



St. Margaret's C.E. Primary School
September 2019



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope you had an enjoyable summer holiday.

All the staff want your child to feel happy and secure at school. Please come and talk to us if you have any concerns at all.

We are including, below, a brief overview for each subject, developed in line with the National Curriculum.

Numeracy

- In Maths we will be covering the following: counting; reading and writing numbers (including counting in 2s, 5s and 10s); addition and subtraction (using 1-digit and 2-digit numbers within 10); numbers bonds to 10; place and value of numbers to 20; number problems; recognising and naming 2-D and 3-D shapes.

Literacy

- Word level work
Children will have a phonics lesson most days in their own year group setting and a weekly spelling lesson on a Monday (including testing through dictation). We will use Bug Club as our phonics and reading scheme to ensure they have acquired all the sounds they need to be confident in both reading and spelling to compliment the Year 1 spelling objectives.
- Children will consolidate their ability to write sentences which make sense using a capital letter and full stop. We will also look at using interesting vocabulary and conjunctions to improve and extend sentences.

Science

- Our first unit this year is 'Animals including Humans'. This includes identifying and naming a variety of common animals and their structures. We will also look at seasonal changes in the school grounds throughout the year.

Computing

- Basic logging on skills
- Technology in our lives- recognise how technology is used in the home and community
- E Safety- keeping safe online

Design Technology

- Designing and making a woven basket

Art

- Portraits of ourselves

History

- Changes which have occurred within living memory

Geography

- 'My School, My Home' – looking at the features of our school grounds and routes to school.

P.E.

- Gymnastics

Music

- Exploring sounds using the theme 'ourselves'.
- Singing and performing Christmas songs and adding instrumental effects to Christmas music.

PSHE / RSE

This term our PSHE topic is Health and Wellbeing. We are learning about the main stages of human life and the people who look after us. We will be exploring what constitutes a 'balanced lifestyle' and will be learning about road safety. We will use the NSPCC 'Talk PANTS with Pantosaurus' resources to look at privacy and keeping safe. Towards the end of the term, we will also look at how to make a call to the emergency services. It would be really useful if you could support us with this by showing your child how to make an emergency call from your phones and mobiles at home – this task isn't as simple as it once was now that we have mainly handheld phones and passcodes. If you have any questions or concerns about any of these topics, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Religious Education

- What can we learn about Christianity from visiting a Church?
- Why are gifts given at Christmas?

Christmas

Year 1 will be performing a Christmas play as a year group this year. Tickets and more information will be available closer to the time.

Individual Reading Records

Children have access to Reading Scheme books and Library books. These are all colour coded and will match your child's level of phonics knowledge and comprehension ability. Please record any reading you do with your child in their reading record. Children must bring their reading book and reading record in every day. Every Thursday your child will receive a new book providing they have read the book more than once. We regularly monitor your child's stage of phonics and will therefore match their reading books according to this. This may mean revisiting certain stages to consolidate phonic knowledge. It is important that you understand that with this scheme, there is no 'going backwards' and this plays a vital role in enabling your child to be secure and fluent in their phonics.

There is the option to read a second book on Bug Club where letter sounds can be heard and interactive comprehension activities can be done. Children may also want to reread books in their 'library' section on Bug Club. Whilst reading with your child, you may wish to concentrate on word recognition and understanding the meaning of any new words. If your child is struggling with some of the words, you could make a flash card and practice it separately from the book. Following that, should be fluency and expression practice. This will improve through lots of modelling by you. *Can they copy your expression? Are they thinking about the punctuation and how this can help expression?* Finally, talk about the book with your child to check comprehension skills. Reading regularly at home helps them to make good progress and we advise trying to read for 10 minutes per day. Your child can win DOJO points by reading at home with you! There will be regular group reading activities and 1:1 reading at school.

Uniform

Would you please try to ensure that your child's uniform (including coats, shoes, wellies, P.E. shoes etc.) **is named**. If it is clearly named we can return it to the child should they misplace it! We often have many jumpers, cardigans and coats in our 'Lost Property' boxes without names. At the end of each term, these will be either given to the Friends' of St. Margaret's for the second hand uniform sale or given to a local charity shop as we do not have the room to hold onto them.

Homework

Your child will have daily reading practice, spellings (tested through dictation on a Monday) and a piece of Numeracy homework (sent home on a Friday) on Google Classroom each week. Homework should ideally be completed by the

following Tuesday in order to give teachers time to mark. We understand that your children have other activities outside of school and may have difficulty completing tasks on a set night.

Book bags

Just a polite reminder that we do not have much space in Year 1 and therefore we ask that children do not bring in large rucksacks, as these do not fit in the storage areas. Children will continue to come into school on their PE day (on a Friday).

Helping in school

The staff greatly appreciate the help given by parents and grandparents in the classroom and the children really benefit from the extra input. If you feel you could help in school, either on a regular basis or when time allows, please see a member of staff.

*Please note you may not be able to work in school in your own child's class, but would be **warmly welcomed** to work with a different teacher!*

Alternatively, if you feel that you have the expertise or resources to contribute to our topics, again, please see a member of staff. All adults coming into school to work with children or those who accompany trips will be asked to have a relevant DBS form. This can be accessed on line. Please see the office if you require help with this.

Timetable

In order to give you an outline of your child's day, a copy of the timetable is attached to this newsletter. As we have moved to a continuous provision in Year 1, children will be enhancing their learning with carefully chosen challenged play. This means children will access the full curriculum and have the opportunity to build on their fundamental learning carried through from the Early Years Curriculum. We therefore have a more flexible approach with timetabling in Year 1, as we will teach the curriculum alongside the provision.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell sessions take place every Thursday afternoon in Year 1. Children will have the option to show the rest of the class something they have brought from home, or tell them some news. They may bring something that is special to them (e.g. something they have won, a photograph, a souvenir from a holiday or something similar – **NO TOYS** please).

Dates:

29th September – individual photographs

16th and 17th November: Parents Evenings

Coming into school

Children are dropped off in the Infant Yard and can come straight into school from 8.45am. At 8.55am the gates will be locked. If you arrive once the gate is locked, please sign your child in at the main office. **DO NOT** lift your child over the fence or send them straight up the stairs near the office, as the doors are locked and children can become distressed if they are locked out on their own. Short messages can be left with the members of staff on the school gate or with office staff via a letter or email.

Contacting your class teacher

Please feel free to contact us on Class Dojo if you have any concerns regarding your child. We will use this forum to communicate any messages with you alongside Parent Mail. Please report pupil absences to the main office.

Leaving school at 3.20pm

At 3.20pm the teachers will lead their own classes out. We would therefore like to remind parents that they should wait at the far side of the playground and **must not allow younger siblings to play in this area** while waiting to collect their child, for their own safety and the safety of others. It is very distracting for the children working in classes and we have had several younger siblings go missing recently.

For the safety of the children, should your child need to re-enter the building (e.g. if they have forgotten something) they must ask a member of staff before doing so. Sadly we cannot allow parents to accompany them. This is to safeguard the children who are in our tea club and after school sports clubs. Staff will ensure they are returned to their parent on leaving the building!

Also, we ask that children do not play football or other games on the Infant yard during this time as children have been injured in the past. Also we would like to remind you that children **must not ride their scooters or bicycles within the school grounds**, including on the Infant yard, either before or after school. This has caused accidents and damage to staff cars in the past, as well as injuries to other children. Please ensure your child pushes their vehicles to the end of the school drive.

Thank you for your co-operation and support. It is much appreciated!

Mrs. White and Mrs. Curry