

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Primary & Pre School



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Friday 20th September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

Meet the Teacher

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher event this week. It was really lovely to have so many of you in attendance. We hope you found it useful. Please click this [link](#) to see what your children are learning each term.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher if you have any questions. You are also welcome to make an appointment to meet with me, please contact the school office who will be happy to help.

Nursery Meet the Teacher

We are really enjoying having our new Nursery provision. The children have settled brilliantly. Parents of children in Nursery class are invited into school with their children next **Tuesday 24th September at 3.00pm**. Please make your way to the entrance to the Nursery class where staff will welcome you. We hope you can make it.

Friday Celebration Assemblies

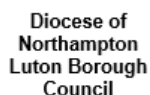
Each **Friday**, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 take part in **Celebration Assemblies**. During these assemblies classes share work, we celebrate birthdays, award certificates and reflect on the week that has passed.

We would like to invite you to these assemblies and join us in celebrating our amazing children! As with class assemblies you will be let in via the main entrance of the Key stage 1 and 2 halls.

The assemblies start at 8.30am and will be finished by 9.00am.

Parents of children who will be awarded a certificate for following our school virtues will receive a Parentmail on Thursday from school inviting them to the assembly to allow you to see your child receive their certificate. It would be great to have you join us. **Please do not share this information with your child as we want it to be a surprise for them on the day!**

Each week a class in each key stage will share some work. **Please note if your child's class is sharing work this does not guarantee your child will be involved in the sharing of the work.** Teachers tend to choose small groups of children.



You are welcome to attend any of the assemblies, even if your child is not receiving a certificate or their class is not sharing. Please note we will have to monitor the number of parents that attend to ensure we are adhering to health and safety requirements; we will always prioritise the parents of children receiving a virtues certificate. Thank you for your support.

Below is a table with information regarding the assemblies you are invited to.

Date	Key Stage 1 Assembly (Class Sharing Work)	Key Stage 2 Assembly (Class Sharing Work)
27.9.24	1 St Francis	5 St Clare
4.10.24	2 St Bernadette	3 St Clare
11.10.24	1 St Clare	6 St Bernadette
18.10.24	2 St Francis	4 St Francis
8.11.24	1 St Francis	4 St Francis
15.11.24	2 St Bernadette	6 St Clare
22.11.24	1 St Clare	3 St Francis
29.11.24	2 St Francis	3 St Bernadette
6.12.24	1 St Francis	4 St Bernadette

After School Clubs

Next week our extra-curricular clubs start. This is always a very exciting time for our children. A big thank you to **Mrs O'Donnell** who has sourced a fantastic array of clubs.

Lots and lots of children registered their interest in all of our clubs. Mrs O'Donnell has carefully allocated clubs and considered everyone's requests. As you can imagine this is not an easy task and it is not always possible to please everyone. Thank you for your support.

Morning Snacks

Please be reminded that children can bring a piece of fruit to school for morning break. No other food is permitted. Staff will not allow children to eat any other types of food. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Pre School and Year 3

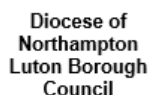
This year we have supported the local authority by opening a third Year 3 class. This is a year group that has a significant number of children living in Luton that need a school place. We still have places for children in Year 3, **children who were born between 1st September 2016 – 31st August 2017 are welcome to apply for a place at our school.**

It has been a year since our wonderful pre – school joined our school. **Miss Newland** and her team provide a fantastic service. We accept applications from children from 2 years old. Please contact the school office if you would like more information.

Cash Pots for Schools

We have registered with Asda for their **Cashpot for Schools** initiative. Please follow the link below to get more information about the scheme. You need to download the Asda Rewards App and follow the instructions, type in our school postcode, **LU1 5PP** and click on our name. It doesn't cost anything, but each time you shop in Asda a percentage of what you spend will be donated to our school. Thank you for your support.

<https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>



Starting School on Time

Our school gates will continue to open at 8.15am. The school day as always will start at 8.30am. I do urge you though to do your best to arrive for school at 8.15am. The first part of the school day allows children time to read and settle before the business of the day starts. Too often we have children arriving for school past 8.30am, this is very unsettling for the child and results in loss of learning time. Please make it your new school year resolution to get your child to school on time!

We are monitoring times children are picked up. Please note **children must be picked up at 3.00pm** from either the Key Stage 1 or the Key Stage 2 playgrounds.

Attendance Update

As you are aware good attendance is important for every child so that they can achieve their full potential. With effect from 19th August 2024 the government introduced new statutory guidance **'Working Together To Improve School Attendance'** to support schools to be able to work with families effectively to improve attendance.

The emphasis will be much more on strategies to support children's good attendance but there are changes to the Penalty Notice system and there will **be no term time holiday** allowance, this will have to be **unauthorised**.

There are also changes to the fines that will be issued in cases of unauthorised absence. If issued with a fine, or penalty notice, **each parent** must pay **£80** within 21 days or **£160** within 28 days. Please note that if children arrive at school after **8.30am** this is also recorded as an **unauthorised absence**. It is important that you inform school of the reasons for your child's absence on the first day so that we can keep accurate records.

A Reminder of Classes This Year

Please find below a table for classes and teachers for this academic year.

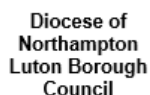
Year	St Bernadette	St Clare	St Francis
Pre School	Miss Newland		
Nursery		Mrs Cook & Mrs Durkin	
Reception	Miss Chance & Mrs Morris		Mrs Deacon
Year 1		Mrs Greene	Miss Zulfiqar
Year 2	Mrs Hatchell		Miss Greenwell
Year 3	Miss Waller	Miss Thelwell	Miss McCabe
Year 4	Mrs Dinghile / Mrs Brogan		Miss Urquhart
Year 5		Miss Atkinson & Mrs Kinch	Mr Van Wyk
Year 6	Mrs Dilkes	Mrs Ahmed	

Breakfast and WrapAround Provisions

Please find below pricing for our Breakfast and After School Club Provisions from September 2024.

Breakfast Club (7.30am – 8.15am)

£3.00 per session



After School Club (3.00pm – 6.00pm)

£4.00 for 1 hour

£8.00 for 2 hours

£12.00 for 3 hours

Payments must be made in advance via Parentmail. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Well Done to all our Children

Today we had our first fire drill of the school year. All of our children, especially our new and youngest children were brilliant. They all listened carefully to their adults and although it was a practice they all treated the drill as if it was a real one. I was a very proud headteacher.

2 Week Half Term

A reminder that we have a 2 week half term in October. Term dates for this year are below.

Term	First Half Term	Half Term Break	Second Half Term
Advent Term	Weds 4 th Sept – Fri 18 th Oct	Mon 21st Oct – Fri 1st Nov	Mon 4 th Nov – Fri 20 th Dec
Lent Term	Mon 6 th Jan – Fri 14 th Feb	Mon 17 th Feb – Fri 21 st Feb	Mon 24 th Feb – Fri 4 th Apr
Pentecost Term	Weds 23 rd Apr – Fri 23 rd May	Mon 26 th May – Fri 30 th May	Mon 2 nd Jun – Weds 23 rd Jul

Weekly newsletters and past correspondence can be found on our school website at this [link](#).

Diary Dates

Please find below a table with key dates for this term and beyond, please do take note of events that effect you and your child. More information will follow regarding school trips etc.

God bless,
Mr Chiswell

Dates for your Diary

(Please note dates are subject to change and there will be new events added)

Date	Event	Time
Tues 24th Sept	Nursery Parents Meet the Teacher	3.00 pm
Mon 30 th Sept	Y6 to Y7 Transition Meeting for Y6 Parents	6.00pm
Fri 4 th Oct	First Friday Mass at St Margaret's Church – Y6	9.00am
Mon 7 th Oct	Maths Monday	8.30am
Tues 8 th Oct	School Photos – Individuals and Siblings	
Fri 11 th Oct	Schools' Mass at St Mary's Church for Faith Ambassadors	10.00am
Thurs 7 th Nov	Y6 St Clare Class Assembly	8.30am
Fri 8 th Nov	Flu Vaccinations for Reception – Y6	
Weds 13 th Nov	Wear Odd Socks to School for Anti Bullying Week – It is good to be different!	
Thurs 14 th Nov	Y4 St Bernadette Class Assembly	8.30am
Fri 15 th Nov	Feast Day Mass at St Margaret's Church Years 4 - 6	10.00am
	Tea at 2	2.00pm
Thurs 21 st Nov	Y6 St Bernadette Class Assembly	8.30am
Tues 26 th Nov	Parent Teacher Consultations	3.30pm – 6.30pm
Weds 27 th Nov	Parent Teacher Consultations	3.30pm – 6.30pm
Thurs 28 th Nov	Y3 St Bernadette Class Assembly	8.30am
Mon 2 nd Dec	Meditation Monday	8.30am
Fri 6 th Dec	First Friday Mass at St Margaret's Church – Y5	9.00am
Thurs 12 th Dec	Fantastic Finishes	3.00pm
Mon 16 th Dec	Reception & Y3 Christmas Crafts	8.30am
	Christmas Service at St Margaret's Church	5.00pm
Tues 17 th Dec	Y1 & Y5 Christmas Crafts	8.30am
Weds 18 th Dec	Nursery & Y6 Christmas Crafts	8.30am
	Tasty Treats	2.00pm
	Christmas Movie Night Y1 – Y6	5.00pm – 6.30pm
Thurs 19 th Dec	Y2 & Y4 Christmas Crafts	8.30am
	Reception Christmas Nativity Performance to Parents	2.00pm
Fri 20 th Dec	Carols on the Playground	2.30pm

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Primary School

Term Dates 2024 - 2025

Advent Term 2024	Lent Term 2025	Pentecost Term 2025
Wednesday 4 th Sept to Friday 20 th Dec	Monday 6 th Jan to Friday 4 th April	Wednesday 23 rd April to Wednesday 23 rd July
Half Term Week commencing Monday 21 st Oct – Friday 1 st November (2 weeks)	Half Term Week commencing Monday 17 th Feb	Half Term Week commencing Monday 26 th May
Training Days (School closed to children) Monday 2 nd Sept & Tuesday 3 rd Sept		Training Day (School closed to children) Tuesday 22 nd April