



## Spring Term Newsletter No.11

What a fabulous start to the week! The children loved listening to David Lawrence Jones and having the opportunity to take part as some of his characters during his story telling. Hopefully, they have been inspired to get reading and writing!



Thank you to all the parents who responded so speedily to the email about cuts to school budgets. Within 20 minutes of sending you the letter we had a phone call from Kevin Foster's team asking if he could come in to school to meet us and talk. All schools will be facing reduced budgets and we will have tough decisions to make. Unlike many schools we are not in a deficit budget yet, due to careful money management and planning, but we are definitely beginning to feel the squeeze. We will continue to do all we can to ensure the children's education does not suffer and we hope to continue offering all the wonderful experiences that make our school unique.

We are looking forward to next week as it is Grandparent's Gardening Week and some of the classes have invited families in to help us kick start our school kitchen garden in our orchard. If you are able to donate any seeds, seedlings or plants we'd love them! We have just been awarded Level 3 School Award from the Royal Horticultural Society for our commitment to educating children about growing food and gardening. We'd love to get Level 4 this summer!

Thank you for supporting Comic Relief today. We raised £248.35 in donations and £162 from Red Nose Sales! (Ask your children about 'the dance' we did today!)



### **We are very proud of this week's Star Pupils:**



- Ash — Ella has asked lots of questions about dinosaurs and tried hard with her writing.
  - Reuben challenges himself with maths learning and gives great mathematical explanations.
- Elm — Benjamin has been an 'explorasaurus', spending time looking at the marks a brush can make.
  - Adam has been looking in books and asking questions to find out more about dinosaurs.
- Beech — Olivia has shown a wonderful improvement in her writing.
- Pine — Corey has been aspirational, listening to feedback about how to improve his work.
- Apple — Connor has a great attitude and worked hard all week.
- Oak — Jonathan is enthusiastic in everything he does.
- Birch — Navid has completed some outstanding home learning about sloths.
- Rowan — Chloe has shown fantastic behaviour and attitude towards her learning.
- Cherry — Owen has put in much more effort during whole class learning. Well done!
- Maple — Mollie is always respectful, responsible and aspirational! A true star!
- Holly — Heidi has made a super effort to improve her attitude and behaviour in the classroom.
- Willow — Leon has developed an open mind and is prepared to give tricky things a go.
- Hawthorn — Taylor has a positive attitude in math and is an aspirational learner.
- Hazel — Siyair's incredible effort has made a real improvement to his reading.

## Diary Date Reminders:

Week beginning 27th March—Grandparent Gardening Week

Thursday 30th March—PTA Cake Sale 3:05pm

Thursday 30th March—KS1 Easter Bonnet family fun (See letters sent home)

Friday 31st March—Last day of school

Tuesday 18th April—First Day of the Summer Term



## Attendance Award

Congratulations to Cherry Class for winning the School Attendance Award with 99.7% attendance.

The whole school achieved 96.4% attendance overall which beats our target again. Well done!

Thank you to all the parents who completed the questionnaire we gave out at the Parents' Meetings in February. We have analysed the results and compared the findings to national data that has been released to show the average responses for other schools. We are delighted that the responses were more positive in our school in all categories than the national average.

The question about Bullying looks lower than the other questions but 22% of parents responded that they 'Did Not Know' from which we can assume they have had no experience of this so do not know if we deal with it effectively. We are proud that 96% of parents felt their child is happy and 98% of parents felt their child is taught well but we would love this to be 100%. We know there will always be more we can do to improve and we are always happy to listen to your suggestions.

Homework continues to be a contentious issue for some parents so we will follow up this questionnaire with a more thorough one specifically linked to homework. Thank you for taking the time to complete these questionnaires.

Spring 2017	St Margaret's	National Data Jan 2016- Jan 2017
My child is happy at this school	96%	92%
My child makes good progress at this school	95%	87%
My child is well looked after at this school	95%	91%
My child is taught well at this school	98%	87%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	89%	83%
This school ensures the pupils are well behaved	92%	86%
This school deals effectively with bullying	72%	67%
This school is well led and managed	95%	82%
This school responds well to any concern I raise	90%	79%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	95.5%	84%
I would recommend this school to another parent	90%	86%

## Riverford Farm

We get our school lunch fruit, vegetables and dairy products from Riverford Farm. Are you an existing customer? If you are, please let us know as there is now a School Veg Fund where Riverford will tot up how many parents, staff and friends of the school have ordered more than three deliveries and will send the school £15 for each customer that meets these requirements. After 52 deliveries, Riverford will donate another £15 to the school per customer. We can pass on your details to Riverford and quote the school code (**SCH1246**). If you are new to Riverford just quote the school code when you first join.



## PTA Cake Sale on Thursday 30th March from 3:05pm

Please remember the PTA would like your support for their next cake sale on Thursday. If you have children in Y3, 4, 5, or 6 please bring cakes in the morning ready for the afternoon cake sale if you are able to. Thank you.

*Learning today to achieve our tomorrows.*