



St. Margaret's C.E. Primary School
September 2021

Dear Parents,

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

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

- Counting, properties of number, place value and ordering, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, movement, length, weight, capacity, symmetry, 2D and 3D shape, time, data handling and fractions.

We will continue to use 'Power Maths' Scheme of work this year, alongside many other fantastic resources.

Literacy

- Word level work
Children will have a phonics lesson most mornings in their own year group setting and a weekly spelling lesson on a Monday (including testing through dictation). Due to government changes, we will be using the Phonic Bug scheme by Active Learn to ensure they have acquired all the sounds they need to be confident in both reading and spelling to compliment the Year 2 spelling objectives. Spellings will be practised in school on a Thursday for Yellow Class and Friday for Lilac Class. Spellzone should be used at home to show you what your child is learning each. Please encourage your child to log on weekly to practise using the games linked to the weekly task we set. There is no need to do the spelling course as this is not very interesting for KS1 children!
- Sentence level work- children will be helped to secure their use of full stops and capital letters before moving onto to develop their use of other punctuation. They will also begin to think about using adjectives and conjunctions to make their writing more interesting.

Science

- We will look at the use of everyday materials (Chemistry). This will include investigating the suitability of everyday materials for uses and exploring how materials can be changed (squashing, twisting etc.).

Computing

- Programming- Robot algorithm
- Creating Media- Making Music using iPads

E Safety

- Creating a set of rules to keep us safe when using technology and the internet
- thinking about why we need passwords and how to be safe when using the internet

Design Technology

- Preparing fruit and vegetables- making smoothies

Art

- Printing
- Sculpture (Looking at the work of Tom Claasson)

History

- Famous Firsts

Geography

- Exploring Hot and Cold Areas (Link to explorers e.g. Captain Scott, Ranulph Fiennes)
Human and Physical Geography
- Location of hot & cold areas, equator, North & South Poles.
- Identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles.

P.E.

- Gymnastics

Music

- Experimenting with sounds
- Exploring 'beat', 'tempo', 'dynamics' and 'pitch'
- Playing and performing together

During the Year all Y2 children will also have the chance to take part in 'Little Fingers' for 1 term, where they will learn to read music while playing the violin. This is provided by Mr. Hartley, our upper strings teacher from Durham Music Service.

PSHCE/ RSE

This term in PSHE our topic is Health and Wellbeing. We will begin by looking at good hygiene routines and ways to be safe around our homes – including using medicines safely. We will use the NSPCC 'Talk PANTS with Pantosaurus' resources to look at privacy and keeping ourselves safe. We will then move on to looking at how we can keep our bodies physically healthy as well as looking at the importance of mental health. If you have any questions or concerns about any of these topics, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Religious Education

- What can we learn from the story of St. Cuthbert?
- Why is light important at Christmas?

Individual Reading Records

Children have access to Reading Scheme books and Library books. To begin with these are matched to your child's phonics knowledge and comprehension ability. Please record any reading you do with your child in their reading record. Children will have the opportunity to change their book once per week (Thursday/ Friday) as they should read the book more than once before changing it. We recommend at first, you look at the inside front cover of the book where you will find information for parents regarding the sounds and tricky words you might find. There are also some ideas of activities to do with your child before, during and after reading the book. Then, 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 practise 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 and at least 3 times per week. 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.

This year we continue to use 'Bug Club'. This is an online reading scheme, linked to the banded system of our reading scheme.

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 application on a Thursday/ Friday)) and a piece of Numeracy homework (sent home on a Thursday/ Friday) each week.

We understand that your children have other activities outside the school and may have difficulty completing tasks on a set night. If this is the case, please complete the homework when time is available.

Book bags

Just a polite reminder that we do not have much space in Year 2 (all bags are stored within the classroom) and there we have asked that children **do not bring in large rucksacks**, as these do not fit in the storage areas and cause a trip hazard. Children will bring a P.E. kit, which will remain in school for the duration of each half term (P.E. is on a Tuesday). They need a book bag to hold their reading books, library book and homework book and a water bottle, which has a container for each table's bottles within their classroom.

Timetable

In order to give you an outline of your child's day, a copy of the timetable is attached to this newsletter. Please understand that the primary school timetable is very flexible in order to keep it varied and interesting, so this is given as guidance only.

Dates:

Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th November – Parents evening

Coming into school

Children are dropped off in the Infant Yard and can come straight into school from 8.45am. School begins at 8.55am. If you arrive late, 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.

Leaving school at 3.20pm

At 3.20pm the teachers will lead their own classes out. Year 2 will be led through the safari play equipment to avoid congestion. 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 you co-operation and support. It is much appreciated!

Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Durie