

# Parents' Information for Year Two



St. Margaret's  
Preparatory School

Welcome to Y2 and the second year of the Middle Years Department at St. Margaret's Prep School. This booklet is designed to help you understand and prepare your child for the many experiences they are about to be introduced to. The children will receive lessons in a range of subjects with some being specialist taught. Each subject is outlined below with the topics to be covered, though staff reserve the right to make alterations without consultation.

### **Uniform:**

For the day-to day uniform for pupils in Years 1 and 2 please refer to the list on the parent's section of our school website. Children must have their puffa jackets, school gloves and warm school hats available on cold days. In the Summer Term, pupils must bring in their legionnaire hat and their own named bottle of suntan lotion. Pupils are expected to have smart uniform at all times and girls with long hair must have it tied up using bobbles or a scrunchie in the school colours. When in uniform, children are representing St Margaret's Prep and should be showing their best behaviour, ensuring that they travel to and from school in full uniform.

### **Games Kit:**

Children are responsible for their own kit, but please help them by ensuring everything is labelled. Kit should be stored in a school PE bag and kept in their own plastic box under the bench in the corridor. Please note Year 2 have extra items to Year 1—see website for details.

### **Lost Property:**

Children are encouraged to take care of all their belongings. If however, named items are mislaid they will be returned to the child as soon as possible. Unnamed items will be taken to the Lost Property basket at the bottom of the spiral stairs in the main building.

## Registration and Dismissal:

Registration is at 8.45am but we would like the children to arrive as soon after 8.30am as possible so that we can hear readers and check messages from home. Parents are encouraged to leave their children at the front door of the LAF Building and allow them to make their own way to their pegs and sort out bags. We aim to encourage independence and a pupil's ability to organise their own belongings. If you urgently need to see the class teacher you are very welcome to come into the classroom or an appointment can be made for after school.

Each morning the children will need their snack, water bottle and book bag containing their reading book, spelling book, times tables book, homework diary and any homework. If you have any messages for the form teacher please write them in the homework diary. Where directed, fees and any correspondence, should be placed in the basket in the Gallery.

Dismissal for Year 2 is from the front door of the LAF building at 3.30pm. If you have a child with an older sibling they can go to Sibling Waiters located in one of the LAF building classrooms. These children will be dismissed at 3.50pm from the front doors. Pre-Prep pupils who have not been collected will be escorted to Late Waiters, which is held in one of the Reception classrooms (There is a charge for this service). You are asked to remember that the rest of the school are still working at this point, so your children should remain with you and be on their best behaviour.

You will be asked to complete a Dismissal Permission Form at the start of the academic year, detailing which adults are allowed to collect your child. If your child is going home with an adult on a one-off basis, please can you write a note in your child's homework diary giving permission. We will be unable to release the child without this. If your child travels on the bus, the school office by email or telephone if alternative arrangements have been made.

## **Clubs:**

We offer a range of clubs, both before and after school (starting at 8am and usually free) and after school (for which there is a charge). Details of these are published in the termly calendar. Generally, clubs begin on the first week of term, and dates are shown on the clubs letter.

If a club has to be cancelled for any reason, parents will be informed via Parentmail.

## **Homework:**

Homework is set each night. Reading will be given as homework every night and spellings and multiplication tables will be given to learn over a week, then they will be tested. There will be set Maths homework given on Monday night and English on Friday. On occasion pupils may be asked to finish off a piece of work or research a topic. Homework should take no longer than 30 mins to complete and although we welcome support from parents we would want you to encourage your child to be as independent as possible. In the event of a Snow Day, appropriate work is available on the school website for downloading.

Where holiday homework is issued this is optional and should be returned to the class teacher if you so choose.

## **Reading:**

We feel that reading is essential for the development of vocabulary, a broadening of experience and also for pure pleasure. In Year 2, pupils will continue to read through our Cliff Moon Scheme, which has been developed to introduce them to a wide range of genres. It is, however, important your child sees this as an active pursuit and develops the skill to read out loud successfully and to understand the text. To assist with this, we ask you to:

- Listen to your child read each night
- Complete the homework diary
- List unfamiliar words at the side of the reading diary so they can be checked
- Ask questions about the plot, pictures and characters
- Make predictions about the developing plot
- Discuss why the author has used certain words
- Take your child to the local Library to help them to select a range of suitable and interesting books

You have already received a reading guidance booklet at the curriculum meeting.

## English:

At this stage, the children are beginning to read fluently with expression and remember more key words. They should read every night and parents are asked to listen to them and record all readings in their homework diaries with the page number reached. Children need to read through our reading scheme to ensure different vocabulary, story ideas and structures are experienced.

Regular visits to the school library are encouraged, where there is a wonderful selection of fiction and non-fiction books for all reading abilities. You can log on online to browse our catalogue at <https://u020502.microlibrarian.net/>. See the website for further details. Handwriting lessons continue and children are encouraged to use the correct grip and letter formation (see the handout for details). We follow the Nelson style of handwriting and this year we focus on all letters being of the correct size, orientation and by the end of the year are joined or beginning to join.

In written work we encourage the use of dictionaries and the children's own attempts at words. Formal lessons in grammar, comprehension, phonics and punctuation are taught alongside creative work.

Spellings are set in the week and tested the following week. Spellings are usually based around the sounds learnt, however this may vary throughout the year. We will use a variety of strategies to learn and review spellings.

## **Maths:**

Regular mental and oral work in the form of Big Maths is taught daily and assessed on a weekly basis. We also work on revision of tens and units number work and introduce hundreds, tens and units. Practical topics will cover money, shape, time, fractions, measuring and data. Any opportunities at home for your child to count and use money, tell the time on both analogue and digital (12 hour) clocks or weigh or measure items will enhance their learning experience.

The children will have a weekly times table test, beginning with 2s, 5s and 10s. It is essential that these are practised each night so that they become fluent. In addition, practising number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 is also essential. We may also ask them to learn Big Maths Learn-its (number facts you just need to know).

We have also provided lots of links to websites and games on line for different Maths topics if you visit the Year 2 pupils area on the school website.

## **Science:**

Science takes place each week with practical activities, discussions, experiments and written work. Topics include: Variation, Using Electricity, Grouping & Changing Materials, Health and Growth, Forces & Movement and Plants & Animals in the Local Environment. These topics give the children many opportunities for experimenting and group activities where they are encouraged to record their findings and results. Lessons will take place in the classroom and school grounds. We thoroughly recommend you signing up for the free Planet Science Under-11 online newsletter ([http://www.planet-science.com/categories/under\\_11s.aspx](http://www.planet-science.com/categories/under_11s.aspx)) for your child and allowing them (under supervision) to explore the site and undertake some of the experiments it suggests. Many pupils also enjoy the monthly National Geographic Kids magazine (<http://www.nationalgeographic-kids.co.uk>) to which you can subscribe as this contains a wealth of interesting facts about our planet.

## **Computing:**

Lessons take place in our ICT suite which is well equipped with computers, a colour printer and scanner. In classrooms they also have access to a computer, timetabled laptops and an interactive whiteboard. A lot of our ICT work is cross curricular and we encourage the use of computers at home to develop skills and to research projects.

## **History/Geography:**

Our topics this year include: Geography – Cold Lands; Rainforests; A Local Study.

History – Famous Aviators and Famous Nurses. We will look at aviators such as The Wright Brothers and Montgolfier Brothers. Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole will be amongst the famous nurses that we study. We will also study historic events such as The Great Fire of London, The Moon Landings and The Sinking of the Titanic. In the Summer Term we will learn about the Vikings. We aim to make these topics cross curricular and fun. See the Year 2 section of the website for links to relevant websites.

## **Art/DT:**

Art and DT have close links at this stage with all our topics and much of the work created will be displayed proudly in classrooms and around the school.

Children will be taught to use a range of materials creatively to design and make products. They will use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas and experiences. They will develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space.

## **PE:**

Children have one PE lesson a week (Wednesday) and a double Games lesson (Monday). On Monday both classes need to come to school dressed in their Games kit. On Wednesday both classes should come dressed in their PE kit. They should bring their school uniform to change back into on both days.

The children will participate in the following activities:

Autumn Term: ball handling and football skills.

Spring Term: hockey and tag rugby.

Summer Term: hitting and striking skills

Games kit for Autumn and Spring Terms:

rugby shirt and shorts, long socks, track suit, trainers, shin pads and football boots.

Summer term : As PE Kit plus a track suit.

PE kit: Yellow shirt, shorts, short blue socks and trainers.

## **French and Music:**

All children will have Music lessons in the Music Room and French lessons in the classroom during the week, with specialist teachers. During Music lessons in Year 2 children will start playing the recorder. The introduction of Music notation facilitates the learning of instruments later on. Children get one piece to learn each week and will be expected to practise a few minutes a week. There are a limited number of recorders and books available in school and will cost in the region of £10 per pack. If you prefer to buy your own, we would request that you purchase a brown Yamaha or Aulos recorder. The book is 'Recorder Magic' Book 1. Children will have one Music and Movement lesson a week on a Tuesday. They do not require any kit for this.

## **RE/PSHEE:**

In Year 2, Religious Education topics will cover: Special Things in Nature, Special Ways of Living, Special Words and Stories and Special Places. The topics will be taught through discussion, circle time, stories, activities and looking at artefacts and resources. In addition to weekly RE lessons, pupils attend two assemblies per week and either a third assembly or hymn practice on Mondays. Each day a prayer is said at the end of lunch and the school prayer is recited at the end of the day. In PSHEE, children are taught a wide variety of concepts including Growing and Changing, Relationships and Feelings, Money and Class Rules.

## **Learning Support:**

All the children are closely monitored, from observation, using their class work and through regular testing. If at any point we are concerned, you will be contacted and a strategy put into place to help your child. Similarly, if you have any specific concerns about your child's progress, please feel free to bring this to our attention.

## **General:**

We believe that, for a child to succeed, a close partnership between home and school is essential. We are always available before or directly after school if you wish to discuss anything. Form teachers are always available if you have any queries and we are happy to see you.

There will be Parents' Evenings in the Autumn and Spring Terms to discuss your child's progress and a report at the end of the year.

We hope that this will help you to get an overview of life in Y2 and we look forward to seeing you!



Mrs Lunn is the 2L form teacher. Mrs Lunn has been teaching at St Margaret's since 2012. Her youngest son is in Year 6 and her eldest son left the school this summer.



Mrs Barber will be 2B's form teacher. She has taught at St. Margaret's since 2013 and is the Head of Pre-Prep.