



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

ARUNDEL ROAD, ANGMERING, WEST SUSSEX. BN16 4LP

Headteacher: Mr M Jee

Telephone: (01903) 785416

13.09.19

Dear Parents and Carers,

May we begin by welcoming you and your children to the Early Years department at St. Margaret's School. The children have had a fantastic first week and we have enjoyed getting to know them! We have detailed below some important information but if there is anything you are unsure of, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us.

I'm Special

For the next two weeks our topic is 'I'm Special'. We will focus on getting to know your child and helping them to feel settled at school. We will be encouraging your child to talk about themselves, their family and the things that they like to do. We will also be sharing the 'special box' that you have hopefully been able to prepare together over the summer.

Morning routine

We have been absolutely amazed at how well the children are coming into school and most children are managing to do this by themselves. Many have begun to remember the routine of putting their book bag in the box, fruit and water bottle in the tray and coat on their peg. We would be most grateful if you could continue to encourage your child to come in independently and if they are ready, to walk into class by themselves.

Reading books



Choosing books – By the end of the week your child should have brought home what we call a 'choosing book' in their book bag. These books are intended as a book to share together, read by an adult to the child. When we hear your child read at school we will also give them an opportunity to change their choosing book. However, you are welcome to change the choosing book with your child at the end of the day. The books are labelled and situated by the outside classroom door for each class.

Reading scheme books – These books are for the children to share and read to you. We ask that only staff in school change these books, as they are carefully selected to suit the needs of your child. Over this half term, we will establish your child's readiness to read and they will be given a reading scheme book when appropriate. Initially, this may be a picture book without words, to encourage discussion about stories and language skills. This book should be shared/ read at school then again at home. Your child's book will be changed whenever we hear them read in school. This will be at least once a week with a teacher, teaching assistant or other adult helper.

Reading diary – By the end of the week, all children should have received a new reading diary in their book bag. This is a book where any adults at home and school can record when they have read with your child. Please record the date, title and a short comment signed by the adult.



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Tapestry



Hopefully, most of you will have been set up with our online journal 'Tapestry' by now and are enjoying seeing all the exciting and lovely things your child has been up to! We encourage you to upload photos of your child from home of anything you feel may be relevant to their learning journal. For example; your child using an iPad at home, cooking, gardening or a special visit. If you are having problems with your account or need some more assistance with this, please email tapestry@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk. Alternatively, on Monday 23rd September we will be holding a Tapestry 'drop in' straight after school to 'iron out' any problems you may be having or to check how to navigate the website e.g. uploading photos, adding comments etc.

P.E.



Children in reception enjoy two lessons of PE each week, which includes both indoor and outdoor PE. For health and safety reasons all jewellery including stud earrings will need to be removed on PE days. We kindly request that this is done at home as we cannot take responsibility for loss or damage to any jewellery in school. Please can you make sure that children have a P.E. kit in school for next week. Oak class have PE on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Ash class have PE on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Labelling

Please ensure that all items of clothing etc. are clearly labelled with your child's name so that we can return them to the correct owner if they become lost or misplaced.

Fruit and drinks



As some of you may be aware, for several years our school has been able to provide free fruit and vegetables to all infant children through a government healthy eating programme. The scheme provides children with an additional serving of fruit or vegetables, which will be offered in the afternoon during story time. However, we also ask that children bring a piece of fruit into school to be shared with the class, at our morning snack time. Please provide them with a named bottle of water (not juice), which they will have free access to throughout the day. Children receive a free carton of milk until the week of their 5th birthday, when you can order it online thereafter. Details of how to do this are on our website.

Lunches



All Infant children will be offered a free hot dinner. However, if you choose to provide a pack lunch, we request that you avoid food containing nuts such as peanut butter as we have some children in school with severe nut allergies.

Own toys

We understand that children may feel the need to bring in a toy from home to help them settle. Please be aware that we are unable to accept responsibility for these items and it is easy for them to get lost or broken in our play environment. We would hope that by the end of the first term children only bring in toys related to our topic to share with the class at 'show and tell' time.



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Communication

Our doors are always open and we are happy to speak to you briefly at the start or end of the day. If you need to speak to us in private, then feel free to make an appointment via us or the office for after school. If there have been any minor accidents or incidents we do endeavour to speak to you at the end of the day. Please also check the book bag each day as letters and other communication is placed in there.

Faith and Wonder

Please could you bring in an old plain cotton pillowcase, which we will be painting for our drama activities.

Teachers

To clarify: Ash Class are taught by Mrs Martin on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Mrs Reene teaches the class on a Friday.

Mrs Collins is an Assistant Headteacher in charge of the whole Infant department and as part of these responsibilities she is out of class on a Wednesday, when Mrs Reene teaches the class.

Please note that from time to time, teachers are required to undertake professional development courses and attend meetings, when we will endeavour to provide a supply teacher who is familiar to the children.

Dates

On Sunday 22nd September 3-4.30pm there is a tea party at the Rectory Garden to meet the church team and get to know fellow parents. Mark Standen, the vicar of St Margaret's Church, will be hosting this event with the church team of helpers.

Parent Workshop - 'How we teach reading'

On Wednesday 2nd October Mrs Collins will be running a 45minute workshop to explain and answer questions about how we teach reading in the Early Years. This workshop will ensure that you are equipped with the skills and knowledge to support your child's reading development, with a clear understanding of the phonetic approach to reading. Therefore, it would be of great benefit to your child if you could attend either at 8.45am in the school hall or 2.15pm in the spare classroom next to Oak (via the office).

Finally, may we again welcome you to St Margaret's and thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We hope it has been informative. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to come in and see us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Collins and The Early Years Team