FREE WESTEND EXPERIENCE CLUB T-SHIRT
if attending all week

DBS CHECKED. FULLY INSURED. PLEASE BRING A PACKED LUNCH (NO NUTS PLEASE)



Thursday 10 April 2025 from 10:00-12:00
**Disney Princess and Prince
Young Voices Workshop:
Sing and Act!**
Public - Event by Maddie 4 Music

Heads up for our singing and acting workshop to develop your skills and work with others on Thursday 10 April (start of Easter school holidays) from 10am to 12pm at Eastry Village Hall for young voices aged 6+ in association with local dance group Eastry Dance Club. You will gain skills such as singing with confidence and in harmony and developing characters and working with scripts, plots and storytelling. Message us to register your interest or email maddie4music@btinternet.com, text 07714 433649 - fee is £15 payable in advance to guarantee your place - you don't need to be a member of the club to attend, we welcome non members. You are encouraged to dress as princesses and princes! Limited places available
Look forward to this workshop!
Maddie