

Headteacher's Newsletter – December 2021



t h a n k y o u

A huge thanks to all the parents and carers, staff and children for supporting us through what has been another extremely challenging Advent Term! We remember Mrs Kamuna who very sadly passed away in November. RIP.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the teachers and staff who make St Margaret's an amazing place to work and learn. Our children are always so happy to come to school and in our recent survey, nearly all children said that they felt safe and happy at our school and that their teachers and teaching assistants expected them to work hard and made their lessons exciting as well as challenging.

This term we had our Trust Peer Review, this was overwhelmingly positive and evidenced that our school is a good school with some outstanding features. We really hope that Ofsted come to visit us soon, so that our judgement will be changed to GOOD!

Over the past term, we have worked hard to ensure that your children's learning has not been impacted by Covid. We have adjusted our curriculum to ensure any gaps in children's knowledge have been re-taught. Your children are all learning successfully.

St Margaret's really is a wonderful community to work and learn and that's down to you our wonderful parents, our amazing children and our dedicated staff in all roles.

Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day!

Thank you to Karen Crisp our Kitchen Manager and her team for creating a delicious and very filling Christmas dinner. We all enjoyed a full turkey dinner with ALL the trimmings. To really feel festive and Christmassy each child had a Christmas cracker to pull and jokes were shared 😊 The staff and children all looked great dressed in their Christmas jumpers, earrings and Christmas headwear!!!



Christmas Movie Day!

Even though we had to cancel the Christmas Movie Night, it didn't stop the children from getting festive in their classes!! All children managed to watch a Christmas Movie and they never seem to tire of the classics – Elf was the favourite again this year 😊



Baby News!

Good luck Miss Diggin who leaves us today to start her maternity leave 😊. We will keep you updated about her baby news once her little bundle of joy arrives 😊 It really has been a bumper year for babies at St Margaret's this year!

Dates for your diary

- 5th January 2022 Children return to school
- Half Term Week 14-18 Feb 2022.



Free School Meal Vouchers over the Christmas holidays.

All families who are eligible to receive free school meal vouchers will have been contacted and will now know how to use their voucher during the Christmas holidays. If you believe you are eligible and have not received an email or text message please contact Louise on the front desk who will help get this sorted out for you ☺

PE Kit in January 2022

Please ensure that your child wears the correct PE kit to school on their allocated PE days.

We have seen a variety of outfits that children are wearing as PE kits that are NOT suitable!!!

SMOS PE kit is dark leggings or tracksuit bottoms, dark shorts, white polo or t-shirt and a dark jumper or hoodie, with trainers.

We will be becoming **strict about PE kits when we return in January ☺.**



If you haven't already followed our Instagram page, please do so over the holidays. We share a range of the children's work and events enjoyed throughout the school – we don't want you to miss out!

[st_margarets_showcase](#)

ADVENT ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOL

Our children have been preparing for Christmas during the Liturgical Season of Advent.

We have been:

- taking part in weekly Gospel assemblies
- learning our Advent prayer
- remembering and recalling the meaning of the Advent wreath and what it symbolises
- preparing for the coming of Jesus in our R.E. lessons
- deepening our understanding that Advent is a time of preparation and a time to deepen our relationship with God

Fr. Eustace came in to school and blessed our crib – it was really nice to see him ☺ He also heard our confessions to prepare us for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

EYFS children have delighted us all with their version of the Nativity Story. Some classes had the pleasure of watching the live performance this week. Our youngest children were confident in their performances and helped us all to remember the real meaning of Christmas. The production was recorded and hopefully all parents and families of our EYFS children will enjoy watching this over the Christmas holiday.





Testing for Coronavirus (Covid-19)

It would be really helpful if before your child returns to school they complete a Lateral Flow Test to confirm that they do not have Covid. So far this year we have been extremely lucky with the number of positive cases remaining extremely low in our school.

We continue to pay for a Covid Cleaner each morning and afternoon during the school day, as well as our regular cleaners after school. We continue to hand wash, and socially distance where possible. This has all helped us to keep infection rates very low.

I do hope that you manage to enjoy a Covid free Christmas!

Get Your Vaccination! Family Friendly Vaccination Sessions

When you book or walk-in with your 12- 15 year old into one of the large vaccination centres to have their jab, accompanying family members can have whichever vaccination they are eligible for (1st, 2nd, booster), without having to book in advance. Book your child into Redgrave Centre, (27 Redgrave Gardens, Luton LU3 3QN) after 4.00pm and they look forward to seeing the whole family. Alternatively, take advantage of the walk-in sessions: www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/drop-in .

To book the appointment go to the National Booking System or call 119. Remember, you only need to book one appointment for your 12 – 15 year old and other family members can get their jab too. Full details on the vaccination programme in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes can be found at www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/covid-19.

Thank you for your co-operation 😊

ROAD/CAR SAFETY



Please ensure that your child/ren are **strapped** into the car with **seatbelts and** that they are in **appropriate car seats** <https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules/when-a-child-can-travel-without-a-car-seat>. This guidance will help you know the law. Please keep your children safe when in the car – thank you.

Goodbye to...

This week we are saying goodbye to Mrs Coakley and Mrs Ziabek – we wish them lots of luck for their futures and thank them for their hard work and dedication to our school.

Mr Alker is also leaving us to become a Sports Leader across an Academy in Bedford – as we all know Mr Alker loves all things sport and this new job will make him very happy – we will all miss him but wish him all the very best for the future 😊.

Mrs Webb one of our Assistant Headteachers is also leaving us to take up a very exciting new job as an Educational Consultant for Herts for Learning. Mrs Webb has played an important role in improving standards in English at SMOS and we are so grateful to her. We are going to really miss her but wish her lots of happiness and success in her new role 😊.

Hello to...

In January we welcome some new members of staff to our school.

- Mr Martin will be joining the Y4 Team as a class teacher
- Ms Brook will be joining the Y2 Team as a class teacher
 - Ms Osbourne will be joining our cover team
 - Miss Gordon will be joining our cover team

Prayer for Families

Loving God,
During this holy season of Christmas,
we ask for your blessing on all
families.

Let Mary's openness to your
wondrous ways be an inspiration
to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph's courage provide hope
during times of anxiety and
uncertainty.

Let Jesus' life ignite all families with
a spirit of light and love.

May the grace that encircled the
Holy Family widen to embrace all
families.

For this we pray.
Amen.



Please share this prayer with your families.

I wish each and every family a very happy, peaceful and fun filled Christmas and
very best wishes for the New Year too!

Love Mrs Somes x

