



**Friday, 28th
September, 2018**

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to see many of you at the annual Macmillan tea party on Friday. Thank you so much for your generous donations of cakes and for supporting this event. Thank you especially to the parents of our Head Girl and Boy for their work organising this event. Very much appreciated.

Friday began with yet more very generous donations, this time for the Braintree Foodbank as part of our Harvest Festival celebrations. Year 1's assembly continued the theme of last week – being thankful for what we have – and also took this a step further in highlighting the importance of sharing what we have with those less fortunate. The children spoke beautifully and delivered a charming assembly. Well done too Mrs Griffith and Mrs Salmon.

I wanted to give you a update on the innovation lab as I know it is a project that many of you have taken a keen interest in. The room will be usable by the mid point of next week as the furniture arrived this week – unfortunately the lead times for these items were rather longer than anticipated. We have had some challenges in securing training for the staff and children and I was very keen that this training should be of a high quality. A planned session in September was cancelled and we have re-scheduled for mid November where all the children will have the chance to spend an hour in the lab with a trained Apple teacher who will guide them and the staff in how the technology in the lab can be used to enhance the curriculum. The trainer will be with us for two days and will also deliver an evening training session to the staff. Though the delay has been frustrating for all I firmly believe that we need to have staff who are confident in using the technology if this project is going to embed and thrive. Further to this, we are hoping to give the children the chance to name the facility and also to design a sign that we will put outside the room. Our plan is to invite the children to enter a competition over ½ term. More news on that in due course.

Finally, I need to make you aware that I will be away from school for the week beginning 8th October as I will be attending the annual Cognita Heads Conference. Mrs Moss will act as head during that time.

Have a very restful weekend

Callum Douglas
@HeadStMargsPrep

**House Points this
week**

Nugent - 100

Knight - 88

Wentworth - 104

Rolfe - 113

Congratulations

Rolfe!



The 2018 Rotary Christmas 'Shoe Box' Scheme

There are only a few boxes left to sell. All filled boxes will need to be back in school by Wednesday 17th October as they are being collected by Rotary on Thursday 18th at 09:30 am. Boxes are on sale for £2 each, and Year 6 are walking through the classrooms selling the boxes each morning.



2018 ISA Regional Art Competition Entries



Secret Worlds - In the style of Louise Nevelson - Year 4

My brother and I - Adam R



Rainforest Mosaic - Year 4



Night Time Owl - Adam R

Octopus - Lula R



Cat and Mouse - Bethany I

QUESTION OF THE WEEK ?

Who Are The Leadership Team (LT)

Mr Douglas has a fantastic team around him who are made up of the Deputy Head, the Head's of each school department (Early Years, Pre-Prep and Prep, together with the Business Manager. We asked them to introduce themselves ...

Carolyn Moss – Deputy Head

carolyn.moss@stmargaretsprep.com



After a Masters degree in Economics, an MBA and an exciting and challenging career as a management consultant specialising in sex discrimination in the workplace, I retrained as a secondary maths teacher. I began working at St Margaret's when my own children were tiny and have stayed - they're now at university and sixth form college respectively. Where did the time go? I job-share the 6M Form Teacher role with Mrs Revell and, as Deputy Head and Designated

Safeguarding Lead, hold responsibility for the pastoral and curriculum matters in school for all pupils. I also currently teach children in Year 4, 5 and 6 each week and regularly work with the pupils in the other year groups. I thoroughly enjoy working with the children, parents and staff and seeing our pupils grow into wonderful Year 6s, who are such great ambassadors for our school.

Charlotte Mackle – Head of Prep

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I graduated from Homerton College in Cambridge in 1987; since then I have taught at schools as far afield as Gibraltar and Scotland. My passion has always been teaching maths. I joined St. Margaret's in 2003 and completed a second degree in Psychology in 2015; as I have always been interested in mental health I wanted to keep myself up to date with current thinking. My own two daughters came through St. Margaret's. This sparked in both of them an interest in

science – one is now a Medical Physics PhD student and one is completing an Engineering degree. I am Head of Maths, PSHEE and Educational Visits Co-ordinator (which means I make sure all our trips are run safely) in addition to my role as Head of Prep.

Corinna Barber – Head of Pre Prep

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I qualified as a teacher in 2012 having studied a three year degree in Primary Education at Anglia Ruskin University in Chelmsford. I joined the team here at St. Margaret's in September 2013 after completing some of my training here in 2011- I just couldn't stay away! In 2016 I graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Education which gave me the opportunity to research different areas of education including the teaching of reading, writing and phonics. During the course of my career I have taught Years 1 and

2 and thoroughly enjoy looking after the children and staff in the LAF Building in my role as Head of Pre Prep. My particular areas of interest are phonics and teaching of reading.

Louise Laurie – Head of Early Years

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I first visited St Margaret's 20 years ago as a prospective parent for my two children. Mrs Boyton Corbett the then Headmistress offered me a job the same day! I started a couple of terms later in the Nursery. I am a Reception teacher, the Early Years Safeguarding Lead and I also lead the whole Early Years team (Nursery and Reception). The most rewarding part of my job is watching the children flourish and progress from

Nursery to Year 6 and then later seeing them return to the School and reflecting on their cherished moments.

Sara Moutard – School Business Manager

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My role at St Margaret's started in September 2010. I was initially involved in marketing, purchasing and various administrative functions. In 2012 I took over as Bursar. My job title has changed recently to reflect the more modern terminology of School Business Manager. I started my career in the Property Law Section at Essex County Council before spending two years in South Florida where I worked again in

property law and where I also learnt to play a fairly nifty game of American 8 ball pool! Upon my return to the UK my career resumed in the Legal Section at Braintree District Council. Throughout my 22 years there I worked in various roles – from managing car parks, markets and public toilets to heading up the corporate policy and performance team. My family moved to Gosfield in 1962 and I now live in the same road that I grew up in – and what a great place Gosfield was to grow up in! I remember riding ponies along Hall Drive and putting them out to graze in the orchard at St Margaret's – the site of the current netball courts! I live with my partner Steve (an electrician) and my 19 year old son, Philip who works in the fire alarm systems industry. We are in the throes of completing the construction of our new house and are hoping to move in early next year. Stressful but exciting times!

Future Sporting Stars...



Watch out the Brownlee Brothers!

"On Saturday I did a triathlon at Hever Castle. I had to swim 100m, bike 4km and run 1.3km. In my heat I came 6th in the swim, but the cycling was really hard because there were lots of hills and I got stuck behind some slower people. It was cold and wet but I'm still really pleased I did it.

I came 133rd out of 500 people. Next year I want to do it again and get better and better."

Dylan A (5M)

Future Team GBR Star?

Another future sports star was competing at the weekend at the Tendring Hundred

Riding Club, near Clacton. **Isabella P (6B)** was competing for St. Margaret's, also in heavy rain, Isabella qualified for both the 60cm and 70cm Grass Roots finals, finishing 3rd in both. She also competed in her first, and more testing, Regional Points Level 70cm class and won it, gaining St. Margaret's their first points at this level - she was the youngest out of 11 competitors - the age limit is 18.



Very well done to both of you!



Harvest Festival 2018

The Hall was laden with the most amazing range of products ahead of our Harvest Festival today - two of our dining tables groaned under the weight, and the later donations spread onto the floor. All donations this year are going to help stock the warehouse for the Braintree FoodBank. Thank you all. We were entertained by a brilliant assembly from Year 1, before Mrs Moss helped load the gifts into the vehicles which had come to collect the items for the Foodbank.



Homework - Quiet Garden Planting

A reminder that we are asking for all children to please bring their bulb into school on Monday 1st October and we will supply a plastic tag which they can name and place next to their bulb. This will help identify everything in the spring.

We have taken delivery of a load of new trowels to help our little green fingered gardeners!

Thank you for your help with this exciting project and we look forward to a riot of colour early in 2019.

St Margaret's Staff.



Macmillan - Coffee and Cake

The generosity of our parents has been utterly astounding today. What with an incredible amount of donations for the Harvest Festival collection for the Braintree FoodBank this morning, this afternoon saw the result of this weeks collection of cakes and raffle prizes for the annual Coffee & Cake for Macmillan. Mr Douglas had his office filled with sweet treats last night, and again this morning ... he managed to resist! We will announce the final total as soon as possible. Enjoy your cakes this weekend!



WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT



Year 2 @ RAF Hendon

Year 2 went on a very exciting trip this week to RAF Hendon Museum. The children were able to see a large selection of aeroplanes and helicopters which demonstrated some of the aspects of flying they have been learning about in their topic of Famous Aviators. We were lucky enough to have a knowledgeable guide who showed us around and gave us a talk on helicopters. The children made rotor blades from paper and card and then completed an experiment to see which fell fastest.



After a delicious and much awaited lunch, the children could explore the aeronauts area which has practical activities for them to try out.

Sketch books in hand we visited another hangar of planes and the children sketched planes of their choice. It was a thoroughly successful trip and the children were pretty tired after a lot of walking and a lot of learning!

Thank you to the parent helpers who came on the trip to help Mrs Lunn and Mrs Crallan.

Following on from their trip, Year 2 also had a special visitor today...

Visit from a pilot

We had a visit from First Officer Marrington who was a pilot before she had Eli and Ben! We really enjoyed ourselves asking lots of questions about flying. These are some of them:

How did you become a pilot?

She always dreamed of being pilot even from an early age. You have to be good at maths and science at school. She went to college and had to pass lots of tests. Then she got a license to fly. After all that she had to do 60 hours of flying before she could get a job.

What plane did you learn in?

A Piper PA28 which is 4 seater plane but it is very small so it is more like a 2 seater plane.

How high does your plane go?

46,000 feet up (about 6 miles up)

What is the biggest plane you have flown?

A 4 engine jet RJ100

Do pilots have to go through security?

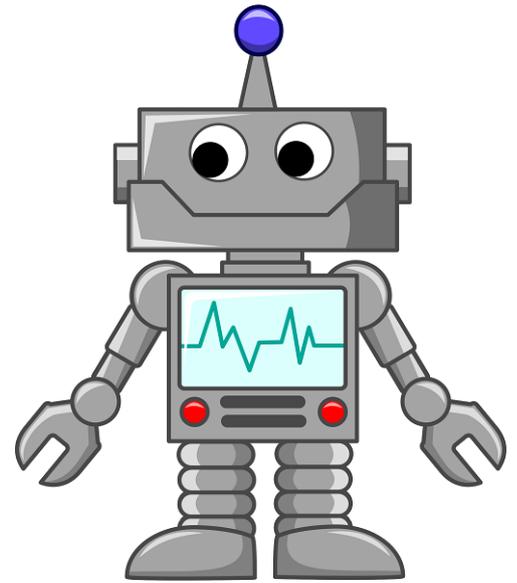
Yes the do! Eli's dad who is also a pilot gets very annoyed about it as he has to queue up with all the passengers.



We are delighted to share an example of some fabulous creative writing:

My Robot Story

It was a cold, wet, miserable day and nine year old Alex was tired of doing her boring homework (she says it's too easy for her!). Alex decided to build a robot to do all her homework for her. She built a huge, monstrous robot and decided to call it 8OR15. The robot had a few rusty pieces and a couple of small fissures, but Alex was extremely happy. Soon 8OR15 was doing all of her homework and getting her an A+ for all her subjects.



Alex was sitting on her comfortable bed when suddenly she saw 8OR15 slowing down. Then it sounded like 8OR15 was sighing. Alex got up and started checking all his codes and scanning his processor. Sure enough she had accidentally given her robot feelings! Alex asked 8OR15 what was wrong and his reply made Alex cry with laughter. He said,

"I hate doing homework and my life long dream is t..t..to be a ballerina". After quite a bit of laughter Alex demanded that 8OR15 continued to do her homework because that's what she had made him to do. Alex was playing on her shiny red iPad while 8OR15 performed a beautiful ballet dance. But in the corner of Alex's eye she saw 8OR15, his dance brought a tear to Alex's eye. So she promised to do whatever she could to make him a famous ballerina.

Alex even called the Royal Ballet School in London and asked if 8OR15 could audition and Alex called 8OR15 Boris. But the office just laughed and said,

"Robots can't do ballet!" 8OR15 was extremely upset. Alex thought for a minute and then had an idea. "Listen, I've had an idea," she whispered. "How about if we sneak into the Royal Ballet School?" So they did, they snuck through the door behind a very posh looking family. Alex and 8OR15 then snuck into a VIP only room which happened to be the room that the head of the ballet school was in. So 8OR15 jumped on the stage in the room and Alex played the music on her mum's old phone. The head was known as the harshest person in the world. But 8OR15's dance bought a tear to even her eye. So 8OR15 got to be a famous ballerina and Alex had to do her own homework once again!

By Maya E (4C)

Meet your new St Margaret's school reporters!

These enthusiastic and budding writers will be bringing you exciting news from within the school. Look out for them as they will be interviewing you at different events throughout the year.



Joel



Petru



Peggy



Ava L



Jaime



Noa



Isabella P



Charlie L



Orla

Nick Butterworth is here!

On the 4th October Nick Butterworth the wonderful author is coming to our school. We are very excited to welcome him to our school. He will read and share his books with the children throughout the day. At the end of the day, there will be an opportunity to buy his books and experience a meet and greet where he will sign your books. We hope you have your creative writing hats on as you only have a few days to prepare!

National Poetry Day

Thursday the 4th is also National Poetry day and we would like you to think about your favourite poem. Mrs Crowley's favourite is written by Robert Louis Stevenson and it is called 'From a Railway Carriage.' Peggy Foggo and Ava Leedham love 'Chocolate Cake' by Michael Rosen. This poet is also a favourite of Charlie Larkin, who enjoys 'No Breathing'

Thank you to everyone who supported us at our AGM and we're really excited about the year ahead! We are actively seeking volunteers for all our events so please get in touch if you would like to help on stmagspa@gmail.com.

Elaine

Elaine Crisp, PA Chair.

Local talent Nick Butterworth, author of Percy the Park Keeper and friends, is coming to visit St. Margaret's School for a whole day of workshops on the 4th October 2018.

He will also be inviting parents to a seminar in the evening at 6.30pm in Lowe Hall where he'll talk about the importance of reading with your children. There'll be a film night for children from Year 1 onwards on the same evening, so there is no need to book a babysitter!

Books will be available to purchase at the event and Nick will be happy to sign copies.

Christmas Shopping Event- 14th November

Get all your Christmas shopping done at our Christmas Shopping Event on the 14th November 2018!

A perfect opportunity to get into the festive spirit and purchase quality gifts and treats. The list of stall holders will be published on our Facebook page very soon and we promise you won't be disappointed.



Innovation Lab Update- Exciting News!!!!

We're getting closer to the official opening of our Innovation Lab all the time!

This week the furniture arrived and very soon everyone will get a chance to have a good look.

Next Week's Menu Choices



THIS WEEK'S MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Dish of the day Mild Chicken Curry	Dish of the day Sausage Plait	Dish of the day Spaghetti Bolognese	Dish of the day Breaded Fish Finger with Tartar Sauce and Crispy Potato Wedges	Dish of the day Roasted Gammon Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy
Vegetarian Vegetable & Chickpea Curry	Vegetarian Crustless Vegetable Quiche	Vegetarian Vegetable Spaghetti Bolognese	Vegetarian Sweet Potato & Feta Wrap	Vegetarian Stuffed Aubergine
Jacket Potato Baked Beans	Lightly Seasoned Pasta Italian Basil Pesto	Jacket Skins Tuna & Cheese & Spring Onion	Lightly Seasoned Pasta Creamy Mushroom Sauce	
Sides Pitta Bread Braised Rice & Mango Chutney	Sides Mash/Savoy Cabbage Beans	Sides Garlic Bread/Green Salad	Sides Petit Pois Baked Beans	Sides Roast Potatoes Seasonal Vegetables
Freshly Prepared Salad Bar with Cold meat platters	Freshly Prepared Salad Bar with Cold meat platters	Freshly Prepared Salad Bar with Cold meat platters	Freshly Prepared Salad Bar with Cold meat platters	Freshly Prepared Salad Bar with Cold meat platters
Soup of the Day with Freshly Baked Bread ***	Soup of the Day with Freshly Baked Bread ***	Soup of the Day with Freshly Baked Bread ***	Soup of the Day with Freshly Baked Bread ***	Soup of the Day with Freshly Baked Bread ***
Fresh Fruit Yoghurt Apple & Rhubarb Crumble &	Fresh Fruit Yoghurt Choc Chip Cookie	Fresh Fruit Yoghurt Sultana & Pumpkin Flapjack	Fresh Fruit Yoghurt Lemon Drizzle Cake	Fresh Fruit Yoghurt Fruit Jelly

Dates for your diary...

1st October

Maths Confidence for Parents, 2.45 - 3.45pm

2nd October

Year 5 & 6 Architectural Workshops

5th October

Year 4 Assembly

8th October

Maths Confidence for Parents, 2.45 - 3.45pm

9th October

Year 6 Trip to The Leys, Shakespeare Workshop

Year 4 Parents to Lunch - 12.30pm

11th October

ISA U9 Football, Alley Court

Year 6 Parents' Evening - 5.30 - 8.30pm

12th October

Year 3 Assembly

15th October

Maths Confidence for Parents, 2.45 - 3.45pm

17th October

ISA Swimming Gala, Ipswich Crown Pools

18th October

Year 3 trip to St. Catherine's Church, Gosfield

19th October

Reception Assembly

Prep 'Alternative Sport' Afternoon

BREAK FOR HALF TERM

Parents and Grandparents are welcome to join us for Class Assemblies (9.00am) and for coffee afterwards



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