



13th October 2021

Newsletter 2



Learning God's Way

Headteacher: Mr M Jee

01903 785416

school@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk

stmargaretsprimary.org.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the first half term I have a few notices for you.

Communications with Teachers

Please be reminded that if you wish to speak to your child's class teacher, they are available at the end of the day as they release children from the various gates around the school. Teachers are always happy to make contact with you if you have something you want to let them know or some questions. Alternatively, you can email your child's class teacher but please be aware that these emails are only monitored between 8.30am and 5.30pm.

The class emails follow the format eg. oak@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk; badger@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk etc.

It is essential that you **do not** use the class email to report a child's absence but to email the school office instead. school@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk

Children's Wellbeing

We continue to monitor children's wellbeing very carefully following the Covid disruptions. Some children have taken a little while to acclimatise and we are supporting them in lots of different ways. If you have any concerns please contact our Child and Family Support Worker, Mrs Gates. Mrs Gates is in the main playground every morning greeting children and is more than happy to discuss any issues that you have with your child. Please see Mrs Gate's page on the website for the sorts of help she can offer your child. Please read the important paragraph below regarding a Safeguarding matter for all our children.

Squid Game—What Parents Need to Know

Squid Game is a South Korean series streaming on Netflix. The plot centres on a group of adults competing against each other in a series of childhood games for a grand cash prize. However, there is a dark twist to these seemingly innocent games – losing competitors are violently killed off in ways that grow more twisted as the games grow more intense.

Due to its popularity, Squid Game is beginning to spread across many online platforms. On TikTok, the #SquidGame hashtag has been viewed more than 22.8 billion times. These scenes are often gory and explicit. Videos of people pretending to kill each other after competing in Squid Game-style contests are also going viral on social media, where they are easily accessible to children.

Squid Game Challenge (also known as K-Game Challenge) is an app for smartphones and tablets that has been released for Android and iOs, and the two systems differ significantly on their age ratings for the game. The iTunes Store rates the app as 12+ (advising of "mild/infrequent horror/fear themes"), while the PEGI rating for Android is just 3+, which means that very young children might be able to download and play the game even with parental controls activated on their device or through Google Play.

Safeguarding and Child Protection are our utmost priority at St Margaret's and we know that as parents and carers, you share this ethos. There are three simple steps you can take to protect children online: 1) keep a watchful eye on the content that your children are viewing; 2) speak to them openly; and 3) ensure that the parental controls are activated on your child's devices.

Building Project

You may have noticed that the building project to the front of the school has stalled somewhat. This is unfortunately due to the builders being unable to take delivery of the glass windows and electric doors. We hope that these will arrive as soon as possible so we can conclude the building project and have a new foyer to greet visitors to the school.

Parents' Evenings

We are busy this week and next week with parent consultations. If you haven't signed up already, please make sure you do. Your child's teachers are very keen to let you know how your child has settled in and how they are progressing with their learning. Please do take advantage of this very important time. Any parents who have problems with digital access can make an alternative appointment to see their child's class teacher.



Punctuality and School Uniform

Please be reminded of the times that each year group starts. We continue to have a staggered start in order to maintain as much safety as possible for our children and families but punctuality is very important and after half term we will be keeping a very close eye on children's punctuality as we want to have a crisp start to every morning. Equally important is our uniform policy. There are a number of children who are wearing boots and inappropriate footwear. We would be grateful if items, such as hairbands, reflected the school uniform colours rather than all the colours of the rainbow! Please see our Uniform Policy on the school website. We look forward to encouraging children to wear appropriate uniform after half term as the weather becomes colder.



Dates
for your



Reminder - Children's Birthdays

It's always lovely to feel special on your birthday (when you are young!) and we would like to invite children who are having a birthday to wear mufti on their special day. This means that other children and staff will be able to wish children a Happy Birthday and will help staff who teach in different year groups to get to know children across the school. Children who have birthdays at the weekend or during a holiday can wear mufti **on the Friday before the holiday in which their birthday falls**. If children wish to wear a birthday badge stating their age, they are most welcome.

INSET Days

May I remind you that the school is closed for staff training on **Friday 22nd October and Tuesday 4th January 2022.**

Wet Weather

Please ensure your child has a suitable coat for wet weather as we are very keen to ensure they get plenty of fresh air everyday regardless of the weather.

Exercise and use of the Daily Mile will go on unabated!



If there is a concern about your child's learning, behaviour or emotional worries, the first port of call is the class teacher.

Watch out next week for Mrs Gate's Keeping Children Safe & Happy Bulletin to be sent out via ParentMail.

Turning Tides

We had a simple harvest festival this year and raised money for the local charity, Turning Tides, who look after the homeless people in our community. I am delighted to say that we raised funds to support the very worthwhile work that Turning Tides do in our community.

Years 5 and 6 Christmas Play

There is a change in performance dates because of the Trade Fair in the Village. They will now be on Tuesday 7th December at 6.30pm and Wednesday 8th December at 1.30pm. Tickets will be available nearer the time.



NSPCC Internet Safety

Please have a look at the following link on internet safety

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Staying Safe On-Line

Life online for adults and children is increasing every day and we all know how important it is to keep our children safe online. However, the ever increasing availability of online games, streaming services and social media can be overwhelming for parents and hard to keep up with.

We have a page on our website dedicated to online safety, which we regularly update with information, guides and links for parents.

Please take some time to look and find out more about games like "Among Us" and "Fifa" as well as other popular current online content.

You will find this all on our website under "Parent Information/ Staying Safe online" or on this link <https://www.stmargaretsprimary.org.uk/572/Staying-Safe-Online>



Parentmail APP - Improving our school communications

We are using ParentMail for sending our emails, paying for trips and signing up for Parents Evenings.

ParentMail utilises a **free mobile app**, available for iOS and Android devices, as well as a desktop portal. We strongly encourage you to download the mobile app; here's why:

- Push notifications alert you to new messages, enabling you to access important information with ease
- Keep up to date on school communications from the comfort of home or whilst out and about
- Manage all school messages in one place
- Manage communications for more than one child, across different schools, with one ParentMail account
- You don't need to log in to pick up messages or attachments - communications are quick and easy to access in moments

We occasionally send text messages to our parents. However, text messages are very expensive for our school, and we know they're inconvenient for you, too.

So please download the free ParentMail app from the Apple App store or the Google Play Store now

Congratulations!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Bertie and Mabel who have won a very prestigious award at the New York Festival Awards. Mabel and Bertie were the voice overs for the audio books for Squirrel Nutkin and Peter Rabbit which took gold and silver medals at the Best Children's Audio Books Awards. Congratulations to them both

A huge well done and congratulations to the

SUMDOG WINNERS! SEPT 2021

A total of 158 classes entered AND 1,632 students played!

ALL Y5 AND Y6 CLASS POSITIONS IN TOP 65:

32nd Lewes Class
35th Mrs Cornell's group
39th Amberley Class
44th Mrs Parris and Ms
Dark's group
64th Mr Carton's group

2 PUPILS IN TOP 50 INDIVIDUAL SCORES:

8th Ellie B, Mrs
Cornell's group
31st Zach H, Mrs
Cornell's group

A big well done to these children who answered all 1000 questions:

Year 5: Scarlett, Bertie,
Isabella, Jude, Pippa, Josh
Year 6: Olivia, Charlie, Ellie,
Zac, Emma

Curriculum Letters

May I remind you that each half term teachers send out curriculum letters highlighting areas of learning for your child. Please make sure you keep this handy so you can support your child's with their learning at home and be up to date with their areas of study.

Message from Mrs Kemp

West Sussex Educational Psychology Service is offering the opportunity for parents/carers to speak with an Educational Psychologist about a child or young person. Educational Psychologists are professionals concerned with the development, learning and social and emotional wellbeing of children and young people. Calls can be requested where there is a question or concern about learning or behaviour as well as worries about wellbeing and emotions.

Please do look at the following web page if you are concerned about your child's development, whether this be emotionally, socially, about their mental health or general physical development. The West Sussex Psychology Service have previously offered this telephone support before and the feedback, specifically from parents/carers whose children attend our school, has been that it is a very positive and useful conversation.

https://westsussex.local-offer.org/information_pages/609-educational-psychology-telephone-consultation-service

School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attending every day matters!
Every Minute Counts!

Attendance



97.4 School average for last year COVID exempt

Attending every day matters!
Every Minute Counts!

95%	= 1 day absent every 4 weeks
90%	= 1 day absent every 2 weeks
80%	= 1 day absent every week

Punctuality

If your child is late they are missing out.
 If your child is regularly late it will affect their learning at school.

Give your child the best start to the school day by arriving on time

Arrived at start of day for year group	Your child has arrived in time to settle well and has the best start possible
	Your child is late and has missed the beginning of the school day. Being a few minutes late often unsettles children
	5 minutes late a day means almost 3 lost days in a year
	10 minutes late a day means almost 6 lost days in a year
	15 minutes late a day means almost 9 lost days in a year
	9:00 am Arriving after the register closes is recorded as an unauthorised absence