

St. Margaret's Preparatory School

Weekly Newsletter



Friday 9th November,

Head's Update

Dear Parents

I do hope you all managed to enjoy some quality time with the children over the half term break. It is only when the pupils (and staff) come back in November that you realise how tired everyone was at the end of such a long half of term. Straight into another busy week and another to follow.

It has to be said that having a residential trip on the first 3 days back after the holiday is comes with some interesting challenges but as ever, Year 4 and the staff coped admirably. The children had a fantastic time on this 2 night residential which has a distinctly different flavour to our other 'over-nighters'. It is worth remembering that in September 2016 the school offered residential trips to Year 5 and 6 which has now extended down to Year 3 and 4. These trips are a significant undertaking for the staff and especially the trip leader. My thanks to Mrs Blackburne, Mrs Howells and Mr Croft for giving up their time so generously on the trip and especially to Mr Clinch the trip leader.

Renowned children's author Chloe Inkpen's visit to Reception and Pre Prep on Tuesday was fabulous – watching her hold the children captivated was truly inspirational. Thank you Mrs Crowley for your efforts in coordinating this and the upcoming Prep version. I had the privilege of dropping in on a Year 3 lesson with Miss Gutteridge this week – as expected, the children were working very hard and I particularly enjoyed the sung times tables! One of the changes we have made this year is that the staff get no notice if I or another member of the Leadership Team is going to observe them teach. As you can imagine, having the head appear in your classroom can be a source of some concern but I am always confident that what I will see will be of good quality or better.

I spoke to the children in Friday's assembly on the subject of remembrance and at 11.00 we had our traditional remembrance service. As ever the children responded to this with thoughtful respect. I have encouraged them to at least watch some of the televised remembrance service on Sunday if they are not able to get to a ceremony themselves. Next week really is a busy one so do please take a careful note the Notices and diary dates at the end of this newsletter and also information about Anti Bullying and Children in Need events.

Callum Douglas @HeadStMargsPrep



Find us on Facebook

Follow us and follow Mr Douglas on Twitter

The first Bronze House Point award of this year was awarded before half term to Maya E (4C)

John G-L (4C) and Luca P (3G) have since earned their bronze awards

Well done to all of you

Language certificates this week go to:

French

for Dylan A (5M) for superb extension work, writing options

Spanish

for Esme B (4C) for wonderful extension work on ordering in a café

House Points

Nugent 65

Knight 65

Wentworth 56

Rolfe 38

Congratulations Nugent and Knight!

ISA National Swimming Finalists

Congratulations to Siena B (6B), Alice F (5C), Florence B (4H), and Jacob F (4C) who have all qualified for the ISA National Swimming Finals! They will be all be a part of the team from the East of England and will compete at the Olympic Park in London on 1st December

Florence will be swimming 50m front crawl and will also be a part of her year group's relay team, Alice will be swimming the 50m front crawl, the 50m backstroke and will also be part of her year group's relay team, Siena will be swimming 50m backstroke, the back stroke in her year group's medley relay and freestyle in her year group's relay team and Jacob will be swimming in his year group's relay team. This is a phenomenal success for the school. Well done to each and every one of you.

ISA U10 Tag Tournament - Littlegarth School

On a cold and wet afternoon, St Margaret's took two teams to compete in the ISA U10 tag tournament at Littlegarth.

St. Margaret's A first faced Colchester High. It was a close game with both teams defending well. Stanly scored a brilliant solo try late in the match to win 1-0.

They then face Faraday, again defending well and conceding no tries. It was difficult to build an attack as the wind and rain had picked causing handling mistakes from both teams. Again, Stanly scoring the only try of the match. 1-0.

The third game saw St. Margaret's A take on St. Margaret's B, a game that was sure to be the most hard fought. This wasn't to be the case and surprisingly both teams took their foot off the gas. However, Stanly, Albie, Dylan and Henry B all touched down. 4-0.

The final game of table was against Littlegarth. Both teams played well with the ball moving from end to end. Both teams also defended well resulting in no tries being scored. 0-0.

This put the team in the 1v2 playoff which saw them face Colchester High again. With spirits high the boys took to the field, playing their best rugby off the day. They moved the ball well and ran good lines. Colchester Defended well and kept our attacks at bay. Colchester touched down in the corner from a breakaway try, winning the game 0-1.

St. Margaret's A finishing 2nd overall in the tournament. I would like to say a huge well done to all boys involved.

Tom Clifton - Boy's Games

Visiting Author - Chloë Inkpen

On Tuesday 6th November we were delighted to welcome the hugely talented author/illustrator Chloë Inkpen to school.

Chloë ran a series of wonderful, interactive, picture book sessions with Reception and Pre-Prep, really bringing her stories to life and enthusing the children with her infectious joy of reading. These workshops will really support the literacy work we do at school.

Pictures are on Facebook, and Mr Douglas has posted a wonderful video clip with Arabella in Reception on his [Twitter page](#). (click to follow the link)

Chloë is pictured here reading her new book, Mrs Blackhat, to the children in Reception - it was a joy to watch her, she had the children totally spellbound!



Rotary Christmas shoe boxes



Thank you to everybody who supported the Rotary Christmas shoe box scheme before half term.

Rotary were unable to deliver as many boxes to school as usual, but we still managed to fill 100 boxes which were collected by the President of Halstead Rotary Club, Keith Brownlie.

The boxes will be sent out to eastern European countries in time for Christmas. We know how much our children love taking part in this appeal.

Service of Remembrance

As the 11th November has approached, and the wearing of poppies becomes commonplace, we have felt that it is vital that all the children understand the meaning and the significance of the poppy. Year 6 have been selling poppies and children in the nursery have created their own poppies to wear for today's service.

We were very proud of every single child in school today, the level of respect that was shown during the minute silence was remarkable.

Dr Fraser had arranged a version of The Last Post, usually played by a solo bugler, for a woodwind/brass ensemble and the result was beautiful, adding to the very moving act of remembrance.



Thank you all for supporting the Royal British Legion by buying the poppies and other poppy related items which we have been selling for them.

Lost or Found Property

Do you have any items of uniform or other items of property missing? Have you found an item of uniform in your child's bag that doesn't belong to you?

Please let Mrs Last know by emailing her on julie.last@stmargaretsprep.com, and we will include details in a new section within the newsletter.



Junior Reporter's Club

Our Favourite Books

With the visits to school by children's authors, it has prompted a discussion in the club about our favourite books and we would love to hear about what you are reading at home and in school. Parents and children can share what they are reading via the box in the library.



"My favourite book at the moment is Mrs Pepperpot stories by Alf Proyson.

I like it because it is funny and she becomes as small as a pepper pot in the most inconvenient moments.

She thinks of the most amazing ideas, always gets her own way and never loses"

By Noa O (4H)



"My favourite book at the moment is When Hitler Stole a Rabbit by Judith Kerr.

I loved this story because I can relate to my own family in the plot.

I am curious to why the family had to leave Switzerland and I feel sorry for the main character, Anna, who had to move through three countries by the age of 10."

By Petru A (6M)

If you have a story that you would like our junior reporter's to write about on here, please let Mrs Crowley know and she will see if it something the club might be able to report about.

Our intrepid journalists are:

Joel R (3G), Petru, Peggy F (5M), Ava L (3G), Jaime P (5M), Noa, Isabella P (6B), Charlie L (5C) and Orla B (4C)



Question of the Week

Friendships are incredibly important to my daughter but girls can fall out. What can school and parents do to support our daughters?

Answer: We recognise that having a friend is the most important aspect of a girl's life and as they get older it becomes impossible for adults to effectively solve friendship issues for them. To help the girls with this, we have become a Girls On Board school, and Mrs Moss and Mrs Mackle have been trained as Girls on Board Champions. Girls on Board is an approach that helps girls understand the complexities of girl friendships and gives them the language and skills to solve many of their own friendship problems.



In the next few weeks, we will be running a Girls on Board session with all the girls in Year 4-6 to introduce them to the language and approach. Staff will also be trained. There is also a Parent Guide that we will be sending out to you so you can support the work in school. This will then become a very useful tool for parents and staff when handling friendship concerns.

Of course, we take bullying incredibly seriously and any concerns about bullying should be discussed with the Class Teacher who will refer it to Mrs Moss.

We will also be looking how to adapt our Girls on Board training to the needs of boys, as friendships are very valuable for them too. Watch this space!

Mrs Moss & Mrs Mackle

Safeguarding

Keeping children safe in this digital world

For some great advice on keeping children and young people safe in this digital world please follow the link to:

<http://vodafonedigitalparenting.co.uk/>

Vodafone Digital Parenting helps you find expert advice and strategies to help your child navigate the internet safely.



THE PA POST



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES.

Christmas Shopping Event- 14th November

We are looking forward to our Christmas Shopping Event next Wednesday from 2.30 to 5.30pm in Lowe Hall. Take a look at our Facebook page to see the amazing selection of local businesses who will be at the event.

Please make sure you bring along payment cards as well as cash, and your own bags. We would like to support the school's drive to cut down on plastic, so will be keeping the use of plastic bags to a minimum.

If you would like to book your child into Late Waiters (Year 1 and above) for the afternoon so you can shop in peace, please let the office know by Monday, 12th November 2018.



The Giving Machine

The St Margaret's PA are signed up to The Giving Machine, so every time you shop a donation is made to us.

If you haven't registered, please see the link below for a very easy way to fundraise for our school:

<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/st-margarets-prep-school-parents-association>

If you shop online, you can raise donations for our children with every purchase:

<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/the-givingmachine-community-fund>

It's really simple, you enter your favourite shops via their website and a percentage of your shopping bill is converted into a cash donation for us, at no extra cost to you. With over 2,200 stores participating including Amazon, John Lewis and Thomas Cook taking part, you can really help make a difference.

Shop online?
Click. Shop. Give for free with  The Giving Machine Sign up now!



Children's Christmas Market 19th and 20th November 2018

The ever popular Children's Christmas Market is almost here and we can't wait!

Our little elves have been busy buying gifts to make sure that everyone will be happy on Christmas morning.

Thank you to everyone who came and helped at the Wrapping Morning this week- as always your help is greatly appreciated.



Upcoming Events

- Family Bingo : January 2019
- Summer Fete: May 2019
- Quiz Night: March 2019
- Summer Annual Ball: June 2019

Notices

On Monday 12th November we will be holding an 'Odd Sock Day' as a way of showing that we respect the differences in everyone and as a part of Anti-Bullying Week. This event will run in many primary schools across the country and we would really like to be a part of this. We ask everyone to wear odd socks in addition to their usual school uniform. Boys can wear socks that are as colourful and interesting as they can as long as they don't match! Girls can choose to wear their socks over their tights, wear odd short socks or to wear long socks - how you do this is up to you!!

Also on Monday 12th November there will be **no Maths Confidence for Parents** as Mrs Moss and Mrs Mackle are at the Diana Award Anti-Bullying Training at Alexandra Palace with a group of Year 4 - 6 pupils.

On Friday 16th November to show our support for 'Children in Need', we would like you to come to school in home clothes and to make a donation, if you would like to, to this worthy cause. Our Senior Prefects will be responsible for collecting the donations and our Maths Prefect will be in charge of counting money on this morning.

Also on Friday 16th November we are hosting the author Megan Rix and her dogs. She will be visiting the Prep pupils to talk about her books and experiences and a leaflet has gone home in book bags. Please note there will be no charge for the author visit.

On Friday 19th November, Maths Confidence for Parents will be doing simultaneous equations - all are welcome

On Friday 23rd November at 1.45pm parents are warmly welcomed into the school for the afternoon to learn more about the power of reading at home and to share a book with your child in the classroom. The reading workshop will look at the different skills that are necessary to develop reading. Understand and know why inference and deduction are important skills and how to develop these. There will also be an opportunity to look at Cracking Comprehension online and introduce a new reading challenge that will start in the new year. Please confirm your attendance with the office.

Next 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
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

12th November	U9A Football Tournament, Littlegarth Odd Socks Day Maths Confidence for Parents, 2.45pm – 3.45pm (5M) (see notices)
13th November	Year 1 Forest School finishes
15th November	Individual School Photos
16th November	Prep Author, Megan Rix, visiting
17th November	ABRSM Exams (tbc)
19th November	U9B/C Football Tournament, Littlegarth Early Years and Pre-Prep Christmas shopping, 2.15pm - 3.15pm Maths Confidence for Parents, 2.45pm - 3.45pm (5M)
20th November	Prep Christmas shopping, 9.00am - 11.30am
26th November	Flu vaccination programme Maths Confidence for Parents, 2.45 - 3.45pm (5M)
3rd December	Maths Confidence for Parents, 2.45 - 3.45pm (5M)
4th December	Nursery and Reception Christmas Play 9.00am Choir to Gosfield Hall (tbc)
5th December	Year 1 Christmas Play, 9.00am Choir to Gosfield Lake Golf Club (tbc)
6th December	Year 2 Christmas Play, 9.00am