



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

18th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a good weekend and enjoyed the cold, sunny weather yesterday. It was lovely for a walk. Thank you again for all your support for the staff at school, who are doing an amazing job of teaching the children at school and keeping on top of home learning. As I wrote in the newsletter last week, all our school staff are in and ensuring that children's needs are met. Staff are also responding to issues with Google classroom or Seesaw as well. They really are fantastic!

Thank you as well to the wonderful support you are giving your children with home learning. We know it isn't easy juggling so many balls in these very challenging times, but the staff are all seeing some really wonderful home learning and that is acknowledged by the number of head teacher awards I am giving to children working at home and the number of leaf certificates that are given on a Friday. Thank you for all your time and effort. It will be making a difference.

Some children are telling staff about how they meet up with other children and have play dates. What we all understand is that social interaction is lovely for us all but it isn't allowed currently. There are exceptions I know, but generally the guidance states:

Meeting other people

It is against the law to meet socially with family or friends unless they are part of your household or support bubble. You cannot leave home for recreational or leisure purposes (such as for a picnic or a social meeting).

Staff at school are not immune to anxiety or Covid 19 and so I hope everyone can abide by the guidance to keep everyone safe and well. Thank you.

On 8th January 2021, in response to pressure, the DfE stated that: *"We are aware of reports of schools and colleges having more pupils in attendance this week than during the last period when schools were only open to vulnerable and key worker pupils. **The national restrictions mean all children who can stay at home should stay at home.**"*

We certainly have a much higher percentage of children at school than in the first lockdown in March. **Please remember that if you are able to keep your children at home and home school them then that is the government advice.**

Online safety

During lockdown, we understand that many of our parents are trying to juggle supporting their children with the home learning whilst trying to accomplish their own workload. First, we would like to say that you are all doing a great job and we have seen some fantastic pieces of work from the children at home. Both the children and you have adapted well to the temporary "new normal" of having lessons set on Google Classroom (Seesaw for those children in Reception).

Over the last year, the use of the internet has boomed and while we do not want to add another thing for you to add to your list of things to juggle, we do need to inform you of some Online Safety tips to ensure that your family is kept safe whilst working/playing online. With children having access to more and more devices during their learning, we recommend that you ensure that you have parental controls set up on all devices. This includes (but not limited to); PC/laptops, smart phones, tablets e.g., iPads/Kindles/Android devices, consoles and anything else that has access to the internet. If you are unsure as how to do this, we have some useful links on our school website > Parents Information > Online Safety.

Talking to your child about Online Safety should not be a taboo. One of the important pieces of advice that we can provide to you as a parent, is to talk to your children on a regular basis. Ask them what they are doing online and let them know that they can trust you if they see anything, they feel worried or upset by. During the Online Safety



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lessons in school, the children are taught to '**Stop, Think, Tell**' whenever they are online. This means that if they see something that they are upset with or with something that makes them feel uncomfortable, they stop what they are doing, think about what they are going to do, and tell a trusted adult straight away.

If you are concerned about anything to do with online safety, please contact the school office or visit the school website.

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

Reception parents

Both Butterfly and Ladybird will have a weekly class Zoom call every Tuesday at 11.00am starting from tomorrow. All the details are on the Seesaw letter to parents.

Leaf certificates



I had the pleasure of phoning more children on Friday afternoon. I love making those phone calls to children and parents at home!

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

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.

Sunday 31st January	Deadline for applications for St Margarets Nursery- 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 all 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

