



Newsletter

Friday 4th September 2020

*God's Word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path.
Inspired by Psalm 119:105*

Welcome back everyone!

It was such a privilege to stand on the gates and welcome everyone back to school yesterday morning. I have spent many days over the past few weeks and months thinking about what the first day back to school would be like – it didn't disappoint. It was fantastic to see so many smartly dressed, happy and excited children back. It's made St Margaret's feel like St Margaret's once again. Of course, I don't think any of us expected there to be a huge hole in the road outside!

Regarding the road I have heard from Essex and Suffolk water and they are expecting the work not to be finished until Sunday. As always, these things tend to over run so I would expect the road to potentially still be shut on Monday. Time will tell and if we get an update we will of course let you know.

A few reminders:

- *Whilst we are all back in school social distancing guidelines do remain in place. All adults from different households should be maintaining at least a 1m distance from each other. Please try to follow this – it's for everyone's safety.
- *Only one parent should be coming to drop off and pick up to reduce the number of people on site. This in turn reduces the risk of infection potentially spreading to more people
- *Please stick to your staggered start time and finish times. Thank you to those parents who were in the 3pm pick up tonight – your socially distanced queue to come into the gates was just brilliant!
- *Children should have a small bag with them – no large rucksacks please
- *Please ensure as the weather turns colder that children have coats in school – they will go outside in most weathers if we deem it suitable.

Birthday Sweets:

We've had a couple of parents ask about birthday sweets. At the moment **do not send in sweets to school**. We won't be handing out birthday sweets, cakes or treats. I'm sure you understand that it is more objects coming in from homes that could potentially be a risk and the end of days are very busy at the moment ensuring everyone gets out safely. I know this is a tradition in many schools and as soon as we feel able to do it again we will let you know.

Class Dojo

We plan to continue to use Class Dojo as a means of communicating with you into the future. Please be mindful that teachers won't always check messages later in the evenings so if your message isn't responded to please always call the office in the mornings if it urgent.

Website

Many of you may have noticed that we have a new website design! The website has been updated and all the information you should ever need about St Margaret's is on there. We hope you find it a little more user friendly.

A short Goodbye:

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Leonard for a short while as she goes on maternity leave. Mrs Leonard is due in a weeks' time and we wish her all the very best. She will be back very soon!

Of course, I am expecting this term to be challenging but I thank you as always for your continued support. Our aim is to make school as normal as possible for the children while maintaining safety for all. Please understand that like many professions we are under immense pressure at the moment and have guidelines to follow which are given to us. Always remember that decisions are made for everyone's safety. I hope that your children came back full of happy tales from the day today and we look forward to the upcoming weeks and months.

Have a great weekend. Please stay safe and well.

Mrs Smith
Head Teacher



Free School Meal Information – September

If you think your child is entitled to Free School Meals from September, please apply online ASAP at:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Below are the criteria

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit), with an annual income below £16,190
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance, income related
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, with a household income of £7,400 or less (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

School Dinners

Our menu each week will be updated every Friday for the next week on our website rather than posted on the newsletter.

www.st-margaretsacademy.co.uk

It can be found under key information, school lunches.



Medication:

If your child has any medication that needs to be kept in school please let us know. Each year a new form needs to be filled in. These will be emailed to parents and then can either be returned via email or via the class teacher. If you need a printed copy let the office know and we will send one home with your child.

Please let us have these ASAP if it applies.