



## Summer Term Newsletter No.12 (19.7.19)

Today we said goodbye to our wonderful Year 6. In teaching, we often come across amazing little people, and sometimes we come across amazing whole year groups. I've only known these Year 6 for a very short time but it's clear to me and from all the reports I hear from staff, how incredible they are individually and as a group. If you were lucky enough to see their *Pirates of the Curry Bean* show or their leavers' assembly today, you will know what I mean. They've set high standards for the new Year 6 and have been excellent role models for the whole school. They will be missed and we all wish them success and happiness in their new adventures.

We also say goodbye and good luck to Nicky Stibbs. Nicky has been at St Margaret's for nearly three years and is now moving to pastures new. We very much appreciate all her hard work and support she has given to the pupils. She will be much missed by one little person in particular.

As we say goodbye, we also say hello. On Wednesday after school we welcomed our new Reception children and their families to a picnic on the field with the current Reception children and their families. It was a lovely opportunity for both groups to mix and help the new ones start to find their feet. Thank you to the PTA who organised the ice cream van to make it a proper summer picnic.

On Thursday evening, as the Year 6 danced their final moves at the disco, the school governors met to review the academic year 2018/2019. We looked at the successes and started to plan how they are going to further help the school improve next year. We said goodbye to Carole Ashworth who departs the governing board as she heads overseas for new adventures and we welcomed Richard Whiffin on to the board. Thank you to them all for giving their time and offering support and challenge to keep the school moving forward.

You may have heard in the media how the new Ofsted framework in focussing more heavily on the quality of the curriculum we provide for pupils. Mr Robinson is leading our work on this and teachers are currently planning how to make your child's experiences more memorable. We are doing more work on this next week during staff training and in our September training when Mr Rogers will be leading us with some very exciting new computing technology.

If you look in our *Curriculum in Action* on the website, you can already see how teachers are providing many memorable experiences which provide us with a good base to take even further from September. One of the most memorable for me must be Birch class's collaboration to create a [piece of art](#) linked to their learning that also raises awareness of an important environmental issue: the habitat of the orangutan, tiger, cassowary, and many other species is under threat from unsustainable commercial cultivation of palm oil. Birch's art work gets this message across and will be exhibited at Paignton Zoo by the Education Centre from Monday 22nd July-Friday 30th August (excluding weekends) for all visitors and pupils to enjoy. Check out our [Arts Blog](#) to see Year 3 Birch and Year 4 Maple perform the Kookaburra song with hand-made instruments, in an explosion of colour that will bring a smile to your face. Have a look at Y3 and Y4's amazing photos from their end of unit celebration of their topic when they had an [Australian Day](#) on the field this week. If you would like to find out more about the student council's volunteering project, you can find Mr Tullier's [full report here](#).

For those of you with children in Years 3 and 4 next year, teachers would like to give you advance notice of an exciting 'survival' trip on 10th September (Y4) and 11th September (Y3) which will need paying for and booking promptly from 4th to 9th September using School Gateway. You will receive a letter from them on 4th September. The children will be using these trips to launch a memorable autumn term's curriculum.

Please remember to follow our updated uniform policy from September. There are no major changes. It is about providing you with clarity so that we can ensure a consistent approach right across the school. Please can I bring your attention in particular to two items: no big hair bows will be allowed and we strongly encourage you to avoid having ear piercing as it can make participation in statutory PE lessons very difficult. You can find full details [on our website](#) that will help inform your purchases and decisions in the school holidays when the 'Back to School' signs appear.

Reminder, that from September, Breakfast Club places must be booked on-line through the school Gateway at a new cost of £2.50 per session. This is the first time there has ever been an increase. From 28th October 2019, the cost of After School Club will increase to £7.70 (from £7.00) and the sibling price will rise to £5.50 (from £5.00). More information can be found on our [website](#).

Also, from September, the cost of a school meal will increase to £2.40 (from £2.30). Autumn term's menu and more information can be found on our [website](#).

If you're looking for something to do in the holiday, Torre Abbey Museum will be hosting music activities for 9-13 year olds each day in the summer holiday.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a fun-filled, enjoyable and rewarding summer break. It has been a pleasure getting to know you all over the last two terms and I look forward to working with you all again in the autumn term. Remember that the first day back for the children is Wednesday 4th September. In the meantime, tag! You're it.

