

Newsletter 8

26th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term. Whilst the weather has been pretty grim we are starting to see buds on the trees in the Forest School and snowdrops popping up in abundance. All signs that spring and Easter are on their way.

Please take time to read the section about attendance as it is so closely related to children's success at school. For children with attendance below 90% we will send a letter this week just to let parents know the absence so far this year. Sometimes it can be tricky keeping tabs on absence so this is for information only. We are always here to help if you need support with your child's attendance at school.

Attendance

You may be aware that there is a national drive to raise attendance at schools to pre-covid levels. At the primary level, 85% of children with full attendance reach the expected levels at the end of Year 6 compared to 40% if attendance is below 90%. This huge gap explains our desire to have children in school with good attendance.

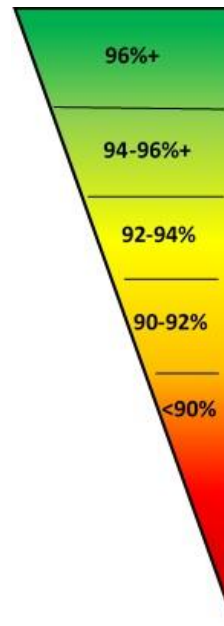
We are not under pressure from the government nor the LA to raise attendance levels, we just understand that as a school it is SO key to good educational outcomes for all our children. Thank you to the many families that do all they can to ensure good attendance for their child – we really appreciate your efforts!

Below are the legal reasons why a child may not attend school between 5 and 16.

- Your child is too ill to attend.
- You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on a specific day due to exceptional circumstances.
- Your child cannot go to school on a specific day because they are observing a religious event.
- Your local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it's not available or has not been provided yet.
- Your child does not have a permanent address and you are required to travel for work. This exception only applies if your child attends their usual school or another school where you are staying as often as possible. This must be 200 half days or more a year if they are aged 6 or older.

For this reason Headteachers are *not allowed* to authorise holiday in term time and in some cases the Local Authority may fine parents if children are taken out of school. The school has no say or influence in this matter nor does it gain financially.

The school does send a letter to let parents know that they may receive a fine, issued by the Local Authority, using the standard letter issued to schools. It would be helpful to the school for parents who wish to query this correspondence, to do so directly to school, rather than on social media where we will be happy to explain the procedure.



School Matters!



Can you help?

Forest School

Despite the weather there has been no let up in our use of our amazing Forest School area. Children are busy cooking and enjoying outdoor learning skills all week with our team of skilful Forest School staff. We would GREATLY welcome any volunteers who could help support these sessions - regularly or just for a few days. **If you have wellies and a waterproof coat you are qualified!!** Please see the office if you can help with this important part of our daily learning.



Uniform

We are not far from the summer term and I would like to remind you of the school uniform for the long sunny days that will surely come (ever optimistic!).

Girls

Charcoal grey skirt, white blouse and tie
Or Navy checked dress
White socks and black shoes

Boys

Charcoal grey shorts, white shirt and tie
Grey socks and black shoes

No trainers

It would be very helpful for Year 6 children to make every effort to wear the correct uniform in preparation for moving on to the secondary school, which I am sure you will know, have a very strict uniform policy.

Don't forget to order uniform with Brigade direct or by using the link on our website

www.brigade.uk.com



Information for Children using a School Crossing Patrol



Use your School Crossing Patrol – Your 'Lollipop' Person



- When the **STOP** sign is facing down it means Your Lollipop Person is **NOT** ready to cross anyone
- Your Lollipop Person will tell you to **WAIT** on the pavement
- Your Lollipop Person will then move into the middle of the road, holding the STOP sign upright, with arms outstretched
This means all vehicles and bikes must **STOP**
- Your Lollipop Person will then tell you when it is safe to cross.
- Walk **IN FRONT** of Your Lollipop Person, **NOT** behind so they can always see you
- Do **NOT** follow them into the road - until they tell you to Cross
- Walk **DON'T** Run!
- **GET OFF** Your Bike or Scooter
- Your Lollipop Person will stay in the middle of the road until you are safely on the other pavement 🚶
- Your Lollipop Person is there for **ALL** pedestrians, not just children

Your Child's Absence due to illness, appointments or early pick up from school

Please can you email the school office school@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk or ring on 01903 785416 if your child is off school due to illness or is being picked up early for an appointment.

Dates
for your

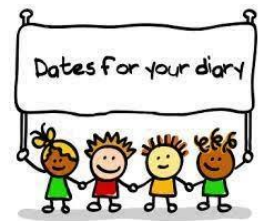


REMAINING INSET Days

May I remind you that the school is closed for staff training on
Friday 23rd May 2025
Monday 21st July 2025
Tuesday 22nd July 2025

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – Spring Term 2025

Date	Time	Event
Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February HALF TERM		
Monday 3 rd March		Start of sponsored read week
Thursday 6 th March	All day	World Book Day
Thursday 13 th March	All day	Early Years to Amberley Museum
Friday 14 th March	6.00 – 8.00pm	St Margaret's Got Talent
Monday 17 th March	All day	Arundel Class visit to Tangmere Museum
Wednesday 19 th March	All day	Year 3 visit to Butser Farm
Friday 21 st March	All day	Bramber Class visit to Tangmere Museum
Thursday 27 th March	Pm	Rocksteady concert (parents will be invited to watch)
Friday 28 th March	Pm	Year 4 Music concerts
Monday 31 st March	1.30pm	Year 3 and 4 Production to ½ school
Tuesday 1 st April	10.00am	Year 3 and 4 Production to ½ school
	6.30pm	Year 3 and 4 Production to Parents and carers
Wednesday 2 nd April	1.30pm	Year 3 and 4 Production to Parents and carers
Thursday 3 rd April	All day	Year 2 to Arundel Castle
Friday 4 th April		Last day of Term
		Say farewell for Mr Jee
First day back after Easter is Tuesday 22 nd April 2025		



Yours sincerely
Mike Jee
 Headteacher

