



Play based learning

- In Year 1 we offer a play based approach to learning. This means that the children will spend much of the day exploring their class room environment and leading their own play. Adults in the environment are trained to support the children learn through their play. These play based opportunities will be interspersed with short whole class teacher led carpet sessions. We have found that this approach supports transition from foundation and children's overall well-being.

RWinc and reading

- We will continue to follow the successful RWinc programme of phonics teaching. Please support your child by reading with them as much as possible at home. Four reads per week at home make a big difference to a child's reading progress.

Certificates are awarded at 40 Reads—Bronze certificate, 80 Reads—Silver certificate, 120 reads—Gold certificate, 160 reads—Star certificate, 200 reads—Head teacher award, 240 reads—Governor award.

Please record these reads with the date and a brief description in the large purple 'home learning' book.

Playtimes and Lunchtimes

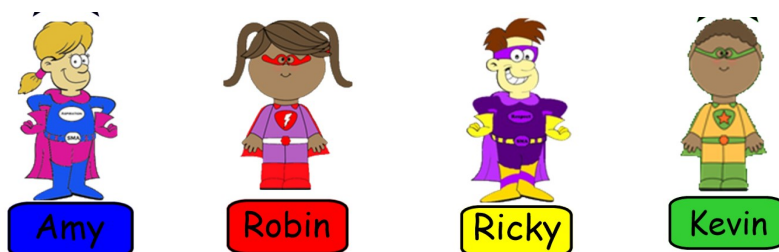
- For the first half term we will take the Year 1's out to playtime separately to the rest of the school whilst they settle in. Lunchtime play will also be restricted to one playground so they can stay together—we will then gradually introduce them to the rest of the school grounds. Please try and order a school dinner for your child if they need one. It is possible for us to do this but we cannot guarantee that your child will choose what you would like them to have and with 3 options to choose from it can become quite confusing!
- PE will be on Monday and Tuesday until Christmas. Please send your child into school wearing their kit on these days. Earrings must be removed or taped up with plasters before coming to school. We will have 1 lesson outside each week so please ensure they have a jumper or tracksuit bottoms to wear on cold days.

Beech Class Welcome Letter 12/09/23

Class Celebrations and School Values

- Our whole school values are:

Aspiration, Responsibility, Respect and Kindness.



When your child is observed demonstrating one of these values they will be able to put their name on a star. They can then put their name in a box and will be in with a chance of earning a special privilege the following week.

- Work of the week and Handwriting of the week will also be celebrated with work displayed in a special frame and a certificate. These can reflect improvements not only the 'best' work in the class.
- Each week there will be a class Star of the Week which will be celebrated in our assemblies. This will be printed on the weekly school newsletter.

School approach to behaviour management

At St Margaret's Academy we adopt a relational approach to behaviour management. This means we put relationships with the children at the forefront of our practice.

We know that secure, safe and happy children are in the best place for learning. We recognise that children who are presenting with undesired behaviours are often in a state of distress rather than wilfully choosing to misbehave.

They need our support and connection. We use a restorative approach following an incident such as reflecting on the incident with a member of staff and making an apology. We use our school values to reinforce desired behaviour. This is always done sensitively and privately to avoid shaming the child. Restorative practices provide teaching opportunities to help children manage big emotions, rather than following an approach based on punishment which can be detrimental to long term emotional development and the child's mental health.

Beech Class Welcome Letter 12/09/23

We work closely with parents and value your support in modelling and reinforcing our school values.

We always inform parents about an incident involving their child.

If you have any queries or uncertainties about how an incident has been handled, please come and talk to us or Mr Hughes. We want to work as a team with you and always value any feedback.

More information can be found in our short Policy for Behaviour and Relationships which can be found on our website.

- **Parental Consents**

When your child starts at St Margaret's Academy we seek consent for:

- ◇ Use of images
- ◇ Marketing
- ◇ Trips
- ◇ ICT user
- ◇ Medical

Each year we will inform you of your consent preferences with the annual data collection. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time. If you would like to withdraw or change your consent, you must submit your request in writing to the admin team.

Communication

- We use our class email addresses to send out messages to parents. We check these within school hours but if you require an immediate response it is best to call the school office who can get a message to us. There will be 2 parents' evenings over the year but if you do have any questions please always come and speak to us.

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