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Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

### St Margaret Mary's Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

#### **Welcome:**

I would like to wish you all a very warm, welcome back to the start of a new & really exciting academic year. I hope you have all had a lovely break and managed to make the most of the summer holidays, regardless of the British weather. I would like to welcome back all of the children, parents and families to St Margaret Mary's and say a big hello to the new children starting our school in Nursery, Reception and in other year groups across the school. You are all very welcome to our school. I would like to welcome again our new staff who have joined us this summer. They are all very welcome to the fantastic staff team & I am sure you will get to know them well over the coming weeks. I know that they are already starting to feel at home in their new positions.

#### **Birthday of Mary, Our Blessed Mother**

Today we celebrate the Birthday of Mary & her devotion as a mother to Jesus & us all. Pope Francis asks for a very special devotion to Mary as the '**Undoer of Knots**'. He reminds us to ask for her intercessions & help in our lives; when we need the 'knots, worries & problems' that we all face undoing. Today in school, through assembly, prayer, lessons & reflection we have been celebrating Mary's life & her devotion. Classes have made birthday cards, hung prayer intercessions in the Peace Garden, produced pieces of artwork & many other things today.

#### **'Meet the Teacher'**

Hopefully you have had the chance to meet your child's classteacher over the last few days at the start of this new academic year. There will be a further opportunity for you to meet the classteacher for an informal chat on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September from 3-3:30. I would encourage all parents to attend wherever possible, with staff introducing themselves, sharing curriculum information & topic overviews for the half-term, as well as homework guidance and other key information. If you are unable to make this time then please do not hesitate to arrange an alternative quick meeting or introduction.

#### **Attendance & Punctuality:**

It has been fantastic to see the children return this week after the summer break with excellent attendance and punctuality, 'on-time' for the start of the school day. It is so important that the children arrive 'on-time' for the start of the school day at 8:55 am to begin their lessons settled and alongside their classmates, as being 5 or 10 minutes late each day really does add-up over the course of a week & term.

As I am sure you are aware, attendance at the school is of the utmost importance if your child is to meet their full potential and make the expected progress.

Our school attendance target this year is once again set high, but it did suffer at times last year due to an increased number of holiday leave being taken. I remain very sympathetic to the needs of your families but will be reminding you in coming weeks, through the school attendance policy & guidance of the consequences of poor attendance & of taking unauthorised leave & how as a school we will continue to support you, our children & families.

**Pupil Premium  
Awards 2016  
Local Winner**

Primary schools with  
published KS2 results



Please continue to check the school calendar to ensure that children are not taken out of school during term-time for holidays & that any extended leave of absence requires permission & authorisation as not doing so could result in the submission of a fine with a repeated fine resulting in higher prosecution (forms for this are available from Mrs Peel in the School Office). A reminder that absence due to illness must always be reported each morning with further information on this following in the aforementioned letter.

**After-School Clubs:**

I have attached an additional letter highlighting after-school provision this coming half-term. These will start the week beginning the 18<sup>th</sup> September. As you can see there is a slight increase in charge for these to allow us to make activities as engaging as possible. Nevertheless, I am sure you will agree that these remain very reasonable in price compared to other schools. Please see details explaining the clubs offered and how your child can access these.

**Swimming & P.E. Kits:**

Children in Y3/4 and Y4 will be starting their swimming tuition on Monday as outlined in a reminder letter this week. I'm sure they will be developing key life skills as well as having a great deal of 'water-fun!' Please ensure that children have school P.E. kit in school for their lessons this coming week. Children have at least two P.E. lessons a week so it is a major part of their curriculum and important that they can participate fully at all times.

**School Photographs:**

On **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September** John Hunt Photographers will be coming to school to 'capture' our children at the start of the new school year. They will take individual and family photographs of our children and staff. A reminder will follow next week.

**Uniform:**

It has been lovely to see the children looking so smart in their uniforms at the start of the year. Just a reminder from letters before we finished for the summer holidays, that dark-coloured trainers are not part of the school uniform. The children should be wearing appropriate, black school shoes.

**EYFS Matters:**

A reminder to parents of children in EYFS that they are very welcome to 'stay & play' at the start of the morning session, **but this will be at the earlier time of 8:45 - 8:55 am**. Please see Mrs Welch & EYFS Staff for further information.

**Fruity Friday:**

Fruity Friday will be available from next Friday with children able to purchase a healthy fruit snack for 20p per pot during the morning break-time. The children are to bring the money to school with them on the Friday morning.

**Book Bench:**

It has been lovely to hear of so many children & staff who managed to visit the National Football Museum over the summer holidays, to see the wonderful book bench designed & made by the children at St Margaret Mary's. I was very proud to see the bench myself & was even persuaded to pose for a photo! We would love you to send any pictures that you have into school so that these can be shared & celebrated on the school website. Please email these to: [contact@st-margaretmarys.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:contact@st-margaretmarys.manchester.sch.uk)  
The bench should be 'joining us' back at St Margaret Mary's in the next few weeks. Watch this space for more information!

**Once again it has been lovely to see both familiar & new faces after the summer break with all of the children settling in superbly over the last few days, making it a great start to the new term. Enjoy your weekend!**

Again thank-you for your continued support

Mr Sutton

**A comprehensive diary with assembly dates & future events will be shared with you towards the end of next week.**