



SPRING NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends of St Margaret's,

As we come to the end of the Spring 1 term, it has been wonderful to reflect on just how much our children have achieved over these past few weeks. Despite the colder weather and shorter days, the school has been full of energy, enthusiasm and a real commitment to learning.

We would firstly like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our children for the wonderful way they conducted themselves during the Ofsted inspection this week. Their behaviour, maturity and positive attitudes were consistently evident, and they represented our school with great pride.

They spoke confidently, demonstrated their love of learning and showcased the strong sense of community that makes our school so special.

We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

We hope you enjoy the many highlights of Spring 1 and celebrating the wonderful achievements of our children.

Five a side

Our indoor 5-a-side team was in action in the first round of the Chester le street competition held at Park View. The boys went through the competition unbeaten although a number of draws led to a nail biting trophy presentation. Ultimately, due to our superior goal difference, we topped the group and progress to the next round.



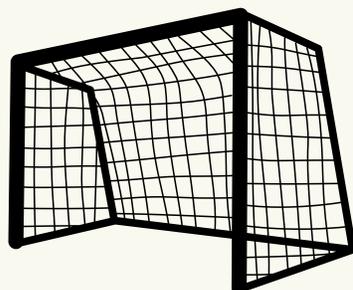
Winter League football

The boys winter league football squad dominated the competition, remaining unbeaten throughout six games against some tough opposition. The boys battled against challenging weather conditions to win convincingly without conceding a goal in the entire tournament. More importantly than that, the squad was a credit to our school, playing the games in the correct spirit and with great sportsmanship throughout.



Boys county final - 15.1.26

Our Y5/6 boys team attended the rescheduled county football final at Chester le Street Riverside. The team were up against the best teams from across Country Durham, Wearside and Tyne and Wear. The standard was incredibly high and we were ultimately knocked out in a tight 1-0 defeat against ultimate winners St Mary's from Sunderland.





Cross country

A number of our talented Year 5 and 6 runners gave up three Saturday mornings to attend the Chester-le-Street schools cross country series at Bullion Lane, Ouston and Rickleton Primary schools. All runners gave their absolute all in some horrendous weather and course conditions to cross the finish line and compete with upwards of 70 runners in each race. Individually, Athena H, Ella S and Sophie B all made the top ten in each race with Sarah K and Asha M also having top ten finishes. For the boys, Robert S also recorded second place finishes in all three races. From a team stand point, the girls took the title with a combined score of 39 points- an amazing effort over three weeks, with the boys coming fifth out of fourteen schools. Equally encouraging for the staff who attended the events was the amount of runners who attended the races this year. A number of schools could not enter the three runners in each race to record a qualifying score overall, something we have managed to avoid due to the commitment of each and every child, thank you!





Athletics

Congratulations to the children who competed in the primary sportshall athletics county finals this week at Newton Aycliffe. They finished in 3rd place!

We are incredibly proud of every single member of the team – they showed determination, teamwork, brilliant sportsmanship and gave their all in every event. To finish third in the entire county is an amazing achievement, and our children represented the school with pride and positivity throughout.





Green Team Update

The Green Team have been busy this term learning about the environment and exploring how small changes can make a big difference. They have been developing ideas to help reduce the school's energy use and planning other exciting projects—such as installing a wormery—to support sustainability across the school.

As part of this work, the pupils have been collaborating with students from Durham University and someone from the Local Authority energy team. Together, they have been gathering expert advice, reviewing our current energy use, and creating plans for future improvements.

We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, teamwork, and commitment to making our school a more environmentally friendly place.



Reception loved their visit from PCSO Claire and Jet the Police dog as part of our topic on 'People Who Help Us'. We learned about what it means to work for the Police and that they are here to keep us safe. We found out how a police dogs help solve crimes. Jet was very excited to see us and she enjoyed the attention.



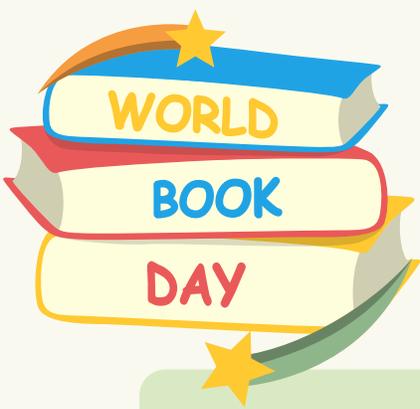


Dance Festival

Our Y4s and Y2s represented St Margaret's at the annual SSP dance festival at the Gala. All of the dancers truly let their light shine on stage – dancing with confidence, joy, and incredible teamwork. They were absolutely amazing from start to finish!

A huge thank you to Mrs White and Mrs Reilly, whose energy, creativity, and brilliant choreography helped our children shine.





World Book Day

We're really excited to celebrate World Book Day in the first week back! On Thursday 5th March, children are welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite book character or simply wearing whatever they feel comfortable in.

World Book Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate stories, imagination and the joy of reading. We also have a wonderful themed lunch to help us celebrate the day!



World Book Day

MAINS

- Big Friendly Goujons
- Bean There, Read That Baked Bean & Cheese Turnovers
- Alice's Eat Me Chips
- Jack's Magic Baked Beans
- Gruffalo's Golden Sweetcorn

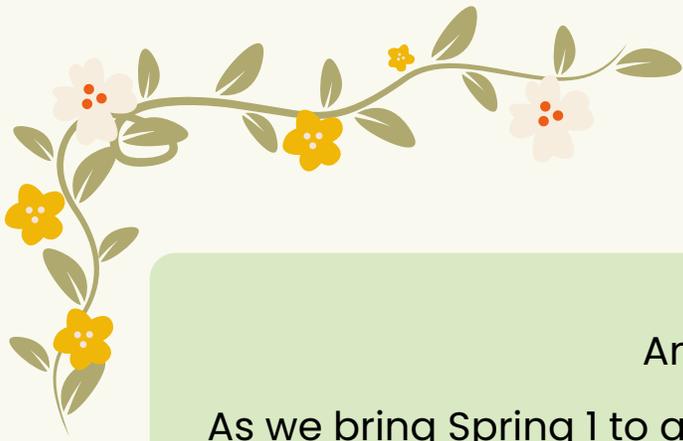
DESSERT

- Charlie's Ice cream Factory
- Fruit
- Yoghurt

Fresh Bread, Salad Bar, Fruit and Yoghurt Also Available

*Menus may be subject to change





And Finally...

As we bring Spring 1 to a close, we would like to thank all our families for your continued support throughout a busy and successful half term. It has been a joy to celebrate the children's achievements with you, and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, kindness and determination they show every day.

Looking ahead, we have plenty to be excited about in Spring 2. We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March, enjoying a range of spring-themed learning, and preparing for the meaningful and reflective events that lead us towards Easter. It promises to be another exciting and memorable half term.

We wish you all a restful and refreshing break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back, ready for the wonderful opportunities ahead.

