



Loving to learn; learning with love

Newsletter 1 : 2nd September 2026



Some exciting changes have been happening at school!

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Welcome Back!

Welcome back to all of our existing families, and a very warm welcome to all of our new families joining the St Margaret's school community, especially our new Reception children! We are so excited to welcome you all and begin another wonderful school year together.

It is hard to believe that I have now been your Headteacher for a whole year! What a year it has been. I feel incredibly proud of our school and of everything we have achieved together. Most importantly, I continue to feel very fortunate to lead such a caring, committed and hardworking team who put our children at the heart of everything they do. I am equally grateful for the wonderful support of our families and wider community, who play such an important part in making St Margaret's the special school that it is.

Over the summer holidays, our staff have been working incredibly hard behind the scenes to get everything ready for the new school year. There has been lots of painting, organising and transforming of our learning environments, and we cannot wait for you to see the fabulous spaces they have created for the children. Alongside this, teachers have been busy planning an exciting and ambitious curriculum, with lots of new ideas and opportunities for our pupils to learn, explore and thrive.

There have been some big changes around school, so it may take us all a little while to remember where everyone is! Just to help us all get our bearings:

- **Class 1** – Reception (The old library and conservatory)
- **Class 2** – Year 1 and Year 2, in the **main large classroom**
- **Class 3** – Year 3 and Year 4, in the **porta cabin**
- **Class 4** – Year 5 and Year 6 (in the old Class 3 room)
- **Library** - in the old Class 4

We are really looking forward to showing the children their new classrooms and seeing their faces when they discover all the changes!

As always, our school vision, **Loving to Learn; Learning with Love**, remains at the heart of all we do. We want every child to feel **included, valued, safe and nurtured**, knowing that they belong and that they can flourish as individuals. We aim to provide an ambitious and inspiring education where every child is encouraged to discover their strengths, develop their confidence and become the very best version of themselves.

Our Church School value this term is **Teamwork**, which feels particularly fitting as we begin a new year together. We will be exploring and celebrating teamwork through our Collective Worship, stories, learning and everyday interactions. We encourage you to talk about this value at home and celebrate the many ways our children work together, support one another and contribute to our school community.

1 Corinthians 16:14 – “Do everything in love.”

Here's to an exciting new school year filled with learning, laughter, friendship and wonderful memories. We cannot wait to see what the year ahead brings!

Karen Robinson
Headteacher

This Week

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Thursday 3rd September**.

Please remember:

- Breakfast Club starts at 8am. Drop off at the main gate. No need to pre-book, just pay on the day. £2.50 per session.
- School gates open at 8:40 am and close at 8:50 am. All children should be in school before the gates close at 8:50am. Prompt arrival is incredibly important for children as learning activities start straight away.
- School ends at 3:15pm with collection from the playground.
- Clubs start on **Monday 7th September**. Collection at 4pm from the playground.

Next Week

- Clubs start on **Monday 7th September**. Collection at 4pm from the playground.
- **Monday 7th September** - 11+ Verbal Reasoning mock 3.15-16.00
- **Friday 11th September** - 11+ Verbal Reasoning examination 8.30-9.45am

Swimming and PE

We are looking forward to another exciting year of **PE** and physical activity. This year, as well as being taught by **JB Sports**, we will also be making the most of the expertise of our own class teachers.

A quick reminder that **children in years 1 to 6** should come to school in the **correct PE kit on their PE days**. Please ensure that **all jewellery is removed**, including earrings, and that **long hair is tied back securely**. Children should also have the appropriate footwear and PE clothing so that they can participate safely and comfortably in all lessons.

For our **Reception children**, PE will also be an opportunity to develop their independence and confidence as they learn to manage getting changed themselves. Changing for PE is an important part of their early learning and physical development, supporting skills such as independence, self-care and managing their own belongings. We will support and encourage them as they learn these new routines.

Swimming

Swimming will look a little different this year. Rather than taking place throughout the year, our swimming programme will take place during the **Summer Term**, in **six-week blocks**.

Class 4 will swim first, followed by Class 3. Further information about dates and arrangements will be shared with you nearer the time.

Our aim is to give every child the opportunity to develop their swimming ability and water confidence, with a particular focus on ensuring that all pupils leave Year 6 having met the national curriculum expectation of being able to **swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres**, alongside using a range of strokes and developing safe self-rescue skills.

We are really looking forward to seeing the children develop their confidence and skills in the water throughout these sessions.

PE Days

Class 1 (EYFS) Monday and Thursdays

Class 2 (Years 1 and 2) - Tuesday and Thursdays

Class 3 (Years 3 and 4) - Monday and Thursdays

Class 4 (Years 5 and 6) - Monday and Tuesdays

Clubs for this Term

Clubs will start on **Monday 7th September**. Further information on how to book will be sent in a separate email. Clubs on Monday to Thursday will be open to Years 1 to 6 and finish at 4pm.

Monday – Football

Tuesday – Tag Rugby

Wednesday – DIY sensory toy club

Thursday – Gardening/eco club

Friday – WAC – (puzzles, games, drawing, outdoor play)

11+ Revision Reminder

Just a reminder that the final revision/mock dates are:

Monday 7th September (3.15-4.00)

Monday 14th September (3.15-4.00)

As mock exams are essential for exam success as they simulate real test conditions, **no parents** may attend these sessions.

Collection Arrangements

A gentle reminder that all children should be collected **on time at the end of the school day**. This helps us to ensure that our pupils are safe, settled and well cared for at the end of each day.

If someone other than your child's usual designated adult will be collecting them, please **let the school office know in advance**. For safeguarding reasons, we can only release children to adults who have been authorised by a parent or carer.

If you have a family member, friend or other adult who **regularly collects your child**, please let the office know and we can add them to your child's authorised collection list. This will make things easier for everyone and means you won't need to contact us each time they collect.

For children who travel by **school bus**, please also let the office know as soon as possible if there are any changes to their usual travel arrangements.

Thank you, as always, for your support and cooperation in helping us keep all of our children safe and ensuring that the end of the school day runs smoothly.

Attendance

As we begin the new school year, we would like to gently remind families of the importance of **regular school attendance**. Every day in school matters and supports children's learning, friendships, confidence and wellbeing.

We completely understand that taking holidays during term time can sometimes be difficult to avoid, particularly for families working in seasonal employment, and we appreciate that this can be frustrating. **Unfortunately, government guidance means that we are unable to authorise term-time holidays except in the most exceptional circumstances**. We are sorry that this can make planning family time more challenging.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please talk to us. We are always happy to listen, offer support and work with families wherever we can.

If your child is absent, please let us know **on the first morning of absence**, including the reason, by calling **01507 450375** or emailing **Mrs Drakes**.

office@st-margarets-pri.lincs.sch.uk

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Term time dates can be found in the diary dates section below.

Please also note that year 6 must be in school during their SATs week.

School Uniform

A quick reminder as we start the new school year that we ask all children to come to school in the **correct school uniform**, including appropriate footwear. Please remember that jewellery should not be worn, and long hair should be **tied back** for school and PE.

Please also remember to **name all items of clothing and belongings**, this makes it much easier for us to return lost items to their owners!

Our full uniform expectations can be found in our [School Uniform Policy](#).

For information about our **school uniform bank**, including what is currently available, please speak to **Sarah Harvey, Chair of the PTA**. The uniform bank is a wonderful resource for families and helps us to keep our uniform affordable and sustainable.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our children look smart, feel comfortable and be ready for learning each day.

Healthy Eating School!

As part of our commitment to supporting healthy lifestyles, we encourage all of our children to enjoy **healthy and nutritious food and snacks** throughout the school day.

Children in **Key Stage 1** are provided with a piece of fruit each day as part of the school fruit scheme. We ask that children in **Key Stage 2** also bring a healthy snack to enjoy at break time, such as fresh or dried fruit.

If your child brings a packed lunch, we kindly ask that you include a **healthy and balanced meal**, following our school's healthy eating guidelines. A nutritious lunch and snack help children to maintain their energy, concentrate on their learning and feel their best throughout the day.

The **Department for Education is also introducing updated School Food Standards**, which will come into effect in primary schools from September 2027. We will keep families informed as these develop and will gradually prepare for any changes together.

We will continue to encourage children to learn about healthy choices in a positive and enjoyable way, helping them to develop good habits that they can carry with them as they grow.

Safer Food Preparation – EYFS Statutory Update

As part of our commitment to keeping all of our children safe and well, we would like to share a gentle reminder about **safe food preparation, choking awareness and allergies** when sending snacks or packed lunches into school.

The **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory guidance** places an important focus on safe eating, appropriate food preparation, reducing choking risks and managing allergies. From September 2026, new **Allergy Safety in Schools** guidance will also strengthen the arrangements schools have in place to support children with allergies.

We are a **nut-free school**, so we kindly ask that you do not send in food containing nuts. We also ask families to be mindful of foods that may present a choking risk, particularly for our younger children, and to prepare food in an appropriate way. We have included some helpful information at the end of the newsletter for guidance.

We know there are lots to think about when preparing food for school, and we really appreciate your support. By working together, we can help ensure that **all of our children are safe, included and able to enjoy their food at school**.



Early years choking hazards food safety advice

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For babies and young children, food can be a choking hazard, especially when they do not chew their food well or they try to swallow it whole.

Choking can happen with any foods, but 'firm foods', bones and small round foods that can easily get stuck in the throat present a higher risk. Therefore, care givers should follow these five essential steps:

- 1** Make sure food is **suitably prepared and served** for babies and children under 5 years old. For suitable foods, see <https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/weaning/>. Introduce babies to solid foods from around 6 months of age.
- 2** **Think about size, shape and texture of food.** Cut food into narrow batons, avoid round shapes and firm foods. Firm fruit & vegetables can be softened by cooking.
- 3** Ensure that babies and young children are **alert and seated safely upright** in a highchair or appropriately sized low chair whilst eating.
- 4** **Babies and young children should be supervised at all times** while eating. You will be able to identify the early signs of choking and prevent harm.
- 5** **Encourage babies and young children to chew food well.** Teach children how to chew and swallow food properly, and ensure they take their time during meals. This will reduce their risk of choking.

Care givers and parents should be familiar with how to respond to a choking incident in line with guidance on first aid for children:

How to stop a child from choking: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-stop-a-child-from-choking/>

How to resuscitate a child: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-resuscitate-a-child/>

Message from the PTA

☀️Welcome Back to School☀️

Dear Children and Families,

Welcome back! We hope you've all had a wonderful summer filled with fun, laughter, adventures, and plenty of happy memories. ☀️

As we begin a brand-new school year, the PTA would like to wish all our children a very warm welcome back to school and we're especially excited to welcome our new pupils and families to our school community.

We hope all the children have a fantastic year full of friendship, fun, learning, and new adventures!

To all our parents and carers - thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working together throughout the year to make our school an even happier and more exciting place for our children.

We have lots of lovely PTA activities and events to look forward to, and we'd love for families to get involved whenever they can. Every helping hand, idea and contribution makes a real difference.

To celebrate the start of the new school year and to help new faces become familiar faces, please join us in the reading room on **Friday 11th September from 8:40-9:40** for a **cuppa, slice of cake** and a chance to meet other parents and say hello to the PTA to find out what we have planned for the year ahead!

PTA sponsored walk - Thursday 24th September

Our annual sponsored walk will take place on **Thursday 24th September**, in the afternoon. We will leave school at 1pm and walk over the fields to Gayton and have our traditional midway break at Mrs Bullivant's house. All parents and carers are welcome, if not encouraged, to join us at this annual event. It is another great opportunity to meet other parents and get to know the children's teachers. **Letters and sponsor forms** will come home with the children on **Monday 7th September**.

Welcome back, everyone - let's make it a great one ☀️

Best wishes,

Sarah Harvey

On behalf of the PTA

Wraparound Care

From September we will be able to offer the following wraparound provision:

- Breakfast club from 8am onwards
- After school clubs from 3.15-4pm
- Extended provision from 3:15 pm to 5 pm each day

To help us provide a safe and well-organised wraparound care service, we kindly ask that bookings are made **with at least one week's notice wherever possible**. Advance notice allows us to ensure appropriate staffing levels are in place. We appreciate your cooperation and support in helping us plan effectively and maintain the high standard of care we aim to provide. Thank you for your understanding.

PTA Facebook Group

We would like to remind you that we have a very active Facebook group. Please search "St Margaret's Church of England Primary School PTA Withern". If you have any problems, questions or ideas for posts please contact Sarah Harvey (Chair).

Diary Dates and Events This Term

An overview of the dates for this term - more details for each will follow in subsequent newsletters and communications.

Please note - we have included all the term dates for this academic year. Please remember that your child should be in school during term time. Poor attendance has a negative impact on a child's attainment. Please remember that we cannot authorise term time holidays except in exceptional circumstances.

Date	Event
1st & 2nd September	Staff INSET days
Thursday 3rd September	First Day of Term 1
Friday 11th September	11+ Verbal Reasoning exam (in school time) - 8.30am
Monday 14th September	Wrates Individual photos
Thursday 17th September	Somercotes Academy Open Evening 5pm-7pm Y4 and 5
Friday 18th September	11+ Non- Verbal exam (in school time) - 8.30am

Date	Event
Thursday 24th September	Sponsored walk date
Thursday 24th September	Louth Academy Open Evening 6pm-8:30pm Lower campus Y4 and 5
Friday 25th Sept	National TA Day. Macmillan event (details to follow)
Thursday 1st October	John Spendluffe Technology College Open Evening- 5pm to 8pm, year 4 and 5
Friday 9th October	Flu vaccinations
Monday 19th October	Y4 and 5, 11+ Parent and Child information session 3:20-4pm more information to follow
Thursday 23rd October	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 2nd November	First Day of Term 2
Monday 23rd November	Flu vaccinations Mop Up Session
Friday 18th Dec	Last Day of Term 2
Monday 4th January	Staff Inset Day
Tuesday 5th January	First Day of Term 3
Friday 12th February	Last Day of Term 3
Monday 22nd February	First Day of Term 4
Thursday 25th March	Last Day of Term 4
Tuesday 13th April	Staff Inset Day
Wednesday 14th April	First Day of Term 5
Monday 10th - Thursday 13th May	Year 6 SATS week
Friday 28th May	Last Day of Term 5
Monday 7th June	First Day of Term 6
Wednesday 21st July	Last Day of Term 6