



***Loving God ~ Serving others ~ Fulfilling our potential***

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to the many messages of support that we received last week. It certainly makes a difference to know that we have such a caring school community. Please let your child's class teacher know if your child has been upset by the sad news. We will support the children in school and we can suggest books that you can share with your children at home.

I am very sorry to announce that there won't be a Year 1 & 2 Nativity this year. We were going to film this and then send it out to you on our Facebook page, but due to not mixing any year groups now, we can no longer put the Nativity together. We are also very short staffed with staff illness. I am also going to have to cancel the two Christmas Carol services at church. Both the Nativity and the church services would mean children mixing across year group bubbles which currently we aren't doing because of the number of Covid cases in school. I am so sorry, but I must think about everyone's health and well-being.

We are going to film every year group and the Nursery singing a carol, so there will be a Christmas 'something' to look forward to.

We have agreed that this year children shouldn't bring in Christmas cards for other year groups into school. Children usually give these out and often to children in other year groups. With our current Covid restrictions we can't let children do this safely. You can still ensure your child or children give out Christmas cards outside of school.

**After the announcement over the weekend about the new variant and the new measures the government have brought in, I would also ask that all parents, child minders and carers wear a face covering, unless medically exempt, on the school playground again when collecting children. The one way system also needs to be adhered to. Please come in through the pedestrian gate and exit school via the Nursery gate. Thank you.**



Our Reindeer Run is on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December and we are raising money for St Catherine's Hospice, a charity close to many of our hearts. We have decided not to give out sponsor forms, so please donate on the Just giving page

<http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/StMagsReindeerRun>

As always, if everyone raised £1 that would be an amazing boost to their fundraising. All the children will receive a pair of reindeer antlers which I'm sure they will love.

### School Christmas Tree Decorations



Every year we have a theme for the homemade decorations for our school Christmas tree. This year all the tree decorations need to be made from anything that has been recycled as I think that fits so well with the recent COP26 meetings. The children can make any decoration as long as it has a Christmas theme. If you would the decoration returned please make sure it has a name on the back. All decorations also need a looped thread that we can hang it by.

**Please send decorations in on December 1<sup>st</sup> as that when our tree is arriving.**

Thank you for encouraging your children to take part. I am sure our tree will look lovely again this year.

## Attendance



School attendance is very important to us at St Margaret's.

We know that a child's attendance has a direct impact on their learning. Children who are regularly absent from school and are regularly late do not achieve their potential and fall behind in class.

Please support the school in this by ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives ready to learn and on time by 8.50am every day.

**Attendance matters! It is important that your child gets to school on time and aims for 100% attendance!**

Reception	Butterfly	91.97
	Ladybird	92.75
Year 1	Hedgehog	97.95
	Squirrel	97.32
Year 2	Badger	87.08
	Fox	91.48
Year 3	<b>Chaffinch</b>	<b>99.26</b>
	Robin	97.71
Year 4	Swallow	96.12
	Swift	97.32
Year 5	Heron	91.94
	Kingfisher	96.88
Year 6	Owl	93.84
	Woodpecker	95.20

**Well done to Chaffinch Class for having the highest attendance last week.**

**Overall School Attendance: 94.85%**

## Covid 19

We still have cases of Covid in school both with children and with staff. We are continually reviewing our risk assessment and also following the latest guidance. As you may have heard over the weekend rates are increasing in younger children so the cases that we have in school reflect the national trend.

We will continue to send a letter by Parentmail if there is a case in the class that your child is in. We can't name children or staff who have had a positive PCR test result and so we can't say if your child has been in close contact. This is the latest advice on who a contact is defined as:

### 4.4 Contact definition

A contact is a person who has had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 during their infectious period (2 days before to 10 days after onset of symptoms, or 2 days before date positive test was taken to 10 days afterwards if asymptomatic). A contact can be:

- anyone who lives in the same household as another person who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19
- anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:
- face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
- been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)

### Latest NHS guidance about coronavirus.

Please do not use a lateral flow test on your children if you think they have symptoms of Covid. They need to have a PCR test.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature



- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

What to do if your child has symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild:

1. Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible.
2. Your child should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get the test result – they can only leave home to have the test.

### New Writing Award

We have introduced a weekly writing award. This will be given to one child from each class every week. It may be given for improved handwriting, for amazing vocabulary choices, for brilliant spelling, for excellent descriptive writing or many other reasons, but it will be connected with writing! We know that writing that was one area that the two lockdowns impacted on children's writing stamina, vocabulary choices, spelling and handwriting. We are already seeing children making fabulous progress so we wanted to celebrate it with the children and with everyone else.

Well done to you all. Who will be receiving the writing award next week?

### Leaf certificates



Well done to the children who were awarded a Leaf certificate during our Friday Leaf Worship.

Well done to you all.

### Book of Brilliance



Every week we are celebrating children who have shown wonderful manners, have helped another child or an adult, have demonstrated our values or another reason that has really impressed an adult in school. All adults can write any child's name in the 'Book of Brilliance' during the week and then the names are read out every week in worship.

Well done to you all.

### 250 House points



Well done to these children who have already worked incredibly hard to accumulate 250 house points already! Keep it up for the 500, 750 or 1,000 House Point certificate!

Well done to you all.

## Diary Dates

Please keep checking these dates and times as I will update them every week. New dates added are in bold. I will try to give you as much notice as possible about forthcoming events at school. We will try not to change dates and times, but sometimes we do need to due to circumstances beyond our control.

Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Squirrel Class start Forest School: 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov, 6 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Stone Age Day Portals-Year 3 Woodpecker Class start Forest School for 3 weeks: 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> December After school in The Studio. Extra day for book signing with Danielle Verbetten and her book.-Eddie the Elf.
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Reindeer Run for St Catherine's Hospice</b> <a href="http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/StMagsReindeerRun">http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/StMagsReindeerRun</a> Last swimming session for Swift Class
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Lunch <b>Christmas Jumper Day at school. Please send your donation to Save the Children to:</b> <a href="http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/StMagsChristmasJumper">http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/StMagsChristmasJumper</a> Elfridges at school
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of Autumn term
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	First day of Spring term
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Heron Class start Forest School: 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> &amp; 27<sup>th</sup> January</b>
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Swallow Class start swimming for 10 weeks
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Last day to apply for a Reception school place
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>Kingfisher Class start Forest School: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> &amp; 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half term
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Inset Day 4
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Last swimming session for Swallow Class
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Fox Class start swimming
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day of Spring term
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of Summer term
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Half term
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Last swimming session for Fox Class
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Badger Class start swimming
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022 TBC	Inset Day 5
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July-Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 residential to High Ashurst
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Last swimming session for Badger Class
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last day of term

Stay safe and take care.  
Thank you for your continuing support.  
Jill Hine  
Headteacher