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Friday 9th February 2018

St Margaret Mary's Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome & Lenten Preparations:

On behalf of all staff, pupils & families I would like to offer a very warm St Margaret Mary's welcome to Fr Starkie & his family, who celebrated their first mass with the parish last weekend. As a school & community we very much look forward to working with them closely in the future.

Children from Y1 to Y6 will be receiving ashes on Wednesday with Fr Starkie at St Margaret Mary's R.C. Church, as part of our Lenten Preparations. As a result the Y2 Assembly will now take place after half-term.

Safer Internet Day & Fortnight:

I am sure you are aware that staying safe online & having a greater awareness of the benefits & dangers of social media is a very important part of your child's education & development. As part of the National Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 6th February the children have been completing a range of work, linked to their on-going learning about staying safe when using the Internet & other forms of social media. The 'Digital Leaders' led the whole school with very clear & appropriate assemblies on Monday, highlighting the potential dangers of different social media ranging from Text-messaging, Facebook, Instagram & On-line gaming. Unfortunately we are becoming increasingly aware of & involved with children using such sites & the problems that these can cause. **I am sure you can appreciate this & I really ask for your support in keeping our children safe on-line, restricting & controlling what they can & cannot use & educating them as to the possible dangers that can be posed.**

A big thankyou to parents who attended & supported our assemblies on Friday in EYFS & Monday for KS1 & KS2. A letter reminding you of ways in which you can help to keep your child (ren) E-Safe, was sent home on Monday & is available on the school website & in the noticeboards. We will be holding a **Safe-Internet Workshop for Parents, next Tuesday at 2:30pm in the hall & I encourage wherever possible, parents to support us with this.** Hopefully this will help to provide plenty of useful tips & ideas. As well as this there are useful links on the school website that can provide you with further information & support. Finally a big-thankyou to the Digital Leaders, Mrs Welch & Miss Percival who have coordinated the fortnight & events so well. The Digital Leaders work with Mrs Welch & Miss Percival across the school supporting the computing curriculum & raising awareness of e-safety. They have already posted information & videos regarding their role & tips on how to stay safe when using social media on the school website.

Y2 & Y6 SATs Meetings:

Thank-you to all parents able to attend the workshops & information evenings that were held in school last-week. We hope they were able to provide key information regarding assessments & how to help and support your child. A reminder that if you do require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact staff.

Book Swap:

I would like to remind everyone of the 'Book Swap' that we have planned next **Thursday 15th February at 2:30 pm in the school hall.** Letters regarding this have already been sent home, but as a reminder it is an opportunity to bring any books that have been **read & are no longer wanted** into school, sharing them with other children. The final date for books coming into school is Tuesday. Please support us with this really worthwhile event that will help to widen the reading experience of all our children in a really simple & easy way.



**Pupil Premium
Awards 2016
Local Winner**

Primary schools with
published KS2 results



Exciting News:

Yesterday our Y4T class visited Brockholes Nature Reserve in Lancashire as part of our links with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust & commitment to Forest Schools. This was part of a competition that children from a number of Forest Schools entered & Harvey Armstrong won overall out of these schools. The class had a super day building dens, making tree cookies as well as many other activities. Well done Harvey & Y4T!

As I write to you a number of our school sports teams are representing the school in competitions across the city. Well done to our football teams who are excitedly progressing in a number of cup competitions. Good luck with the next rounds! Today children from Y4 & Y5 have participated in a Swimming Gala as part of North Manchester Schools. I look forward to updating more next week with a roll-call of names & further details. Good luck & well done to them all!

After-School Clubs:

Due to the short half-term that leads us towards Easter, we will be continuing to run the same after-school clubs for the children who have already signed up & attended them. **However, there are places available so please speak to Mrs Peel or Mrs Marshall if you would like your child to attend these after half-term. Reminders of this will be sent home next week.**

Please also see additional letters informing you of keyboard & guitar tuition that is now available after the half-term break.

Friends of St Margaret Mary's & 100 Club Winner:

The Friends of St MM will be meeting after-school tonight at 3:00 pm & are still looking for parents & friends of the school who can support fundraising events or bring skills, experience & contacts that will help the school & all we are aiming to provide for our children. Please see Mrs Welch or myself if you require any further information.

The winner of January's 100 Club Draw is Steven Hawarth [**No. 50**]. Congratulations!

Chinese New Year Exhibition: 'The Year of the Dog'

We would like to invite you to our School Exhibition of the work completed during Chinese New Year, during the last few weeks. The children have produced some super work across all year groups & we look forward to showcasing this on **Friday 16th February from 2pm in the school hall.**

Dates for Diary:

Before we break for half-term, we will be providing key dates for the next half-term, including the **Spring Term Parents' Evening** that will take place on **Wednesday 8th March from 2:30-5pm & Thursday 9th March from 4:30-7pm**. Please see next week's newsletter for further dates. **A reminder that the school will close for half-term break next Friday 16th February at 3pm & will re-open on Monday 26th February at 8:55am.**

Once again many thanks for your continued support

Mr Sutton
Headteacher

Spring Half-Term Calendar of Key Events

W/B: 05.02.18

- Safer Internet Fortnight
- Mon 05.02.18 – 9:05 pm KS1 Internet Safety Assembly (Parents invited)
- Mon 05.02.18 – 2:25 pm KS2 Internet Safety Assembly (Parents invited)
- Mon 05.02.18 – 3:00 pm Y2 SATs Workshop (Y2 Classroom)
- Tue 06.02.18 – 3:00 p.m. Y6 SATs Workshop
- Wed 07.02.18 – 9:00 a.m. Y5B Class Assembly (Parents of Mr Breslin's Class Invited)
- Thu 08.02.18 – Y4 Trip to Brockholes Wildlife Reserve
- Fri 09.02.18 – 2:30 p.m. Rec/Nur Collective Worship (Parents of Miss Howell's Class Invited)

W/B: 12.02.18

- Safer Internet Fortnight
- **Tues 13.02.18 – Internet Safety Workshop 2:30pm (All Parents)**
- **Thu 15.02.18 – 2:30 p.m. 'Book Swap' – School Hall**
- **Fri 16.02.18 – 2:00 p.m. Chinese New Year Exhibition [Hall]**

School Closes Friday 16th February at 3:00 p.m. for half-term break
School Re-opens Monday 26th February at 8:55 a.m.

