



**St. Margaret's C.E. Primary School**  
**September 2023**



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.

**Maths**

- 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); number 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 every day and a weekly spelling lesson (including testing through dictation on a Friday). We will use Bug Club as our phonics and reading scheme to ensure they have acquired all the sounds they need for both reading and spelling in Year 1.
- 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 exploring a variety of common animals. 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 moving pictures

**Art**

- Colour mixing
- Self-portraits

**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.**

- Fundamental movement skills
- 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 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 is not as simple as it once was now that we have 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. The dates for our performances are Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

## 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, comprehension ability and the point at where we are with class teaching. Please record any reading you do with your child in their reading record.

Please leave the reading book and reading record in your child's bag. This is so we can read with them and monitor their progress. Reading books will be collected every Wednesday and new books handed out on Fridays. We will NOT change your child's book unless an adult from home has recorded in the reading record that it has been read during the week. 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 for reading and writing.

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. There are also phonics games that will help children with their reading. 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. On the inside cover of each reading book there is a helpful before and during reading page. We ask that parents make use of this and spend the first reading session going over step 1 (saying the sound), 2 (blend the sounds) and 3 (reading the irregular 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 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 substantial progress and we advise trying to read for 10 minutes per day. There will be regular group reading activities and 1:1 reading at school.

## Uniform

Would you please try to ensure that all your child's uniform (including coats, shoes, wellies, P.E. shoes) 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 and a piece of homework (sent home on a Friday) each week. Homework should ideally be completed by the following Wednesday to give teachers time to mark. We understand that your children could have other activities outside of school and may have difficulty completing tasks on a set night.

## **Timetable**

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. We call this COOL (Choosing Our Own Learning) time. This means children will access the full curriculum and can 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.

## **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. Please 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 at the school gate or with office staff via a letter or email.

## **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 on the playground to collect their child.

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 parents on leaving the building.

Also, we ask that children do not play football or other games in 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 in 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 Hunter and Mrs Reilly