



School Newsletter

A very merry Christmas to all our SMW families

Dear Parents and Carers,
This Christmas marks the end of my first full year as headteacher of St Margaret Ward. I can say without doubt that it has been a wonderful and exciting 12 months.

In my very first letter to you all back in January, I talked about the glowing praise I had heard about the staff and the warm welcome I received from the parents I had met. As I have got to know all staff, children and parents since then, my initial impressions have more than been confirmed.

St Margaret Ward is a special place and I am always delighted to show visitors around and to hear them comment about the excellent behaviour of the children or simply the lovely atmosphere.

This Christmas it has also been great to be a part of the various Christmas concerts and services in school for the first time.

The pupils — from Nursery to Year 6 — thrilled their audiences, and it was nice to have an extra KS1 performance this year so many more grandparents were able to share the experience as well.

The staff at St Margaret Ward are a

close-knit team who work together tirelessly for the children. Those concerts were another example of their hard work bearing fruit as the school community worked together, just like at the Christmas Fair a few weeks before.

Looking ahead to 2018, I am positive the school will continue to go from strength to strength. Myself and the staff are determined the school will not rest on its laurels as we look for ways to make it even better.

Increasing the range of enrichment opportunities, developing the support available to meet children's emotional needs and events such as the Book Fair — where the school community came together — are some of the changes to have happened so far.

Needless to say, there are other developments happening behind the scenes which will be seen in the future. In the Spring term, we will be launching our new school mission statement, as well as a new school website and app. Exciting times ahead!

All that is left for me to do now is to wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas with your families and friends. Thank you for your support and see you in 2018!

Many thanks, Mr Hughes.

What values are important to you at our school?



As you may remember, we sent out a questionnaire recently asking you what values you felt were important to our school. Staff, pupils and governors had been asked to contribute in a similar way. It was heartening to find lots of agreement between the different groups with family, respect and love particularly prominent. The parental responses are shown above (the larger the word, the more times it was suggested).

More news from around our school....

Book Fair Bonanza



We recently held our first Traveling Book Fair for 12 years. We held numerous events to promote this including: inviting children from each Key Stage to come along for Breakfast with a Book where families came and had either a croissant or toast with hot chocolate and an opportunity to share a book together. Families could also come along to buy books after school each night. We raised a brilliant £1,243 which gave us £685 to spend on books. We also won an award of £100 for being the first school to 'Share Your Fair'.

Fabulous Phonics



Parents from both Nursery and Reception classes came into school for two sessions on phonics and letter formation. Mrs Royle and Mrs Ezgu shared with parents how the children are being taught at school so that parents can support their children's learning at home. It was wonderful to see such a good mix of mums, dads and grandparents at the sessions.

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Faith Week

We held a Faith Week during November. We were delighted to welcome Imran, who worked with children in Years 5 and 6 to share his Muslim faith. The children even went on a pilgrimage to Mecca (AKA the Hall). Meanwhile, Priddy led a workshop in the EYFS where the children listened to stories about the Hindu faith, dressed up in traditional Hindu clothes and wore henna hand decorations.



It's Good to Give!

The St Margaret Ward School community have supported many charities during the Autumn term. During Advent, each class raised money for the SVP's Sudan Baby Appeal. Initiatives such as FIFA 18 tournament, as well as selling candy sticks and reindeer food raised £444 — that will feed 11 babies in Sudan for a year. Also in the build-up to Christmas, you kindly donated to the local foodbank to help our families in need closer to home. Earlier in the term, there were also collections for the Cornerstones homeless shelter during Harvest, as well as donations of second-hand shoes, clothes and books to the Africa's Children in Education (ACE) charity. Thanks to Mrs Murphy for setting up the latter one to help children in a community in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro.



NEWS IN BRIEF

FRIENDS OF SMW continued their excellent fundraising initiatives. A Movie Night and a Cake Sale raised almost £800. Thanks! **HOT CHOC FRIDAY** proved a big hit with the children who are invited to share a Hot Chocolate with Mr Hughes at the end of every week. The reward is for consistently excellent behaviour.



AUTUMN TERM ATTENDANCE WINNERS ARE:

1st place — Year 1 98.1%

2nd place — Year 4 97.9%

3rd place — Year 6 97.0%

Other year groups:

Reception — 96.0%

Year 2 — 96.2%

Year 3 — 96.9%

Year 5 — 96.5%

AUTUMN TERM HEADTEACHER AWARD WINNERS WERE:

Isaac Saunders, Oliver Jordan-Frere, Lachlan O'Grady, Precious Tope-Agboola, Rahul Srinivasan, Cian O'Grady, Paul Willis-Hughes, Alfie Davenport, Alex Clow, Faith-Lily McMullen, Noe Kiely, Rihannah Ajose, Rory Brooks, Dylan Burge, Harvey Cleary, Freya Mai-Cleary, Darnell Fearon, Semi Oyekan, Joe Clow, Abbas Sardar, Jack Page, Ella McGlinn, Elvia Luckson, Morgan Stacey, Kailem Hayes, Joe Purakkariyil, Jude England, Munachi Udejaja, Leah Slater, Chloe Boateng, William Rhonor, Katie Chan, Sophia Conneally, Alex Abbott, Maria Skwara, James Chan, Emmie Parry-Williams, Kaydie Phillips, Aliya Shoy, Christine Leung.