

17<sup>th</sup> September 2021



*Learning God's Way*

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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 in school and we have enjoyed getting to know them! We have detailed below some important information;

### Communication

Communication between home and school is very important to us so we just wanted to clarify which method to use for what.

If you want to contact the class teacher directly regarding a non-urgent matter please use the class email address [oak@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk](mailto:oak@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk) or [ash@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk](mailto:ash@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk) Please note these emails are checked at the start and end of the working day (Mon-Fri. 8-5pm).

Any urgent messages during the school day, please call the school office.

For whole school communications from us eg. Headteacher newsletter and payments – please ensure you are signed up to ParentMail to receive these.

### Tapestry

Tapestry is primarily used to record your child's learning journey, however we occasionally use this method to communicate Early Years specific messages.

Hopefully, most of you will now be up and running with our wonderful online journal 'Tapestry' and are enjoying seeing all the exciting and lovely things your child has been up to! Over the coming weeks our focus will be getting to know your child, therefore we will be 'stepping back' from our ipads to spend more time with your child.

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](mailto:tapestry@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk). We would also like to remind you that under no circumstances should pictures/video containing children other than your own, be shared on social media or in the public domain.



### House Groups

At St. Margaret's all the children are placed in one of four houses (red/blue/green/yellow). The children can receive a house point token for something positive e.g. tidying, helping, being kind, doing some super writing etc. These are put in tubes in the classroom, then every Friday, the tubes are tipped into large colour tubes in our office area. At the end of the half term, whichever colour has the most tokens will have a treat e.g. wear their own house colour clothes to school for a day. We also use the groupings throughout the day in Early Years and in organising their belongings e.g. red house book bag box. We will be sending out a sticker on their reading diaries with their house colour on it today. Siblings should be in the same house colour group.

Please note that Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September is House Day – so all children can wear their own clothes with something in the colour of their house.

### Reading books



**Choosing books** – Today 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.

**Reading scheme books** – These books are for the children to read to you. 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 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** – Today all children should have received a new reading diary in their book bag. This is a book where any adults at home or school can record when they have read with your child. Please record the date, title and a short comment signed by the adult.

### P.E.

Please send in PE kits by the end of next week.

### 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.



### Healthy snack

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 eat at our morning snack time.

### Birthdays

When it is your child's birthday they can wear their own clothes to school for the day. We are happy to distribute invitations and birthday sweets/treats for the class. We will also give each child a special card from the class and sing happy birthday to them so do help us by reminding us when their birthday is coming up.

### Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA)

By half term, each child will have completed a new government statutory baseline assessment. The children will not be told it's an assessment and it will be delivered to them in the course of their normal day-to-day activities. Please see the attached leaflet with more details.

Finally, may we again welcome you to St Margaret's and thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Collins      Mrs Hendrick      Mrs Reene