



St Margaret's Church of England Primary School

Welcome back to school after the summer break and welcome to our new parents. The children have already settled well into school and I am looking forward to seeing what they achieve this year.

With an exciting year ahead of us, I am sending out this information which should help the year to run smoothly. This letter also contains the dates for the year.

In our parent survey some parents mentioned that they felt not much notice was given of events. This year, as we have for the last few years, we are sending home a full calendar of events now. This calendar includes all the parent events on it that we run as a school. Sometimes we are invited to take part in events and activities being organised by outside agencies. Where this is the case, sometimes the notice for parents is shorter than we would like, however we do share the information with parents as soon as we receive it.

I look forward to an excellent year and thank you for your support.

Mrs Newland

School improvements

Huge thanks to Gill Page, the COVID arms and the rest of the team of volunteers who have made improvements to the school site over the summer holidays – it looks fantastic. A few examples of their work include:

- Fixing and painting the hut on the playground;
- Laying new AstroTurf in some of the seed class area and a new mat in the main entrance (with thanks to Rob Stafford-Baker);
- Decorating the staff room;
- Sanding and painting radiators;
- Fixing broken guttering;
- Cleaning the carpets (with thanks to Edmunds Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning);
- And much more besides!



Huge thanks also to FOSMs who have paid for new blinds to be fitted in the school hall. They are fantastic and make such a difference!

School attendance and absence

It is crucial that children attend school regularly and on time. Please note that if attendance falls below certain levels you may receive a warning letter, be asked to come in to school for a support meeting or be fined by Essex County Council. Unauthorised holidays may also receive a fine from Essex County Council.

If your child is absent from school due to illness, please **telephone** the school office as early as possible, and before 9:30 am and leave a message on the absence line (option 1) detailing the name of the child, their class and the reason they are absent from school. For sickness and diarrhoea, children cannot return until 48 hours after the last bout. Children can come to school with coughs, colds, sore throats and headaches if they are well enough to do so. We will telephone and speak to you if they are struggling in class.

The school attendance policy is available on the school website.

Newsletters

Newsletters are issued half termly in the form of Maggie's monthly round-up. This is posted on ClassDojo and is also added to our school website.

ClassDojo

We will continue to use ClassDojo as the main form of communication in school. Whenever we need to send out quick messages we will use ClassDojo. We will also aim to post something to the school page at least once a week and we aim to post things to the class pages at least twice a week whenever possible.

As you will be aware, there is also a private message facility which can be used to contact staff. Staff have been advised that there is no expectation for them to be accessing ClassDojo between 5 pm and 8 am during the week or at weekends or in school holidays. They have also been advised that they are not to have it installed on personal devices. They are expected to respond to messages within 2 working days. During the day they will read and respond to messages when this does not impact upon the teaching or supervision of pupils. Please also note that there is an expectation that parents are reasonable in the amount of private messages sent to staff and the time in which they expect a response. If this facility is abused, parents will no longer be able to use it.

Finally, ClassDojo should not be used as a means of communicating absence or other urgent or on the day messages. In these cases, contact should be made by telephoning the school office.

The School Office

For urgent matters, including information concerning the same day such as a change to pick up, please contact the office by calling 01787 237354. For non-urgent information or queries please e-mail admin@st-margaretscofe.essex.sch.uk. Emails will be responded to within 2 working days.

Please also note that as our office staff also support at lunchtimes, the office is not manned between 12pm and 1 pm. However, there is a voicemail where you can leave us a message.

Clubs

Clubs will run throughout the year. Children will sign up to clubs termly when the club list comes out. Should you have any skills you would be willing to share with us in the form of running a club, please contact the school office in the first instance.

There will be a new booking system for clubs this year which will be shared when the information comes out to you.

School Meals

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you that cost of school meals for children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 is £2.50. Payments should be made in advance and can be made via bank transfer using the details below: Please use meals and your child's name as the reference.

Bank: Lloyds Bank Plc
Account Name: St Margaret's CofE VC Primary
School Sort Code: 30-92-16
Account Number: 71751760

Wraparound care

We have two wraparound care options available to our parents. Both Little Chestnuts Pre-school in the village and Little Oaks offer options. Full details are available on our website by [clicking here](#)

Reading Support

We would like to encourage people to support us hearing children this year. If this is something you, or someone you know, would be interested in, please don't hesitate to get in touch as soon as possible in order that we can run volunteer safeguarding training and get started!

Reading Raffle

Your reading record will be checked every week. If you have read 3 or more times at home and recorded it in your reading record, you will get a ticket in Maggie's reading raffle jar.

Maggie's Water Fight

At the end of every school year, Maggie has a water fight. To be invited to Maggie's water fight you must play on TTRS for an average of at least 10 minutes per week OR pass an age-appropriate times table test at the end of the year.

Homework expectations

There are some changes to our homework expectations this academic year so a table showing the homework requirements for each year group are included below. The homework set will support the children's learning, either by consolidating current learning in school or by practicing skills to achieve fluency. All necessary login information will be resent next week.

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Reading x3	Reading x3	Reading x3	Reading x3	Reading x3	Reading x3	Reading x3
Phonics flashcards	EdShed Spelling x3	EdShed Spellings x3	EdShed Spellings x3	EdShed Spellings x3	EdShed Spellings x3	EdShed Spellings x3
	EdShed Maths	EdShed Maths	EdShed Maths	EdShed Maths	EdShed Maths	EdShed Maths
		TTRS 10 mins (including at least 1 Garage game)	TTRS 10 mins (including at least 3 Garage games)	TTRS 10 mins (including at least 3 Garage games and 1 Soundcheck)	TTRS 10 mins	TTRS 10 mins
			EdShed Grammar Arcade	EdShed Grammar Arcade	EdShed Grammar Arcade	EdShed Grammar Arcade
					Reading Comprehension	Reading Comprehension

Parent Events

During the year we will be running a range of events for parents. Information about these is included below.

Maggie-Zine and Maggie's Museum

Each term we will be publishing a Maggie-Zine showcasing written work from the children. Each class will contribute with items linked to their big topic question for the term. We will also hold 'Maggie's Museum'. This is an opportunity to come in and see the results of some of the more practical aspects the children have been working on such as art, DT and music. We encourage as many of you as possible to attend these as it is really important for the children to see a purpose for the learning.

Coffee afternoons

We will be running community coffee afternoons this year. This will run on any last Friday of the month if we are in school! Please do join us and spread the word to others. These are a great opportunity for our children to spend time with members of the wider community and supports their personal development. We would like to see as many people at these coffee afternoons as possible!

Parent meetings

Throughout the year, we will run meetings for parents regarding particular things which are upcoming such as the teaching of phonics, SATs and assessments.

Festival services

During the year, we will work alongside the Church to co-ordinate services for specific Christian festivals.

Parents' evenings and reports

This year, we are trying something slightly different. We will run parent evenings in October and May. These are an opportunity to have an individual 10 minute appointment with your child's class teacher to find out how things are going and to raise individual specific questions. Children's work will also be available to see at these sessions. The full report will be sent home in March. This gives the opportunity for staff to work on the targets they set with the children and to feed back more about their progress in the summer term parents evening. You will still receive data progress sheets in December and July to keep you informed. We hope this will work well for the children, for their teachers and for you.

Open afternoons

We will again be running activity open afternoons where we invite parents to come in and work alongside their children on activities in school.

Productions

We will be having a Seed class nativity performance this term and in the summer term Sapling class and Blossom class will work together to prepare a production.

Class assemblies

In the Spring term, each class will organise a class assembly to which parents are invited in which they will share some of the learning they have been doing.

Sports day and picnic

In June, we will hold our sports day in the morning (British weather permitting) followed by a picnic lunch on the field to which all families are invited.

Meet the teacher

In July we will run meet the teacher sessions for you to meet the class teachers for next year.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Calendar dates for the year

We have tried to pinpoint some of the key dates for this academic year for you below. As we are planning so far in advance, these dates and activities are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, although we will endeavour to keep to dates arranged.

Sep

12th FOSMs non-uniform day
12th Y1&3 Forest school
16th NHS flu vaccinations
18th 3:30 Reading with a growth mindset workshop for KS2 parents with their children in the hall
19th 1:45 Harvest festival in Church
25th PM individual and sibling photos
26th Culture day
26th Y1&3 Forest school
26th 2:00 Coffee afternoon

Oct

2nd Seed Class to Hedingham Castle
3rd PM Paralympian visit
10th FOSM non-uniform
10th History day
10th Y1&3 forest school
17th Y1&3 Forest school
23rd Parents' evening
24th: Y1&3 Forest school
27th Half term

Nov

3rd Return to school
7th Y4 forest school
10th Anti-bullying week
10th Odd sock day
11th Remembrance Day
14th Children in Need
14th Y4 forest school
21st Y4 forest school
28th Non-pupil day

Dec

2nd 2:00 Christmas craft afternoon
5th Y4 forest school
10th 2:00 Nativity
10th 5:00 Nativity
11th Christmas jumper day
11th Christmas lunch
12th FOSM non-uniform
12th Y4 forest school
16th Maggie's museum
19th Progress sheets out
19th Y4 forest school
19th 1:45 Christmas service
22nd Christmas break

Jan

5th Non-pupil day
6th Children return
9th FOSM non-uniform
9th Y4 forest school
14th 9:00 Y6 SATs parent meeting
14th 10:00 Y4 MTC parent meeting
14th 11:00 Y1 Phonics parent meeting
16th Y4 forest school
23rd Y2 forest school
23rd 2:45 Blossom class assembly
27th Geography day
30th Y2 forest school
30th 2:00 Coffee afternoon

Feb

6th Number day – dress as rock stars!
6th Y2 forest school
9th Book fair
10th Book fair
11th Book fair
12th Book fair
13th FOSM non-uniform
13th Y2 forest school
13th 2:45 Sapling Class assembly
16th Half term
23rd Return to school
27th Y2 forest school
27th 2:00 Coffee afternoon

Mar

2nd Book week
5th World Book Day
6th Y5 forest school
7th Science week
11th Science day
13th FOSM non-uniform
13th Seed Class assembly
13th Y5 forest school
20th Y5 forest school
24th 2:00 Easter craft
25th Easter lunch
25th Maggie's museum
27th Y5 forest school
27th 1:45 Easter service
27th Reports out
30th Easter break

Apr

13th Non-pupil day
13th Children return
15th Art day
17th Y5 forest school
24th Y5 forest school
24th 2:00 Coffee afternoon

May

1st Y5 forest school
4th Bank holiday
8th FOSM non-uniform
8th Y5 forest school
11th Y6 SATs week
14th 6:00 Blossom residential/SRE parent meeting
15th Y6 Forest school
21st Parents' evening
22nd Y6 Forest school
25th Half term

Jun

1st Return to school
5th Y6 Forest school
11th 5:00 YR 2026 Parent evening
12th FOSM non-uniform
12th Y6 Forest school
15th Sports week
17th Sports day and picnic
19th Y6 Forest school
22nd Music day
23rd Maggie's Museum
25th 9:30-11:00 YR 2026 transition
25th Meet the teacher
26th Hedingham transition day
26th YR Forest school
26th Maggie's moving up day
26th 1:45 – 3:00 YR 2026 transition
29th Blossom class residential

July

3rd Blossom return
3rd YR Forest school
9th 1:30 KS2 Production
9th 5:30 KS2 Production
10th FOSM non-uniform
10th YR Forest school
10th Progress sheets out
14th 1:45 RE whole school enquiry sharing and conclusion
15th 2:00 Maggie's water fight
16th Take everything home day
17th 1:30 Leavers service
20th Non-pupil day
21st Summer break

