

Newsletter 7



11th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to school – I hope you had an enjoyable break and Happy New Year for 2024. It's lovely to see the children return ready for the new term and they have made an excellent start.

Adverse Weather Arrangements

If there are adverse weather conditions over the coming weeks it is our aim to minimise disruption to the children's education and support working parents for whom emergency closures are very difficult. Please assume that the school is open *unless* you hear we have closed via Parent Mail, local radio (BBC Radio Sussex, Heart FM/Splash FM) and our website. Parents can make the decision whether it is safe to bring their children based on individual circumstances. If some staff are unable to attend there may be an alternative curriculum for that day but we will resume normal service as soon as possible!!

Please ensure your child has cold weather clothing and that we have your current contact details to ensure you are kept up to date.



Drop off and Pick Up Arrangements – a small change

Our current system of entering and exiting the school is a throwback to covid times. Once the building work for the Tomlin Centre started (35 weeks ago) it seemed appropriate to keep the same system. We are expecting the building work to be completed mid January so will be streamlining the start and finish times to make it simpler for working parents.

The start of the school day is **8.40am**. This is when all children in Years 1 – 6 **MUST** be in school. We recognise that it is convenient for parents to be able to drop off earlier if possible. From the first week in February 2024 these times will apply:-

THESE ARRANGEMENTS START ON MONDAY 5th FEBRUARY

Start of the Day

Year 1 Children come into school at 8.30am (as before). Pick up time from outside the classroom at 3.00pm

Year 2 Children can come into school at 8.30am (via the same gate). They no longer have to wait with parents until 8.40am. As the gate opens the children walk to class independently.

Year 3 Children can come into school from 8.30am via the same gate (as before by pre-school)

Years 4, 5 and 6

Children can come into school via the new widened green Arundel Road gate. We will open this at 8.25am to avoid blocking the pavement. Children can wait on the playground, as they do now, and will go into school at 8.30. This gate closes at 8.40

All children MUST be in school by 8.40am or they will be late

End of the Day

Children in Years 1 and 2 finish at 3.00pm

Children in Years 3 – 6 finish at 3.05pm

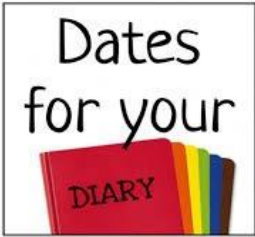
Reception Children

Children will come into school at 8.40am. Children will be collected at 3.00pm as before.

These arrangements will mean parents can drop off earlier and parents with children in Infants *and* Juniors will have less waiting time. This comes into effect **Monday 5th February 2024**. We will send a reminder text on Friday 2nd Feb.



REMAINING INSET Days
 May I remind you that the school is closed for staff training on
Monday 19th February 2024
Monday 22nd July 2024
Tuesday 23rd July 2024



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – Spring Term 2024		
Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 17 th January	6.00pm	Year 6 SATs information evening
Thursday 18 th January	2.15pm	Year 6 SATs information afternoon
Monday 5 th February	Pm	Auditions for St Margaret's Got Talent
Tuesday 6 th February	3.30 – 6.00pm	Parent's Consultation Evening (Pre-Loved Uniform will be on sale – cash only)
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th February – HALF TERM		
Monday 19 th February		INSET DAY – school closed for staff training
Thursday 22 nd February	All day 4.00 – 7.00pm	Year 3 to Butser Farm Parent's Consultation Evening (Pre-Loved Uniform will be on sale – cash only)
Thursday 29 th February	All day	Kapla Day in school for Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2
Friday 8 th March	6.00 – 8.00pm	St Margaret's Got Talent
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th March	All week	Science week
Thursday 28 th March	All day	Year 2 to Arundel Castle Break up for Easter
First day back after Easter is Monday 15 th April 2024		

Non prescribed medicine in school

Non-prescription medication will **not be** administered at school. The majority of medication lasts 4-6 hours, therefore non-prescription medication can be administered at home prior to the start of the school day and it will last the duration of the school day.
On very rare occasions non-prescribed paracetamol may be given with written permission on a non-prescribed medicines form from the school office, from the parent/legal guardian (not before midday) and would not be given until confirmation was received over the phone or email.

Children travelling to school unaccompanied by an adult

We have been made aware that some children travelling to school either by bike or scooter, unaccompanied by an adult, are not being sensible. Please can you have a word with your child about road safety and the importance of travelling to school in a sensible manner and to be mindful of cars on the road.

Kids and Bicycle Safety 





St Margaret's Got Talent Friday 8th March 2024 6.00pm – 8.00pm



Are you in Year 2 - Year 6 and interested in performing?

Would you like to enter St Margaret's Got Talent either on your own or in a group?

To enter please complete the Application Form 2024 from the school office (also on the school website) by Friday 2nd February 2024.

Successful applicants will be notified by Wednesday 7th February 2024.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

An important part of our RSE curriculum is understanding how children's bodies grow and develop. This term we embark on the topic "Safety and the changing body". This will support children's understanding at an age appropriate level of how their bodies work, proper names for body parts and how bodies change, as they grow older. We use a variety of videos from the NSPCC and Kapow. The children in years 4 and 5 are introduced to puberty. Year 6 recap on puberty and learn about conception and birth.

It's important that children know *just enough* for their age to reassure them, dispel misinformation and provide them with strategies to help them stay safe. These lessons will be part of our normal PSHE timetable and start in February. We think it's important for parents and carers to know this in case children ask questions or use terms previously unheard at home. Parents in Year 6 who wish to see the sex education videos should contact the school office before half term.

School Council Members

Congratulations to the following children who have been elected to be a member of the school council

Willow Class – Noah M
Cherry Class – Connie S
Badger Class – Eli T
Otter Class – Ivy G
Fox Class – Evelyn D
Mole Class – Jude M
Amberley Class – Peony O
Lewes Class – Percy V
Arundel Class – Chase P/Ava L
Bramber Class – Rhys D/Tia J



Mobile Phones and inappropriate apps

If your child brings a mobile phone into school they must hand it to their teacher as soon as they arrive.

We have become aware of some of our children using apps which are totally inappropriate for primary age children. Please be vigilant and aware of what your children are accessing on their phones. There are apps, such as Family Link, which allows parents to restrict and monitor what their children can and can't install.

Please take note that WhatsApp is 16+, You Tube is 18+, Tiktok, Facebook Snapchat Instagram Discord, Twitter are all 13+.

Therefore, no primary age children should be accessing these apps. On You Tube you can use the parental controls to allow only content you've approved.



Message from St Margaret's Church

Hello Everyone,

It was lovely to see many of you over the Christmas period at St Margaret's Church. We are looking forward to the new term and working alongside your children here at the school. In addition to the groups that are run during school time, we run children's groups on Sunday's at our 10am and 5pm services. During the week we also have the Adventurer's Club on Tuesday evenings, 7- 8.15pm for those in year 5 to year 8 in the church hall. Please touch base with the church office on 01903 896419 if you would like more information.

This term we will be running two free courses for the adults, please see below for details.

Hope Explored (3 sessions):

Would you like to explore the hope, peace and purpose Jesus offers to you? If so, come and join us for 3 sessions starting on Tuesday 23rd January. We will be meeting at St Margaret's Church hall at 7.45pm for a drink and a pudding, and then enjoy some input and a discussion for about an hour. [Click here to book your place.](#)

The Marriage Course (7 sessions):

Starts on Thursday 25 January at 7.30pm in St Margaret's Church Hall OR online from the comfort of your home.

For those attending in person the evening will start with a delicious meal for two giving you space to relax and chat. You will be served at a candle lit table, making it feel just like a date night. There will be practical talks that are informative and fun and time to discuss the talks privately with your partner. There is no group work, so relax - you will not have to share anything about your relationship with anyone else.

Whether you've been married for 6 months or 40 years, whether you're in a good place or struggling, The Marriage Course offers practical support to strengthen your relationship.

There are limited spaces for this course, [click here to book your place.](#)

Canon Mark Standen
Rector of St Margaret's Church

Yours sincerely,

Mike Jee
Headteacher





CLUBS AT

ST MARGARET'S C E SCHOOL

▶ MONDAY

- Year 3/4 Football, 3-4pm on the field

▶ TUESDAY

- All years musical theatre, 8-8:35am in the hall
- Multi Sports for KS1, 3-4pm on the field

▶ WEDNESDAY

- Girls football KS2, 3-4pm on the field
- KS1 Football, 3-4pm on the field

▶ THURSDAY

- All years Dance, 8-8:35am in the hall
- KS2 Gymnastics, 3-4pm in the hall

▶ FRIDAY

- All years basketball, 8-8:35am on the playground
- All years Cheerleading, 8-8:35am in the hall
- KS1 Gymnastics, 3-4pm in the hall

<https://activ8.classforkids.io>

BOOK HERE



SCAN ME



DANCE/THEATRE ACADEMY

ST MARGARET'S DANCE STUDIO

▶ TUESDAY

- Musical Theatre Minis, 4:30-5:15pm
- Musical Theatre Juniors, 5:30-6:15pm

▶ WEDNESDAY

- Dance for Minis, 4:45-5:30pm
- Dance for Juniors, 5:30-6:15pm
- Seniors show class, 6:30-8:30pm

▶ FRIDAY

- Seniors Dance class, 4:45-5:45pm

Minis: Ages 4-7 years

Juniors: 8-12 years

Seniors: 12-19 years



SCAN ME



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION : 07385 690815

Spring term 2024



Learning God's Way

Headteacher: Mr M Jee

01903 785416

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nargaretsprimary.org.uk

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

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CENSORED

EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

W&#*!

TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspiring stars hoping to be 'the next big thing' will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase "TikTok coins", which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 16s' accounts to 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 16s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

'Family Pairing' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



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SOURCES TikTok.epm



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know About

16+
in UK & EU;
12+ rest of world.

WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, and making voice and video calls. The app offers end-to-end encryption, meaning messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient(s). Not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 reportedly caused millions of users to leave the app. But the new policy was widely misinterpreted: it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

'Prize' Scams

WhatsApp users occasionally receive messages from unauthorised third parties or fraudsters pretending to offer prizes – encouraging recipients to click a link to win. A common scam involves a warning that someone's WhatsApp subscription has run out: aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details. Other scams include instructions to forward a message to earn a gift or reward.

Enabling Fake News

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India, some outbreaks of mob violence were reported to have been sparked by false allegations shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Connections with Strangers

To start a WhatsApp chat, you need the mobile number of the person you want to message (they also need to have the app). WhatsApp can also access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts use WhatsApp. If your child has given their mobile number to somebody they don't know, that person could then use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

Disappearing Messages

By enabling 'Disappearing Messages', users can set messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Users are also able to send photos and videos that disappear after the recipient has viewed them. This media can't be saved or forwarded, making monitoring what children are talking about problematic. Equally, if your child is sent an inappropriate message, it makes it difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot, saving the media as a photo.

'Only Admins' and Cyberbullying

Group chats and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

Live Location Sharing

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." Indeed, it is a useful method for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. But if your child is in a chat with people they don't know, it means they will be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Report Potential Scams

Advise your child not to engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report that number as spam. They can also report a contact or a group as spam by tapping on the contact or group name to open their profile and scrolling down to 'report spam'.

Create a Safe Profile

Even though someone would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra precaution it's worth altering your young one's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody'. Choosing one of the latter two ensures their profile is protected.

Use Location Features Sparingly

If your child needs to use 'live location' to show you or their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives 'live location' options of 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can manually choose to stop sharing their position at any time.

Explain about Blocking

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – they would also need to be deleted from the device's address book. The option to block someone is on their contact info screen.

Leave a Group

If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they no longer want to be part of, show them how to use the group's settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

Delete Accidental Messages

If your child has posted a message in the wrong chat or sent a message that they immediately regret, they can delete it. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone'. WhatsApp allows seven minutes to delete a message after it's sent – but it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

Fact-Check Messages

You can now fact-check messages that have been forwarded at least five times in WhatsApp, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was accurate or not. It's a good way to encourage young people to question things they see online.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



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