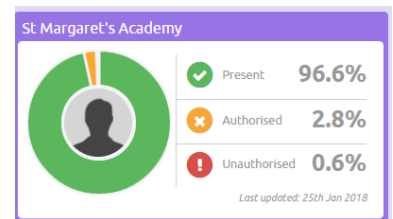


Spring Term Newsletter No.4

The term is flying by—it seems unbelievable to think there are only two more weeks before the next half term break; hopefully the weather will improve by that week and we'll be able to enjoy some sunshine!

We have closed the food survey now and will be looking at your comments and responding to them soon but we have made a quick adjustment to the menu for the next two Wednesdays and have put pasta back on as an option alongside the jacket potato—the children will be able to select either of those and the topping of their choice.

We know that all children get ill and are sometimes unable to attend school but Ofsted set us a target to ensure we at least meet the national average for attendance and to reduce persistent absenteeism as we have some children whose attendance is very low. Every day missed counts and makes it harder for children to catch up with their peers. We have an Attendance Officer (Miss Steph Musselwhite) who comes in weekly and checks if attendance is improving for children we identify as at risk of dropping below 95%. She also works with families to try and help improve their child's attendance and we are seeing a positive impact of this as our whole school attendance is 96.6% which is better than the national data for last year. Thank you for ensuring that your child gets to school on time and attends regularly—it is definitely making a difference. Don't forget you can keep track of your child's attendance figures on the eSchools app.



Thank you for the kind donations we have received this week—the children have loved playing with all the new hula hoops and the art equipment has been very popular too. The younger children have been very excited about all the toys you have donated and it's lovely to hear them chattering about them.

We are very proud of this week's Star Pupils!



Beech — Owen has pushed himself this week, challenging himself every day to use fantastic vocabulary.

Pine — Caleb has made a fabulous effort in all areas of the curriculum . We are super proud of him!

Apple — Maisie has shown an excellent attitude to learning her times tables and reading at home.

Oak — Evelyn's writing about The Great Fire of London used all aspects of our Writer's Toolkit. Fantastic effort!

Birch — Kye has worked hard to improve not only the quality but also the quantity of writing he is producing.

Rowan — Charlotte is our Star for maximum effort, maximum kindness and fantastic progress every day in Y3.

Cherry — Will shows great thought and kindness towards his friends and also sets aspirational targets for his own learning

Maple — Noah has produced the most amazing piece of writing this week and puts 100% into everything he does.

Holly — Mia has shone like a diamond! Her effort with her learning has really stood out to everyone! Well done!

Willow — Pheobe is consistently aspirational in all of her learning. She has a superb attitude.

Hawthorn — Toby shows great aspiration in maths and a super effort in writing.

Hazel — Michael has an aspirational attitude towards writing. Miss Wooldridge can't wait to read the final piece!

Diary Date Reminders:

Monday 29th January—Maple Class swimming lessons
Wednesday 31st January—Y2 Maths workshop for parents.
Subtraction focus. 9:10am to 10:00am in the Woodland Den
Y1—Y6 Parents Meetings open for booking appointments on
January 31st 2018, through your eSchools app or the website.
Monday 5th February—Holly Class swimming lessons begin
Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February—Half Term



Attendance Award
Congratulations to
Beech Class
for winning the School
Attendance Award with
98% attendance.

The whole school achieved 95.7% attendance. Let's see if we can get it back over 96% next week.

St Margaret's Close

If you access the school through the back gate then please be aware we only have pedestrian access as St Margaret's Close is not a public road and you should not be driving down it and parking. There is a clear sign at the top of the Close saying it is a private road so please respect this. The top of this road is going to be more congested over the next few months as McCarthy begin building works on the houses at the top of St Margaret's Road so everyone will need to be extra vigilant about the safety of the children.

Reading

At our school:

1 in 4 children at our school say they don't see adults read at home.

1 in 2 children say they don't talk about the books they've read at home.

Nearly 1 in 2 children state that they don't hear adults talk about books they've read at home.



As I hope you're aware, we have been encouraging children to make a New Year's Reading Resolution this January! We thoroughly appreciate your support in making this happen as regular reading is a life-changing habit that will make a huge difference to your child. However, the statistics at the start of the letter show that children aren't always aware that their adults at home read.

With the high-speed demands of modern daily life, we appreciate completely how difficult it is to find time to read yourself! However, whether it's books, newspapers, blogs, stories or more, it is incredibly important that children see their parents and carers reading- or hear them discussing reading. By doing this, you are helping to send the message that reading is a worthwhile activity that everyone does!

If it is difficult to find a time to read when you are with your child, you can still engage them with conversations about what you are reading and have read! These discussions will help them to appreciate reading more.

Further support

We understand that some adults may not be confident readers, or that it may be immensely demanding for some people finding time to read with their child. If you have any questions or if there's anything we can do to help, please see your child's class teacher.

Mr L Marchant



The Arm's Reach Challenge This is a challenge that has been undertaken by several of the teachers at St Margaret's Academy- they have all reported that it has made a difference! Reading helps people to sleep. The 'Arm's Reach Challenge' means that people must keep a reading book within an arm's reach of their bed. The rule is that you have to read a little bit before you go to sleep. It doesn't matter whether you read a paragraph or a chapter- what matters is that you have time to switch off!

Learning today to achieve our tomorrows.