

Newsletter 2

9th October 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

The first half of term is flying by and we are nearing just 2 weeks before half term.

A very big thank you for all your generous donations for our Harvest Festival last week. It was lovely to see so many parents join us at St Margaret's Church, the children sang beautifully and we were pleased to give such great support to the Littlehampton & District Food Bank.

Parking

I have had an increase in complaints from local residents about parking in the roads around the school. Please do not park on verges or restrict residents' access to the houses. It makes them understandably very cross and worse still, I get the brunt of it!! Please park **respectfully** (one of our 6 school values) and uphold our good school name in the community

Love - **Respect** - Friendship - Teamwork - Resilience - **Kindness**
(Spot the school's values related to parking!)



Tomlin Centre

We are looking forward to our grand opening of the Tomlin Centre next Monday (14th October). We are delighted to have well known children's author and illustrator, Nick Sharratt, perform the ceremony. Way back in the early days of Covid, we consulted with parents regarding the development of the centre to support children with social communication differences and received an overwhelmingly positive response. After many stop-starts in the first few years, the building was completed in late 2023 and we welcomed just 3 children to the Centre in January 2024. Now we have 11 children and 6 new staff in the Tomlin Centre and it's a joy to have this special facility in the heart of our school. Please see Ms Dark's letter regarding the official opening next week.

Congratulations to Rosie Ricks and Joshi Ansell – nominated by teachers to be this year's Head Boy and Head Girl. No doubt they will be excellent role models to the rest of the school.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings appointments are now available to book via ParentMail.



Tuesday 15th October 3.30 – 6.00pm
Thursday 17th October – 4.00 – 7.00pm
Wednesday 23rd October 4.00 – 7.00pm (Lewes Class)

If you are unable to access this, please contact the school office.

Your child's teachers are very keen to let you know how your child has settled in and how they are progressing with their learning.

Dates
for your



REMAINING INSET Days

May I remind you that the school is closed for staff training on

Monday 4th November 2024

Friday 23rd May 2025

Monday 21st July 2025

Tuesday 22nd July 2025



At St Margaret's School we can't wait to welcome you. Our Families benefit from:

- Child centred philosophy focussed on our school values and Christian ethos.
- Fantastic grounds, with well-resourced play areas, forest school, fields and daily mile track.
- GOOD Ofsted rating (Sept 23)
- Wrap around care available 7am-6pm (Provided by Tickle-me-too at cost)
- Large selection of after school clubs and activities (including sports, arts and Lego!)
- Outstanding Phonics screening result in year 1
- Above county average SATS results for writing and greater depth maths
- Early years, year 1 and year 2 staff trained in continuous provision – providing interest based personalised learning for our children.
- Use of SeeSaw across Early years and KS1 to allow communication between home and school.
- Dance studio
- On site SEN unit

New date added

Taster Session

For children starting school September 25

Enjoy some refreshments while you explore our Early Years area, meet our friendly staff and chat with other parents.

Wednesday 13th November 3:30pm to 4:30pm

Please call the School Office to book: 01903 785416



Medical health or dietary needs

If you have a child with any medical, health or dietary needs, these need to be communicated via Mrs Smith in the school office as opposed to the class teachers.

Mrs Smith can organise for an individual health care plan to be written, if needed, and shared with the relevant staff in school.

Dear Parents/carers,

For those children who are bringing packed Lunches we wanted to offer some guidance of what to pack, as we have children within the cohort with severe allergies. All the children eat lunch in the hall weather they are hot meals or pack lunches and they have around 30minutes to eat before they go out for lunchtime play. Please be mindful of this and pack an appropriate amount of food that your child will manage to eat within this time frame. Please also remember to not include any nuts or seeds or products containing nuts and seeds. (this includes humus and chocolate spreads)



An appropriate lunch might include a small sandwich or wrap, fruit, a yoghurt or fromage frais and little treat like small biscuits or crisps.

We would also like to remind you that snacks provided should be a fruit or vegetable only.

More ideas on what to put in lunchboxes can be found here - <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Communications with Teachers

Please be reminded that if you wish to speak to your child's class teacher, they are available at the end of the day as they release children from the various gates around the school. Teachers are always happy to make contact with you if you have something you want to let them know or some questions. Alternatively, you can email your child's class teacher but please be aware that these emails are only monitored between 8.30am and 5.30pm. Evening and weekend emails cannot be answered outside reasonable working hours. This includes messages on Seesaw or Tapestry.

The class emails follow the format eg. oak@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk; badger@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk etc. It is essential that you **do not** use the class email to report a child's absence but to email the school office instead or phone (01903 785416) and leave a message.

school@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk



Reminder - Children's Birthdays

It's always lovely to feel special on your birthday (when you are young!) and we would like to invite children who are having a birthday to wear mufti on their special day. This means that other children and staff will be able to wish children a Happy Birthday and will help staff who teach in different year groups to get to know children across the school. Children who have birthdays at the weekend or during a holiday can wear mufti on the Friday before the holiday in which their birthday falls. If children wish to wear a birthday badge stating their age, they are most welcome.



Wet Weather

Please ensure your child has a suitable coat for wet weather as we are very keen to ensure they get plenty of fresh air everyday regardless of the weather.

Exercise and use of the Daily Mile will go on unabated!

A Healthy Lunch Box includes ...

A Drink

Water is best to keep your child hydrated. or provide Milk or Fruit Juice with no added sugar.



Protein

Include at least one source of protein ... as a sandwich filling or on it's own. e.g. lean meats (including chicken or turkey), fish such as tuna or salmon), beans, pulses, houmous or egg.



Fruit and Vegetables

Include at least one portion:- e.g Raw vegetable sticks such as carrots, cucumber or peppers. quartered cherry tomatoes, grapes or strawberries
A pot of sliced up fruit, berries or fruit salad.



Wholegrains and Starchy Foods

Include at least one portion:
Sandwich on wholemeal bread / wrap
Pitta Pocket / Bap / Roll
Breadsticks / Crackers / Oatcakes /
Pasta / Rice
Bagel / Pancake / Muffin / Scone



Dairy / Calcium

Include at least one source: e.g cheese yoghurt, fromage frais or small pot of custard



Please avoid bringing items that are high in SUGAR, SALT or FAT

No Nutella or nut based food items to be brought in to school as we have children with severe allergies

Parentmail APP - Improving our school communications

We are using ParentMail for sending our emails, paying for trips and signing up for Parents Evenings.

ParentMail utilises a **free mobile app**, available for iOS and Android devices, as a well as a desktop portal. We strongly encourage you to download the mobile app; here's why:

- Push notifications alert you to new messages, enabling you to access important information with ease
- Keep up to date on school communications from the comfort of home or whilst out and about
- Manage all school messages in one place
- Manage communications for more than one child, across different schools, with one ParentMail account
- You don't need to log in to pick up messages or attachments - communications are quick and easy to access in moments

We occasionally send text messages to our parents. However, text messages are very expensive for our school, and we know they're inconvenient for you, too.

So please download the free ParentMail app from the Apple App store or the Google Play Store now



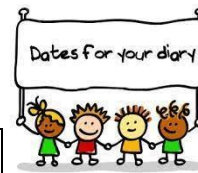
Download our new Parentmail app



Curriculum Letters

May I remind you that each half term teachers send out curriculum letters via email highlighting areas of learning for your child. Please make sure you keep this handy so you can support your child with their learning at home and be up to date with their areas of study.

Items highlighted in red are new dates



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – Autumn Term 2024

| Date | Time | Event |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Monday 14 th October | | The official opening of the Tomlin Centre by Nick Sharratt (Author) |
| Tuesday 15 th October | 3.30pm – 6.00pm | Parents Evening |
| Wednesday 16th October | 4.00 – 7.00pm | Lewes Class Parent's Evening |
| Thursday 17 th October | 4.00pm – 7.00pm | Parents Evening |
| | | |
| Monday 28rd – Friday 1st November | | Half Term |
| | | |
| Monday 4 th November | All day | INSET DAY School Closed |
| Tuesday 5 th November | 6.00pm | Year 6 Cobnor Presentation |
| Monday 11 th November | 11.00am | Remembrance Service – all welcome |
| Tuesday 19 th November | 6.00pm | Year 4 Dalesdown Presentation |
| Friday 29th November | pm | Year 4 Music performances (further details to follow) |
| Friday 6th December | All day | Year 2 Kindness Carnival (further details to follow) |
| Monday 9 th December | 9.15am 10.00am | Years 4, 5 and 6 Church Service at St Margaret's Church (Parents invited to attend) Years 1, 2 and 3 Church Service at St Margaret's Church (Parents invited to attend) |
| Tuesday 10 th December | 1.30pm | Year 1 and 2 Christmas play to parents and carers |
| Wednesday 11 th December | 9.30am 2.30pm | Year 1 and 2 Christmas play to parents and carers EYFS Christmas Nativity to parents |
| Wednesday 18th December | 8.40am – 9.15am 6.30pm | Parents and Carers drop in for our "Create" project in the school hall (further details to follow) Carols in the car park |
| Friday 20 th December | | Last Day of School |
| First day back after Christmas is Monday 6 th January 2025 | | |



You don't need to go hungry if you don't have money for food.

There are many reasons for financial crisis, including redundancy, illness or injury, an increase in living costs, low income, unexpected expenses, a relationship breaking down, homelessness, and more.

Whatever the reason for needing our help, you can contact Help Through Hardship for free on **0808 208 2138**, and talk to a friendly adviser about getting a foodbank voucher.

If you live or work in the areas around **Littlehampton, Angmering, Rustington, East Preston** and **Arundel** you can find more information on how to get a voucher, including other support agencies you could contact, at <https://littlehampton.district.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help> or by using your phone's camera to scan this QR code:

Registered charity 1160455 | Registered in England & Wales



Join the PTA!



Would you like to join our PTA?

We always welcome new faces, and new ideas.

We appreciate everybody has busy lives but even a few hours every now and again to help our PTA would be gratefully appreciated.

If you are interested please contact pta@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk or come and speak to the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mike Jee
Headteacher

