

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to St Margaret's! We are looking forward to getting to know your child and supporting them as they grow in confidence, curiosity and independence. There's so much fun and learning ahead this year — we can't wait to see their amazing personalities shine!

We know this message includes quite a bit of information, but we hope you find it useful. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the school office or speak to us at the end of the school day.

**Who will be teaching my child:**

Throughout the week, your child may also be taught by other members of our dedicated staff team for specific subjects. Mr Rose will be teaching PE on a Thursday afternoon. Mrs Sutcliffe is our HLTA and will cover across the reception classes. Together, we aim to provide a rich and varied learning experience, guided by our school values of being caring, courageous, Christ-like, and part of a celebratory community.

**What your child will be learning about in Reception:**

Please find our Reception Curriculum Map attached for the overview of what your child will be learning about this year. Although we have a planned curriculum, this is a flexible and adaptable curriculum as we will always endeavour to follow children's interests and tailor learning to their needs.

**Homework:**

Homework will be sent home on a Friday and we ask for it to be returned on a Thursday. The homework will be a 'Home Story', and will be a different question about your child each week. They are your chance to tell us all about your special and unique child and we absolutely love reading them! We understand that your child will have other activities outside of school and may have difficulty completing tasks on a set night. If this is the case, please complete the homework when time is available.

**Reading:**

We will be sending home reading books with your child in a few weeks time. These will match the phonics progression of sounds that we teach as well as children's knowledge and comprehension ability. Please record any reading of your child's phonics book in their reading record. Once we know you have read it at home, we can change it once a week. We recommend at first, you look at the inside front cover of the reading book where you will find information for parents regarding the sounds and irregular words you might find. There are also some ideas of activities to do with your child before, during and after reading the book. Reading regularly at home helps children to make good progress and we advise trying to read for 10 minutes per day. Children should have their school reading book in their bag on a daily basis to enable individual reading throughout the week.

Children will also have access to library books for you to read together at home. Reading books will be changed weekly and will be handed in on a Thursday and sent home on a Friday.

We will be inviting parents in for a Reading and Phonics presentation on Friday 25th September at 2.45pm to explain our phonics scheme further and answer any questions you might have.

### **School Uniform**

It would help us immensely if you could name all of your child's school uniform (even shoes!). This ensures that any discarded jumpers, shoes or anything else can be quickly returned to their rightful owner. Also, due to our changeable weather, please can you ensure that your child always has a named coat in school every day, as we will be outdoors every day.

### **PE and Forest Schools**

P.E. takes place every Thursday afternoon and is led by Mr Rose. On this day, children should come to school dressed in their P.E. kit.

### **Forest School**

Each class will take part in a block of Forest School sessions over the year. On these days, children will be learning outdoors and engaging in hands-on activities, which may involve mud and messy play. Please ensure your child comes dressed in appropriate clothing, including waterproofs and sturdy footwear. We recommend older clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. We will let you know in advance the date of the Forest School sessions.

### **Key Dates**

Below, you'll find key dates specific to Reception that we hope will be helpful as you plan ahead. All other whole-school dates and updates can be found on Weduc and reminders are shared in the weekly whole school update. Please do keep an eye on these platforms, as new dates will be added and while we aim to keep plans consistent, changes may occasionally be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.

**Friday 25th September- 2.45pm- Phonics and Reading workshop**

**Wednesday 2nd December- 9.30am- EYFS Nativity**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March- 9.15am- Easter Worship**

Thank you for your continued support—we're excited to work together to make this a wonderful start to your child's school journey!

Warm regards,

Mrs. McNicholas and Mrs. Reilly  
EYFS Teachers