



St. Margaret's C of E Primary School
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Loving God ~ Serving others ~ Fulfilling our potential

11th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I apologise that last week's newsletter was never sent. I wrote it on Saturday, changed it on Sunday, then updated it again on Monday and Tuesday and then again on Wednesday! I then thought it's half way through the week and it felt too late to send it. I was also very aware that we had sent out a few Parentmail communications because of the fast changing situation last weekend so this is the first newsletter of the spring term. Before I say anything else I do hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

I hope you are all well. I know that many families have had Covid over Christmas or are ill with the virus currently. My best wishes go to you all. It continues to be a difficult time for us all. We desperately want all children in school and nursery, but your children's health and the health of the staff is my paramount priority now. I will keep you all informed of government decisions, but as you know we hear these announcements at the same time as you.

Thank you for your continued support. It means so much to us that you are either supporting your children at home with their learning or at school.

I do think it is important to remind you that I can only keep classes open if there are staff to teach the children. Class closures still may happen and although we, as a school, were very fortunate that we didn't have to close bubbles in the autumn term I cannot guarantee that this won't happen this term. We all know that Covid cases are rising so we all need to keep to the advice to stay safe.

The staff that work at our amazing school and nursery are very dedicated and care passionately about children's learning. Every class is open and all class teachers and teaching assistants are in school. Staff are teaching the children they know and we are going to keep numbers low so that the risks are minimised for all. I want to ensure that the staff feel protected as well as the children in school. Staff are all teaching full time so there will not be many live lessons, but there is a very comprehensive daily plan for home learning that is shared with all parents either on Seesaw or on Google Classroom.

Home learning

We are using either Seesaw or Google Classroom for the children's home learning.

Nursery and Reception: Seesaw

Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6: Work is posted on Google Classroom and should be uploaded back on Google Classroom. Seesaw should only be used for Reading comments as you've been doing since September.

If you do have any problems with Seesaw or Google Classroom please contact the school using this email address [**office@st-margaretsifield.w-sussex.sch.uk**](mailto:office@st-margaretsifield.w-sussex.sch.uk) and we will help and support you.

We do need to remember that sometimes children and adults find things difficult. Be kind to yourself and put the work down and spend time together cooking, going for a walk, playing a game together or share some books. This is a stressful time for everyone and we don't want anyone becoming upset. Please let us know if you haven't been able to submit some work so we know. All work that is submitted after 3.00pm won't be marked, but we would still like to see it.

As with all things at this present time, it is a juggling act. This is not the perfect situation for any of us, but we are all trying our very best to give you a mixture of live contact and some pre-recorded videos. We would like all children learning at home to access the 3 hours for Key Stage 1, slightly less for Reception children, and 4 hours for Key Stage 2. This week staff are showing you the timings that children should be spending on their work. As a parent I would find this very useful. We all know that most children can finish a piece of work in 5 minutes when in fact they should have spent 40 minutes on it! Timings are a guide for you to help you as well as your child.



Live meetings

We do still want to keep in touch with all the children so there are going to be daily meetings for children in Years 1 to 6 using Google Meet to discuss the learning on Google Classroom for the day or the next day if it is the afternoon.

9.00: Year 4

9.15: Year 5

9.30: Year 6

2.00: Year 3

2.15: Year 2

2.30: Year 1

I will let you know if we will extend this to Reception children. I think we all know that 4 and 5 year olds may find this type of discussion difficult!

We have scheduled these meetings at different times as we are well aware that many families do not have multiple devices. The meetings are for 15 minutes.

Golden Leaf certificates



Well done to all the children who received a Golden Leaf Certificate on the last day of term. The children enjoyed a distanced picnic in the hall.

Leaf certificates



As we are in lockdown again not all children are in school learning, but children are learning at home so children can be awarded a leaf whether they are in school or not. I had the pleasure of phoning 6 children on Friday morning. I'm not sure who was more emotional me or some parents, but it was a wonderful morning! Leaf worship is usually on a Friday afternoon so you never know I might be phoning your home this Friday afternoon...

Well done to all the children who were awarded a leaf this week. Well done to you all.

Christian Value for this half term



Our new Christian value for this half term is Perseverance. This will be very relevant with the many issues that Covid is creating for all of us.

We will be thinking about what Perseverance means and how we can work together to overcome any obstacles, however challenging, to achieve our goals. We will be talking about building resilience which helps us deal with any disappointments on our journey to success.

House Points



250 House Points

Well done to all the children who achieved 250 House Points so far. Keep it up for the 500 House Point certificate!

Crawley Open House

Dear all at St Margaret's

THANK YOU!

It was such an encouragement to pick up the generous donations of food and other essential items collected by the School just before Christmas. It's especially welcome as so many of our usual supporters and donors are still unable to help as they used to due to this wretched pandemic, whilst the demand for our accommodation, care, food and services remains as high or higher than ever.

Crawley Open House has stayed open throughout the crisis, and we've sadly been as busy as ever with a full hostel, 4 full move-on houses and up to 100 people temporarily accommodated in the town from Horsham, Mid Sussex and Crawley Councils. On a positive note we have just built and opened 8 new move-on rooms with a shared kitchen and living area above the hostel, for those needing a 'halfway house' between the hostel and full independent living.

Thanks again on behalf of all who rely on Crawley Open House - we can only continue to do what we do because of generous and thoughtful people like you all at St Margaret's. Thank you for thinking of us and our work again. Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved.

Kindest regards & may 2021 be hopeful, healthy and happy for you all.

Ian Wilkins

Fundraising & Relationships Manager

NHS guidance

This is the NHS guidance about sending your child to school with a cold.

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

This is the NHS guidance about coronavirus.

Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

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.

Currently Forest school has been suspended, but when all the children are back at school Forest School will change to Thursday afternoons for Key Stage 2 children.

Our Inset day will still be taking place on Friday 12th February, so please make a note of this in your calendars.

Friday 15 th January	Deadline for applications for primary school in September 2021.
Friday 12 th February 2021	Inset Day 4
Monday 15 th -Friday 19 th February 2021	Half term
Thursday 1 st April 2021	Last day of spring term
Monday 19 th April 2021	First day of summer term
Monday 31 st May-Friday 4 th June 2021	Half term
Monday 5 th July 2021	Inset Day 5
Friday 23 rd July 2021	Last day of term

Please remember we are all here for you even if you don't see us every day- we are just a phone call or email away. We are always here to talk to you support and offer advice so please don't ever feel you are alone at this time.

Stay safe and take care.

Jill Hine

Headteacher