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Mr M Sutton, Headteacher

Thursday 20th July 2023

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

Please see below a few important messages and reminders as we move towards the end of term.

A reminder that tomorrow is the final day of the school term and school will finish at the earlier time of 1pm, as per normal on the last day of term. A reminder that the children are to attend in full uniform.

Reports and Transition

Earlier this week you will have received your child's class report alongside other important assessment information for pupils in Rec/Y1/Y2/Y6. I do hope you find this useful in providing you with an update on your child's progress this year as well as many other aspects of their learning, school-life and development.

On Wednesday the children have completed a transition morning as they settle into their new class bases ahead of September.

Finally I would like to congratulate all of our children and staff on the fantastic results that they have achieved during the statutory tests this year. I am very proud of our amazing children and fantastic, committed staff team. These are just a very small snapshot and celebration of their wider journey and experience at St Margaret Mary's.

Summer Fayre and Friends of St Margaret Mary's

A really big thank-you to all who supported the Summer Fayre held last Friday after-school. It was lovely to come together again for such a school and community event. Everyone contributed to making it such a successful occasion, regardless of the damp weather!

It was lovely for the school community to come together and in the process raise approximately £2800. This is a fantastic amount and very much appreciated!!

I would also like to say a particular thanks to Mrs Welch, who helped to knit together and coordinate the event, the parents and friends of the school, staff and the many generous businesses who provided some wonderful prizes. Everyone was extremely generous with their time and efforts contributing to it being a great afternoon.

The winner of "Name the Dog" was correctly guessed by Curtis in Year 3 who won a huge cuddly toy dog!

The winner of "Name the Team" was correctly guessed by Ollie P in Year 3 who won a football and a 1 hour pass to Goals! Well done to all the other raffle prize winners.

Can we say a huge thank you to DDA Projects Ltd who generously donated all the ice lollies for our Summer Fayre. Thank you once again.

*thank
you*

Year Six

A special well done and congratulations to all of our Y6 children following their celebration assembly earlier this week. It was lovely to reflect upon their journey through the school and to celebrate all that they have achieved and experienced in their time since starting in Nursery, all those years ago. Thank-you to all of the families and staff who shared in the celebrations and made it a memorable evening. I would like to say a particular thanks again to the Friends of St Margaret Mary's who coordinated the refreshments, entertainment and decoration of the hall for the party afterwards. The children had a wonderful evening in celebrating together.

An additional word of thanks and celebration to the Y6 pupils who travelled to Camberwell Park Specialist School with Miss White, to perform in a special end of term assembly. The pupils 'signed' a rehearsed song and participated in an end of year reflection. Thank you to all involved and we hope to continue this link into the new year.



Goodbye and Good Luck

As mentioned last week, it is with sadness and wishes of good luck and thanks that we say goodbye to Miss O'Regan and Miss Jackson. We wish them all of our love and luck as they travel abroad to continue their teaching careers.

I would also like to say a special word of thanks to Mr Dolan, who sadly leaves us this term after many years supporting the school community. As a former Deputy Headteacher of the school, Mr Dolan returned to provide tuition two afternoons a week, for many years. In doing so Mr Dolan continued the warm, supportive, nurturing relationships he has had with so many children over the years. He will be sadly missed by children and staff but always a part of the St Margaret Mary's family and always welcome to pop in and see us.

On behalf of the whole school community I would like to say a very special thanks to all of the teachers and teaching assistants leaving us this term.

I am very appreciative of all of their efforts, support and contribution to our Mission at St Margaret Mary's. They will all be sadly missed, but we are excited for the future that lies ahead of them and wish them all the very best.

We say a very warm welcome to Miss Wilson and Miss Campbell from September. Miss Wilson will be joining our staff teaching team in Early Years and Miss Campbell will be joining us as our Y4 class teacher. Miss Wilson and Miss Campbell are former pupils of St Margaret Mary's and very excited about rejoining us just as we are.

We are also delighted to welcome back Mrs Heaton ahead of the new academic year in September, following her maternity leave and time with her family. Welcome back Mrs Heaton!



Holiday Calendar

As always we ask that you please consult the School Holiday Calendar 2023-2024 to ensure excellent attendance during the next academic year.

The children will return to school after the summer break on Tuesday 5th September at 8:45am. The Breakfast Club will be running this week as normal.

Uniform Reminder and PE Change

As the summer holidays approach we ask that you please ensure that ahead of September, all children have their full school uniform including **appropriate black, school shoes, not black trainers**. [Please see the school website for full list and further details]

From September we will be returning to the children coming to school in full uniform throughout the week and changing into their PE kit in school, when they have PE sessions. A reminder that the children are to wear a pair of plain black shorts and a plain white t-shirt for PE, not branded or other sportswear. This is to support affordability and ensure that all of children are in the same PE kit. Many thanks for your support with this.

School uniform

LSC Holiday Club

Once again, LSC are running their fantastic holiday club provision at St Margaret Mary's over the summer. To find out more information, or to book, please visit: <https://www.wearelsc.co.uk/book/>



Year Six Reflection

I would like to take this final opportunity to celebrate and congratulate our Year Six cohort of children as they come towards the end of their journey at St Margaret Mary's.

As a school and staff, we feel very privileged and proud to have worked with them and their families during this journey and are excited for the future that lies ahead of them all. I know that they will keep in touch and will always be in our hearts and minds. This is definitely not an ending but a foundation and a forging of person. I hope that their experiences are ones that they will remember for life and that the relationships, memories and bonds made over the last eight years stay with them.

School Dinners Change

Over the course of the year we have brought in changes to school menus and the sourcing of ingredients. We believe the result of this has been a school meal provision that is home-made from scratch, nutritious and of real quality. I know that this has been very positively commented upon by our children and also parents who attended our taster sessions and could not believe the quality of food.

As a result of rising food and energy costs we are having to change our school meal charge from 5th September to £2.55 per day. This is something that we have tried to absorb for a number of years but are now unable to. The increase is in-line with other schools that we have contacted and the national DfE recommended charge rate for primary schools. Although increasing we believe this to be really good value for money. Many thanks for your understanding with this.



PIC•COLLAGE

Building Works: Kitchen Rebuild

Over the summer holidays work will commence on a school kitchen rebuild. The plan is to build a kitchen onto our school hall, locating this on the elevation side of the Junior Playground. When completed the plan is to demolish the existing kitchen and dining hall, with meals being served from the school hall, as is usual in most schools. As a future improvement to our school building we are pleased to have been given this money and opportunity by the Diocese of Salford. We expect the site and all health and safety measures to be set up during the summer holidays, with works commencing during the autumn term. Meetings are to take place over the holidays and I look forward to updating you further when we return in September. Please note the LSC Holiday Club will still operate as planned and as normal.

CLASS OF 2023

The Year 6 children had a fantastic time performing at their Leavers' Assembly and enjoyed the disco afterwards.





Please note there may be additional dates added to the following:

Friday 21st July 2023	School closes for summer break at 1.00 p.m.
Tuesday 5th September 2023	School opens after summer break
Friday 20th October 2023	School closes for half-term
Monday 30th October 2023	School closed ~ Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 31st October 2023	School opens after half-term
Wednesday 20th December 2023	School closes for the Christmas holidays
Monday 8th January 2024	School opens after Christmas holidays

Once again I am very proud of all the children, staff and governors of St Margaret Mary's and how we continue to work together towards our Mission. It is important to reflect on all of the achievements, hard-work and shared experiences that we have had over the course of the last academic year. Once again it is a privilege to work with our children and you their parents and families as a school community. Thank-you once again for all of your support. It is very much appreciated!

I wish you all a very peaceful, enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you and our children again in September.

Once again, my sincere thanks for your continued support throughout this academic year and God Bless!

Mr Sutton
Headteacher

The value of rest and recuperation is one that Pope Francis has highlighted importantly saying:
"Rest is so necessary for the health of our minds and bodies, and often so difficult to achieve due to the many demands placed on us. But rest is also essential for our spiritual health, so that we can hear God's voice and understand what he asks of us." Pope Francis