

AUTUMN

newsletter

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of our first half term, the autumn days have brought not only falling leaves but a wonderful harvest of learning, growth, and community spirit here at St Margaret's. We hope you enjoy reading about the many exciting events and achievements that have made this half term so special.



European Day of Languages

On Friday 26th September, we celebrated European Day of Languages. We were lucky enough to welcome 12 parents into school to share their expertise with us. Children loved listening to stories, singing songs and learning vocabulary in languages including French, Arabic, Hungarian, Amharic and Icelandic, to name just a few! The children also spent time in their classes reflecting on the benefits of language learning, exploring different cultures and learning how to sing along to songs in sign language. We are so incredibly lucky at St. Margaret's - the diversity of languages spoken by our pupils is staggering and we loved celebrating that in school this week. Thank you so much to all the parents and grandparents who generously gave their time this year.







Green Team Chartwells Meeting

Earlier this month, last year's Green Team had a very productive meeting with Carolyn Wilson, the area manager for our catering company Chartwells. They asked lots of the questions children in school have been wondering about - like whether popular menu choices are going to make a return to the menu soon and whether there can be a greater variety of options on days which are very cheese-based. Carolyn was very receptive to the children's suggestions and took every question seriously. The children will be feeding back to the rest of the school shortly!



Year 4 Netball

This half term, Year 4 have enjoyed weekly Bee Netball sessions run by the Schools Sports Partnership. They have learnt lots of new skills and were able to take part in mini games by the end of the 5 sessions. Birch Class then went to Maiden Castle to participate in a Bee Netball Festival with other schools. They practised their skills in a series of drills and then participated in a mini tournament. We were blown away by their talent and their excellent sportsmanship!





House Cross Country

Our annual House Cross Country took place this half term. The event was a fantastic celebration of perseverance and school spirit. Pupils in Years 2-6 took part, proudly representing their Houses in a series of races.

House points: 1st Hilda 1512 2nd Bede 1643 3rd Cuthbert 1730 4th Aidan 1842

Year 2 visit to Durham Cathedral

Year 2 had a brilliant time at Durham Cathedral on 17th September, learning about St Cuthbert. They took part in a role play of his life and explored his shrine.



Netball

St Margaret's have again managed to field two strong sides in the Chester le Street league netball competition this half term - a testament to the number of enthusiastic players we have. Our Red team have played eight, winning four and losing four, with the highlight a 9-0 victory over Ouston. Our Blue team have won four and lost only one of their five games, being crowned winners of the B league. A huge well done to everyone who has taken part and Mrs Hunter and Miss Slane for organising and umpiring every week.





House Captains

This half term, our pupils took part in the exciting House Captain voting, sharing their ideas and values through some truly fantastic presentations. Each child spoke with confidence and creativity, reflecting the spirit of their house and the ethos of our school. We're incredibly proud of everyone who took part, and we're delighted to announce that the children who were successfully nominated are: Matthew, Georgia, Isabella, Tom, James, Chrissie, Ella and Hugh. Well done to all!







This half term, 24 of our junior children proudly represented St Margaret's at the cross country competition held at Framwellgate Secondary School. All of our teams performed brilliantly and have qualified for the next round taking place next month. We had an impressive 13 top-10 finishers, with standout performances including:

- Lucy W, who placed 2nd in the Year 3/4 girls' race
- Stella J, who came 3rd in the same race
- Ben L, who secured 2nd in the Year 3/4 boys' race
- Sarah K, who finished 3rd in the Year 5/6 girls' race

A huge well done to all our runners for their determination and team spirit!





Wednesday football

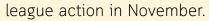
The Wednesday league team made their debuts in the School Sports partnership league at Meadowfield. Over three evenings, the team played six strongly contested matches, ultimately finishing 5th in the league with two victories, a draw and three losses. The undoubted hightlight was a 7-0 win over Silvertree on the last evening, showing how far the team progressed in such a short time.

Thursday football

Our Thursday league team continued where they left off last season, with much the same squad. In league and cup, the team has played in fifteen matches, winning eleven, drawing two and losing two. Last evening, the boys retained the CB Watson cup for the fourth year in a row, making us the most successful team since the cups origin in 1951. We now progress to the county finals in November, playing the strongest team from each district in the Daniel O'Hare final.



The girls team has had a great start to the season, with a lot of new faces in the team this year. Overall, we have played eight, winning three, drawing three and losing two games. The highlight to our season so far has been the performances in week three of the league, where we had two strong victories over Brandon and Lumley and a hard fought draw against a strong Rickleton side. We resume













UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mon 3rd: Reception Forest

Schools

Tue 4th: 3.40-6pm

Parents Evening

Wed 5th: Cherry Class

Parents Evening (instead

of Thursday)

Thurs 6th: 3.40-6pm

Parents Evening (no choir)

Fri 7th: 9.10am Year 6

Remembrance Worship

for parents

We wish all our families a restful and joyful half term break, and look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the exciting weeks ahead!



