



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

At St Margaret's, our vision is rooted in the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Throughout the year, we have seen this lived out in countless ways across our school community. Our pupils have developed their talents, demonstrated kindness and service, and embraced opportunities to shine both within school and beyond.

We are also grateful to our families, whose support helps create a nurturing environment where every child is encouraged to grow, flourish and celebrate their unique gifts.

A special thank you goes to our Friends Association for their hard work and fundraising throughout the year. We are delighted that they will be making a significant donation towards the refurbishment of our ICT suite into a new school library. Work will begin over the summer holidays, and we are very excited about this development.

I would also like to thank our wonderful staff team for their dedication, care and commitment to ensuring every child can thrive. Together, we have seen our children achieve so much this year, and we are incredibly proud of the progress they have made. We wish our Year 6 pupils and all other leavers every success and happiness as they move on to new adventures. As they take their next steps, we hope they will continue to let their light shine and use their talents for the benefit of themselves and others. We also send our very best wishes to Mrs Durrie and Mrs Marshall as they begin their maternity leave over the summer.

We are excited to see what next year will bring and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

I hope you all have a restful summer,
Mrs Hassall



SCHOOL NOTICES

To help children settle back into school smoothly, please note the following:

- There will be no PE lessons during the first week of term. PE lessons will begin during the week commencing 7th September. The PE timetable can be found below.
- A reminder that holidays during term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. We encourage families to book holidays during the school holiday periods wherever possible.
- Children should bring a book bag or small bag and a small water bottle to school. Please do not send large rucksacks or water bottles, as we do not have sufficient storage space.
- All stationery will be provided by school, so there is no need to send pens, pencils or other stationery items from home.
- Earrings are not permitted in school.
- Hair accessories should be small and in school colours.
- A reminder to keep an eye out for our weekly notices which you will receive via WeDuc and also our termly newsletters.

PE Timetable

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 2	Year 5	Year 1	
Year 4	Year 6	Reception	Year 3

SPORTS AT ST. MARGARET'S

Y5/6 Girls football

Our upper junior girls football team have been involved in a number of fixtures since Easter. We went forward as Chester-le-Street representatives to the County Cup finals, competing against the best teams from the area. Despite not winning the competition, we gave a great account of ourselves against some excellent opposition. Our league games in the second half of the season fell victim to cancellations and late changes. We finished the season on a high however, winning 3 games and drawing 1 on our last fixtures.



Y5/6 football

The Year 5/6 boys team have had an amazing run since coming together as a team at the beginning of Year 5. Over the course of this season, the boys have won the county 5-a-side trophy and Watson cup. Recently, we have just fallen short in the pursuit of back to back league titles, finishing as runners-up to a strong Cestria side in early May. The team has just been to the county finals, being beaten by a very strong Hill View side from Sunderland in the group stages ultimately preventing them from reaching the final.



SPORTS AT ST. MARGARET'S

Year 5 Netball

Our Year 5 netballers have really done us proud this half term. In combination with our experienced club players, a number of the girls have played their first netball matches. Early in the half term, two teams played in the High five tournament at Maiden Castle. We had a great day with some quality netball being played, setting us up for the Chester-le-Street league. Week one was cancelled due to the weather with the girls due to play one round before half term and three more rounds in June.



Year 4 football

Our year four footballers have been in action in the semi-final of the trophy. Played at Ouston Primary School, we came up against Lumley and Belmont for a place in the final, to be held on Wednesday 3rd June. Some fantastic football was on show as we went on to beat both teams convincingly to cement our place in the final.

Despite a strong showing in the final, St Margaret's finished the competition in third place. Reaching the final itself is an achievement and the children should be very proud in what they have accomplished, especially for a new team.



SPORTS AT ST. MARGARET'S

Cricket

In early June, our girls cricket teams travelled to Brandon CC to take part in the Durham and Chester le Street competition. We managed to avoid any of the adverse weather conditions and get a full round of fixtures in, which is sometimes easier said than done.

We were one of only two schools in the local area that fielded two teams on the day, a testament to our junior girls who, for many, were playing in their first competitive cricket fixtures. Split into two different pools, our 'B' team finished their group games with a win and a loss before picking up another victory in the afternoons fixtures, culminating in a 7th place finish from twelve teams, a great overall effort.

The 'A' team won their two pool games before midday, setting up a local derby against Neville's Cross in the semi final immediately after lunch. Having safely negotiated the game against our nearest neighbours, we were asked to bat first in the final against Ouston Primary school. After posting a healthy score from our first innings effort, some excellent bowling and fielding helped us clinch the win and first place overall.



SPORTS AT ST. MARGARET'S

Year 4/5 football

The annual Willis cup for Year 5/4 football took place in the penultimate week of this half term at Ouston St. Benets Primary. In appalling weather conditions, the host school had to close one of their pitches and play shortened fixtures on the remaining, suitable pitch. This meant that the games we're less than half the length of a usual game, naturally promising tight games, maybe only won by a single goal. Despite the conditions, the team won 3 games and drew the final, physical game against our hosts, helping us to progress to the final on Tuesday 9th June.



Having reached the final, we came up against some excellent football teams. Despite going ahead early against Newker, our opponents overturned the score line to win convincingly. This was followed by a narrow defeat to Portobello and a high scoring draw against Belmont, which ultimately ended up with a third place finish in this years competition.

Year 3/ 4 girls football

In what was a great night of football, St Margaret's fielded two Y3/4 girls football teams for the first time. We played Durham High school in a series of friendly games, providing valuable time on the pitch. St Margaret's came out on top in all four games, but perhaps more pleasing was the spirit the games were played in and the pleasantries after the games, as we shared refreshments with our visitors. Mr Rose would like to extend his thanks to Durham High players and staff for visiting and sharing this experience.



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Athletics

Our Year 5 and 6 athletes had a fantastic morning out at the qualifiers of the Durham SSP athletics competition, held at the Riverside sports pavilion. In the competition, children had an opportunity to compete in some traditional track and field events, modified events like the howler throw and standing triple jump and some 4x100m relay races. We are all very proud that both of our amazing teams finished inside the top 5, a true testament to everyone involved.

From a results stand point, of the 16 events held on the day, St Margarets took top spot in nine, with a following three silver medals. This also includes three School Sports Partnership records that were smashed on the day – Joseph (Year 5) with a massive 42.80m howler throw, Maciej with a 13.65 second sprint over 100m and the boys 4x100m relay team with an outstanding 60.2 seconds.

As a result of the success of the day, twelve of our athletes have qualified to compete for Durham city schools, to be held at the end of June– congratulations!



SPORTS AT ST. MARGARET'S

Basketball

Following qualification in November 2025, eight budding basketballers from Year 6 attended the county finals at Bishop Barrington academy, Bishop Auckland.



SPORTS AT ST. MARGARET'S

Durham Dash

Forty eight of our junior children visited Beamish museum for the annual Durham Dash athletics event. On a warm evening, our race teams were faced with a 700m heat to earn themselves a place in the final, with our field athletes competing in a carousel of events to determine the outright winner.

On the track, we had numerous children who qualified as heat runner up or winners and therefore progressed to the final. Strong team efforts from our Year 3 boys, Year 4 boys and Year 5 girls amongst others promised strong St Margaret's representation in the final, a truly great achievement in its own right. In what were some lightning quick finals, we had some brilliant performances to earn podium spots with Alex (Year 3) Sarah and Robert (Year 6) all taking silver or bronze medals home. However, Ashley (Year 5) put in arguably the performance of the evening to take top spot in her race and earn a gold medal!

Unlike in the race events, the field events keep everyone waiting until the last minutes to reveal the winner, as scores from all four events are combined behind the scenes. Despite an impending England world cup opening match, our children were rewarded for their patience as we saw Blake and Grace (Year 3) take medals early on. In what was a great culmination to the evening, Will (Year 4), Joseph (Year 5) and Matthew (Year 6) all took top step on the podium and a Gold medal home for their amazing efforts.

In what is always a fantastic event, our children were a credit to the school with great enthusiasm, effort, sportsmanship and behaviour all evening. Huge congratulations should be afforded to every child who competed. A special mention must go to Hugh from Year 6, who in an act of selflessness, stopped during the final of the running event to assist a fellow competitor who was struggling.



