



St Margaret's  
Academy

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## Autumn Term Newsletter No.1

Welcome to the Autumn Term! It has been delightful to catch up with all the children and hear their news and to welcome new families to the school. We hope your summer holiday was relaxing and fun filled, despite the not so sunny weather!

We also say 'Welcome' to new members of staff. Miss Palfrey, Miss Pritchard, Miss Seal and Mrs Tandy have all had a whirlwind few days getting to know all about St Margaret's. We would love you to meet your child's new class teacher so please watch out for information about this coming home with your child soon. These meetings will mainly take place next week, straight after school and will be an opportunity to find out a little bit more about life in their new class. We know parent partnership is vital to ensure your child gets the most out of school so we hope you can make pop in to find out about routines and expectations and how you can offer your help—extra hands in a school are always welcome!



We have some lovely news to share with you! Miss Leworthy's little girl, Myla, arrived safely in late August and Mrs Essam's little girl, Lily, arrived safely at the start of September. We send our congratulations to them both and can't wait to meet their beautiful little daughters!

This school year will be just as busy as every school year so if you want to make sure you are kept up to date please help us by downloading the eschools app to your mobile phone. This will alert you to all emails and messages we send and you will have instant access to the school diary. If you do not have a smart phone you can use your login details on our website homepage to check out information specific to your child. Please do call in to the office if you need help finding the app online or logging in.



We also have a Twitter page which appears on the homepage of our website so you do not need to have your own Twitter account to see what is going on! (If you do follow us on Twitter you can set your notifications to see when we tweet photos or information about the school day) We use our Twitter account to give you snapshots of the children's learning across the week.

Our Newsletter will be back to its usual format next week with Star of the Week and attendance winners, etc. The children are excited about their class winning the highest weekly attendance as they will earn themselves a non uniform day if they can win it three times over the course of the year. The children are also designing new certificates for us for our Reading Awards and we are introducing Spelling Certificates this year too. Spelling is a key part of the curriculum and the children cannot be assessed as working at the expected standard if they cannot spell the key words allocated to their year group. Our homework has been reduced to focus on the key skills that will support your child in being successful in accessing the rest of the curriculum so we would really appreciate your support in helping them learn their times tables, their spellings and developing their love of reading. There are lots of fantastic free apps and websites which you could also use to provide variety in the ways that you help your child to learn the tables. Our local library also has a great selection of books—your child can have ten books at a time—and they run some great weekend activities.

*RESPECT*

*RESPONSIBILITY*

*ASPIRATION*

**Diary Date Reminders:** (Please remember to check your eschools calendar or our website calendar for key event in school)

Monday 11th September—Cherry Class swimming (8 week block)

Tuesday 12th September— Y4 survivals skills day trip. Please see letter for details.

Wednesday 13th September—Y3 survivals skills day trip. Please see letter for details.

Wednesday 13th September—last day for registering an interest for Clubs on School Gateway.

Thursday 28th September to Wednesday 4th October —Scholastic Book Fair in school from 3:05pm to 3:30pm

### **Sainsbury's Active Kids 2017**

Thanks for helping make Sainsbury's Active Kids 2017 a great success. We really appreciate you supporting Active Kids 2017 and collecting vouchers. You managed to collect more vouchers this year and we were able to order even more equipment. You have helped provide lots of fun sports equipment for the children here at St Margaret's and the children have already started to get active and enjoy their new equipment at breaktimes.

Thanks again to everyone who took part and for all your support.



### **School Clubs**

We are pleased to be able to continue to offer a wide range of after school, lunchtime and early morning clubs this term. We are committed to providing a rich and exciting curriculum and we believe that our clubs have a role to play in enriching the curriculum. The school offers a range of clubs, most of which are free. Not only are these clubs fun, but they will also help boost your child's self-esteem and self-confidence.

Please read the booklet we emailed out on Thursday and check which clubs are open to which year groups. (The information is also on the school website) Make a note of the days and times and then sign up via the School Gateway. The deadline for all clubs is Wednesday 123th September.

### **Leave of Absence Requests**

Children are expected to be in school every day unless they are ill or there are exceptional reasons why they cannot attend. Please remember that all planned absences must be requested in advance using one of the school's forms. Headteachers can no longer grant leave for holidays in term times and the Government is bringing in stricter penalties for families who take their child out of school during term time. We do consider each case in its own rights and we understand there will be occasions where you need your child to be absent from school (for example, when attending funerals etc) - exceptional circumstances will be authorised but the amount of time authorised is at the Headteacher's discretion.

### **Children's Safety**

Please can we remind you about not parking on the zigzags or across the drop down kerbs on the corner of Shelley Avenue and Barewell Road. The children need to have clear visibility to cross the road safely and cars parked on these places obscure their view .

The school gates will be opened just before 8:45am. Children can then make their way directly to their classrooms where their teachers will meet and greet them on the door every morning. There are ten minutes before the school day officially starts at 8:55am which allows the children time to settle in, ready for the register to be taken. The gates close at 8:55am after which time you will need to make your way to the main office to sign your child in. Thank you.

*Learning today to achieve our tomorrows.*