



St. Margaret's C of E Primary School
The Mardens, Ifield, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 0AQ
Telephone 01293 521077 Fax 01293 538326

Headteacher: Mrs Jill Hine B.Ed (Hons), NPQH

Independent Learners for Life

14th December 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that all the parents and family members who watched the wonderful nativity plays last week enjoyed them as much as I did. The singing was lovely, the children were confident on stage and most importantly the children were enjoying themselves. Thank you for all your support with learning lines, supplying costumes and listening to the songs being sung at home over the past 2 weeks!

Thank you for your very generous donations to Muscular Dystrophy UK. We raised £355.51.

This week it is Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday. I have spoken to the PTA and I would like to send the money to Save the Children as I think we have been very fortunate with PTA fundraising. The suggested donation is £1. I'm looking forward to seeing all the lovely jumpers on Thursday. You can always decorate school sweatshirts if you don't have a Christmas jumper at home.

Please can I remind you all about school uniform? I expect all children to wear black sensible shoes and not trainers, hair bands or hair clips should be blue or white and hoodies are not acceptable as school uniform even if they are blue. If you have any problems with school uniform please speak to your child's class teacher or make an appointment to see me.

From January we would like Reception children to be walking into the classrooms by themselves. You can pass on a quick messages to the adults who walk them in. Please remember that it is better to chat to teachers after school than before school. We are always happy to make a mutually convenient time to meet with you.

Thank you for all your support this term. I hope you all enjoy Christmas with your families and I wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. I look forward to welcoming you all back in January 2016.

Leaf certificates



There were no certificates this week due to the nativity plays. This Friday will be Golden Leaf Worship and the children who receive a Golden Leaf will have a special Christmas themed afternoon tea with me.

Top Table



The Top Table children on Friday were: Makayal Ngwenya, Elijah Kaleher, Grace Goddard, Sammy Robertson, Connor Riseborough, Jack Chase, Christopher Booker, Rebecca Hull and Lauren Parisi. Well done to you all for having such lovely manners.

Christmas Maths Challenge



In keeping with the Christmas theme our Family maths challenge is:

There are 57 baubles on the Christmas tree.

Some of them are blue and the rest are green.

If there are 2 blue baubles for every green bauble, how many blue baubles are on the tree?

Wrapping Presents

Last week's answer: 9 elves and 5 reindeer

School start time



Please can I remind you that the bell is rung at 8.50am every morning and that the children should be in the playground by then? We make a prompt start with our learning so if your child is late they are missing valuable learning time. If you know that you are often running into school please leave home 5 minutes earlier. It will make a difference to the start of the day for your children. Thank you.

Girls Football



Mr Plunkett took the girls football team to Oriel last Monday. He writes 'I was very proud to take the girls last night. On a very cold evening and playing with one less player than all the other teams the 6 girls were a credit to our school. We played against 3 teams who all play week in week out with each other, in and out of school, and we didn't look out of place against them.'

Mr Stone, Ella's dad, also emailed the school to say how proud he was of our team. Thank you for the photo too!
Well done girls!

Forest School



From January, every Friday afternoon, Forest School will take place for a class for half a term. I am really excited about this new initiative at St Margaret's School. We are employing an experienced Forest School Leader, John Burrell, and Mrs Fox is also training for her Level 3 qualification. We will be starting with Year 3 and for this school year it will just be Key Stage 2 that participates in Forest School, but this will change from September. I will keep you informed about these changes through the year. I'm sure you will be wondering what Forest school is! The Forest School Education website states that:

'A Forest School is an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning.'

The philosophy of Forest Schools is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences.

By participating in engaging, motivating and achievable tasks and activities in a woodland environment each participant has an opportunity to develop intrinsic motivation, sound emotional and social skills. These, through self-awareness can be developed to reach personal potential.

Forest Schools has demonstrated success with children of all ages who visit the same local woodlands on a regular basis and through play, who have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others. Forest School programmes run throughout the year, for about 36 weeks, going to the woods in all weathers (except for high winds). Children use full sized tools, play, learn boundaries of behaviour; both physical and social, establish and grow in confidence, self-esteem and become self-motivated.

Children will need to bring their Forest School clothes every Friday when it is their sessions. All children will still attend Forest School even if they haven't brought their outdoor clothing, so you will need to be aware they may come home in dirty, wet, muddy school uniform in those circumstances. We do not have spare clothes for Forest School. All clothing should be named.

All children will need:

Waterproof coat with a hood

Wellingtons or walking boots

Warm socks

Old warm trousers e.g. tracksuit bottoms or jeans, not leggings as these can be quite thin

Warm jumper or more than 1 if the weather is particularly cold

Hat and gloves

Diary Dates	
Monday 14 th December	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas parties
Tuesday 15 th December	Church service for KS2 (Choir will be Year 2 and KS2 children) 9.30am: Fern, Sky, Tanzanite and Copper 10.30am: Olive, Ocean, Ametrine and Bronze Year 5 and 6 Christmas parties
Wednesday 16 th December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas parties
Thursday 17 th December	Wear a Christmas jumper or outfit for £1 donation to Save the Children
Friday 18 th December	Golden afternoon Tea for Golden Leaf children Last day of Autumn term
Monday 4 th January	First day of spring term
Friday 15th January	Closing date for applications for New starters September 2016 Forest School starts for Year 3 for 5 weeks
Thursday 21 st January	Tanzanite Class Worship to parents
Thursday 4th February	9.15 am Bronze Class Worship to parents 2.45pm Year 5 Eucharist Service. All parents welcome.
Thursday 11 th February	Sky Class Worship to parents
Monday 15 th -19 th February	Half term
Tuesday 23 rd February	3.30-5.20pm Parents consultation
Thursday 25 th February	3.30-7.20pm Parents consultation
Friday 26th February	Forest School starts for Year 4 for 5 weeks
Thursday 10 th March	Ametrine Class Worship to parents
Thursday 17th March	Cherry Class Worship to parents 2.45pm Year 4 Eucharist Service. All parents welcome.
Thursday 24 th March	Last day of Spring term
Monday 11 th April	Inset day 4
Tuesday 12 th April	First day of Summer term
Thursday 14 th April	Copper Class Worship to parents
Friday 15th April	Forest School starts for Year 5 for 7 weeks
Thursday 21 st April	Poppy Class Worship to parents
Friday 22 nd April	Family Quiz evening
Thursday 28 th April	Olive Class Worship to parents
Monday 2 nd May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 12 th May	Class/group photographs
Thursday 19 th May	Amber Class Worship to parents
Thursday 26th May	Sunset Class Worship to parents 2.45pm Year 3 Eucharist Service. All parents welcome.
Monday 30 th -3 rd June	Half term
Friday 10th June	Forest School starts for Year 6 for 6 weeks
Thursday 16 th June	Ocean Class Worship to parents
Tuesday 21 st June	Sports day
Thursday 23 rd June	Reserve Sports day
Saturday 25 th June	Summer Fair
Monday 27 th - Friday 1 st July	Bikeability Week for year 6
Thursday 30 th June	Buttercup Class Worship to parents
Tuesday 5 th July	Year 6 leavers Service at Lancing College. Year 6 Parents are very welcome to join us. Details of timings will be given nearer the date. Reserve Sports day will have to change, again, to Thursday 23 rd June. Sorry.
Thursday 7 th July	Sunflower Class Worship to parents
Friday 8 th July	Inset day 5
Thursday 14 th July	9.30pm Year 2 Eucharist Service. All parents welcome.
Friday 22 nd July	End of summer term

Thank you for your support.
Yours sincerely
Jill Hine