



ST. MARGARET'S NEWS

"Let all that you do be done in love' Corinthians 16:14

NEWSLETTER TERM 1 • 2025-2026



FIRST TERM WELCOME!

It's hard to believe that we have already come to the end of Term 1! I am so proud of the way our children have settled into their new routines and classes. Everyone looks incredibly smart in their new uniforms and are already a credit to our school; hopefully you all will have heard positive feedback at parents evening this week!

I would like to thank those families who generously contributed to our Harvest festival and supported our MacMillan coffee morning, it is always gratefully appreciated. It embodies our vision, "Let all that you do, be done in love," Corinthians 16:14. Inspired by Jesus' example, the St Margaret's school community aims to serve one another in love. Our children are encouraged to 'go and do likewise.'

Next term sees the long run up to Christmas where we have lots of exiting events planned. As we no longer have a PTA, Mrs Rodger and myself are planning and leading these events. If you would be willing to support us, we would be very grateful for your support, please message us.

Our attendance so far this year is 94.2%. Thank you for getting to school each day and for continuing to do so on time, even with the implementation of School Streets. School Streets is to ensure that we have safer pick ups and drop offs for our children. This prevents people driving along Orchard Street between the hours of 8am and 9am in the morning and 3pm and 4pm in the afternoon.

Today is Mr Johnson's final day. We are very sad to see him leave to start a new job but we wish him the best of luck and hope that he enjoys more quality time with his grandchildren. You will see more of the senior leadership team on the gates in the mornings and afternoons.

68% of our year 6 children sat the Medway test at the start of term. 58% of those children who sat the test passed. Out of the whole year group, 39.56% were assessed as grammar. We would like to congratulate all the children who showed the resilience to undertake this examination and hope that school tours go well, no matter what outcome was achieved. We know that you will all do well no matter where you go for year 7.

I hope you all have an enjoyable half term break doing the things that you like the most and just take a moment to appreciate those closest to you.

Matthew 11:28-30: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light".

Mrs Dixon - Acting Headteacher

NURTURE PROVISION

This term, we have welcomed our brand-new Nurture provision into St Margaret's.

It has been a privilege to support the rollout of this room and work collaboratively with staff members to ensure the space was ready for our very first cohort!

It is important to us that the Nurture room feels like home - a place where children feel safe and supported. Mrs Vaiphei and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with small groups to help them build new friendships across year groups, develop their social and emotional skills, and learn through exploring rich texts and play. A highlight of each session is always snack time, where the children take turns preparing the food. We then sit together to celebrate each other's successes - a moment of connection and joy.



Already, we are seeing children who are more confident in expressing how they feel and showing bravery in their approach to school life. We are excited to continue this journey and look forward to the next term in the Nurture room. Here are a few images from our 'Discovery Time' - a child-led learning experience that is both challenging and purposeful. During this time, children are encouraged to explore big questions through research, creativity, and teamwork.

Miss Hunt



AROUND THE CLASSROOMS

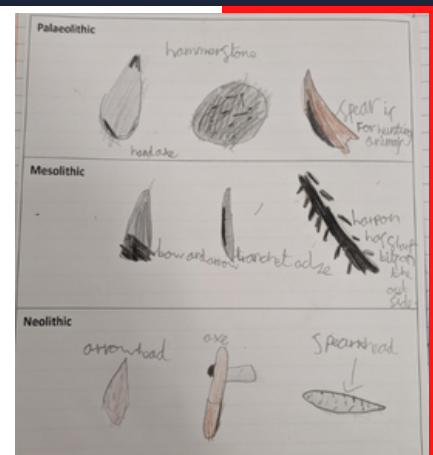
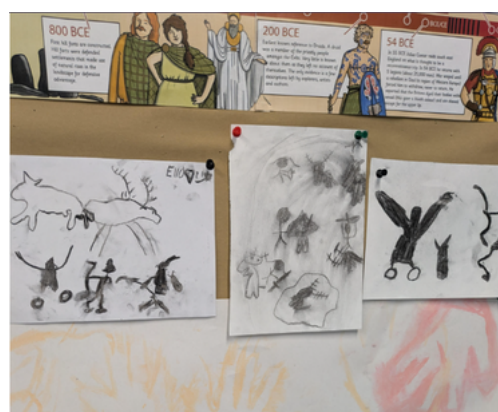
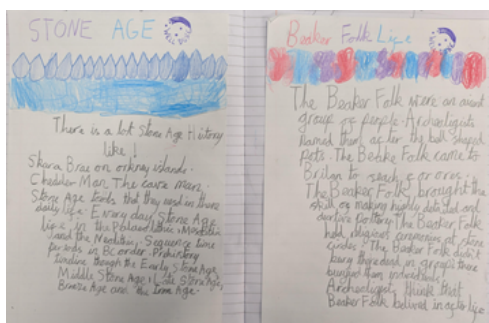
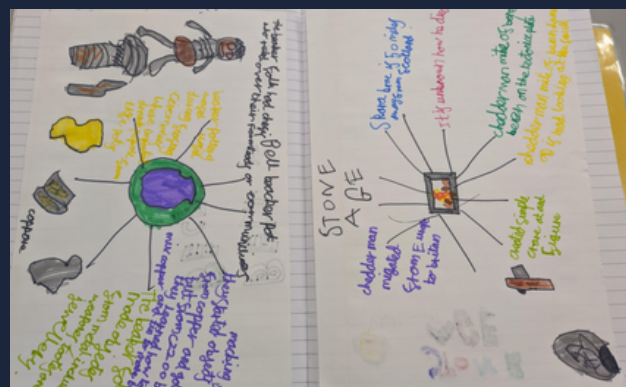
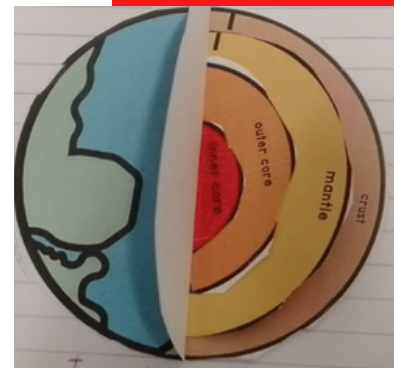
YEAR 3

This term in History, Year 3 have been learning about the Stone Age and Bronze Age; they have created Beaker pots using clay and some impressive cave art linked to this topic.

In science, we have been learning about human and animal nutrition and we carried out an investigation into fatty foods.

Our Maths focus has been on place value of numbers up to 1000, addition and subtraction. We have started 99 club and really pleased to see many of the children moving up the levels so early on in the year.

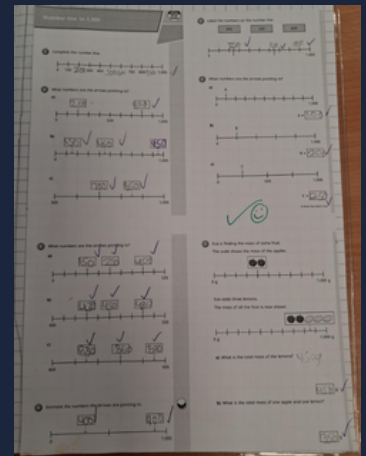
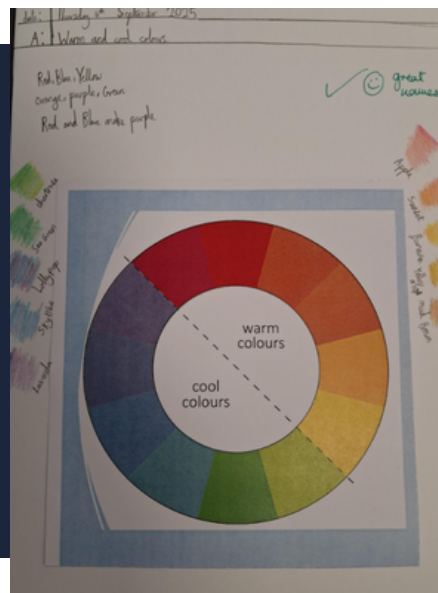
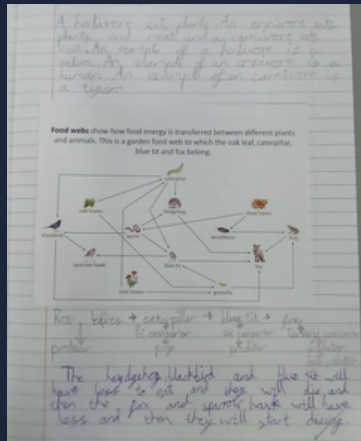
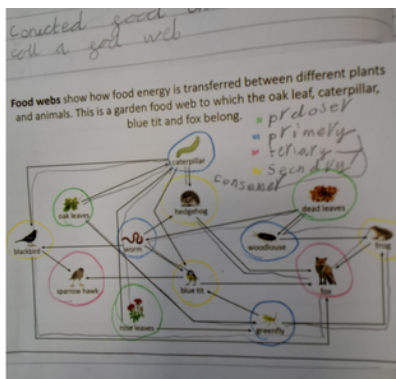
As you can see, it has been a busy first term but the children have all settled well into the juniors and we are extremely proud of how they have handled the transition. Well done Year 3!



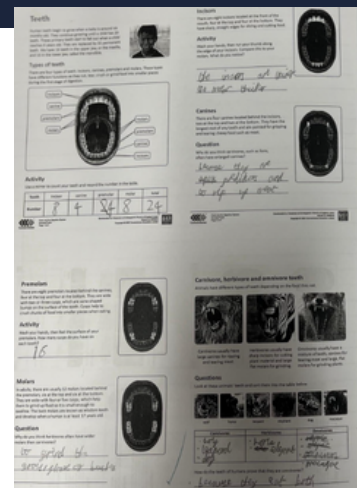
AROUND THE CLASSROOMS

YEAR 4

It's been a busy first term for year 4! We have all enjoyed getting to know the children in our classes and we have been pleased with the hard work and super behaviour so many of them have displayed, well done! Sapphire class is well into the routine of swimming lessons every Monday and we are sure the other classes will enjoy their lessons just as much when their turn comes. It has been a pleasure to see many children grow in confidence in their swimming ability. In our Maths lessons, the children have been securing their place value knowledge, revising how to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000 and tackling addition and subtraction of four-digit numbers. Our arithmetic groups have been working to reinforce these skills. Many children are enthusiastically logging on to TTRS and we'd love to see more using it to hone their times tables knowledge. In English, we've been focusing on the grammar and structure of sentences which will prove invaluable when we begin writing longer pieces next term. In History, we are delving into Anglo-Saxon England - next term sees the arrival of the Vikings! In Science we've been learning all about food and digestion, from food chains to teeth, and in Geography we've been looking at countries in the Americas. In PE and Games, the children have been devising routines in gymnastics and practising their hockey skills and in Music they have sung Mamma Mia beautifully! Our PSHE lessons have helped the children think positively about themselves and they have also been learning correct pronunciation in Spanish. We would like to thank you for your support this term and look forward to working with you as we move on through the academic year.



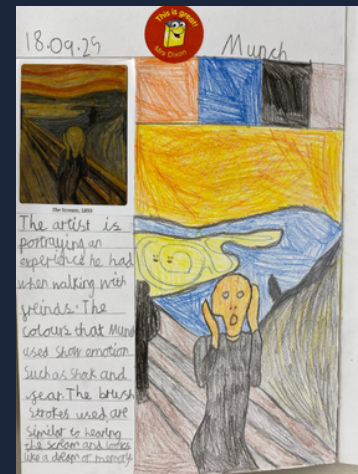
Digestive system		
Organ	Structure	Function
 mouth	This organ is an opening that connects to the pharynx, or throat. It contains a tongue and teeth.	This organ is where large chunks of food are bitten and chewed into smaller pieces. Digestive enzymes in the saliva break down the food further.
 oesophagus	This organ is a straight muscular tube that connects the pharynx, or throat, to the stomach.	This organ uses its muscular walls to contract and relax in waves, squeezing the chewed food along its length to the stomach.



AROUND THE CLASSROOMS

YEAR 5

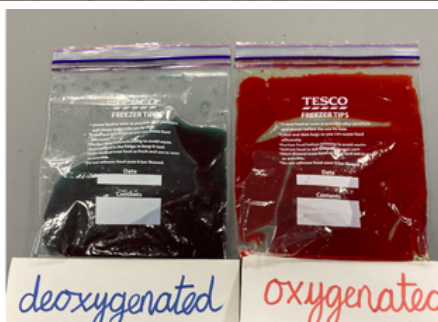
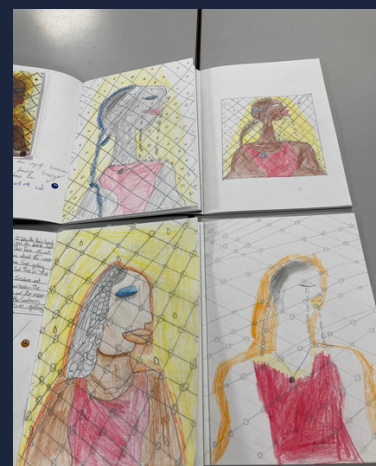
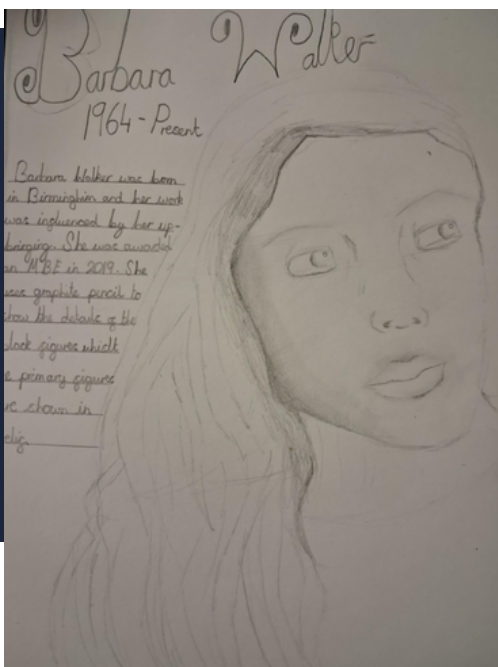
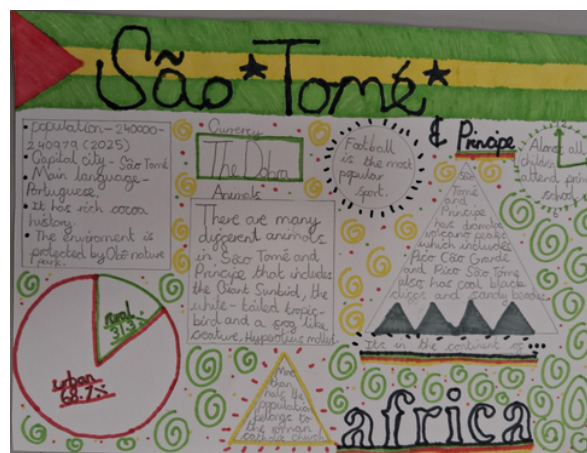
This term, Year 5 have been on an exciting learning journey! In history, we've been exploring the fascinating Greek civilisation, with a special focus on the Minoans, using both primary and secondary sources to discover how they lived. In art, we've been diving into expressionism, studying a range of artists and creating our own expressive pieces inspired by their work. PE has been all about dodgeball, where we've developed our tactics and teamwork to become more successful players. In music, we've been singing and playing the glockenspiel to the rock classic Livin' on a Prayer – it's been a real hit! In maths, we've deepened our understanding of place value alongside addition and subtraction, strengthening our arithmetic skills along the way. Our reading lessons have focused on the exciting class text Who Let the Gods Out, where we have learnt more about the main character Elliot and the evil daemon king Thanatos. Finally, in science, we've been testing the properties of materials and investigating thermal conductivity, becoming real scientists in the process!



AROUND THE CLASSROOMS

YEAR 6

This term Year 6 have been busy learning about the Slave Trade. We have researched the causes and consequences and thought deeply about the human impact of the decisions made by the people in power. This has run alongside our core text - Freedom by Catherine Johnson. A story which follows the life of a slave boy called Nat and how he gained his freedom from enslavement. It was a hard story to read at times but Year 6 showed maturity and compassion in all the work we have done around the text. Our art has also linked with our Maffa topic, we have studied the work of several black artists and reflected on how they have been influenced by their culture and experiences. The children then used these ideas to create their own pieces that could be seen as signs of protest. In English we have been revising our basic sentence skills through our Place Value of Punctuation and Grammar. This has supported us as we move into our genre writing - the first of which was a non-chronological report about slavery. In maths, we have completed work on place value up to 10,000,000, looked at prime, square and cubed numbers and are reviewing our standard written methods of multiplication and division. Science has been all about blood and the circulatory system. We have explored how the heart works and how the blood moves around the body. Luckily, no real blood was shed during the sessions! Our PE and games have been full of teamwork and skill development. In dance we have worked on a piece linked to West Side Story and gangs, we have shown power and might through our moves as well as fear and confusion. In Understanding Religion, we have looked at racism and equality across all religions and researched what the different holy texts say on the subject and how we can apply the teachings of religion to our everyday lives. Overall, we have worked our socks off during this long and busy term. We are now settled in our new classes and ready for more challenges in the terms ahead. Well done, Year 6!



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

We enjoyed hosting the Macmillan Coffee morning in our school hall again this year. Thank you so much for all that came to share in this morning with us, and for your wonderful donations. We had a wonderful variety of cakes that were enjoyed by all. The Lower and Upper school choir performed beautifully alongside Mr Weston, as they always do, and we had a special appearance from Tony who played some music as well.

Thank you again to our wonderful school community for your donations, whether you took the time to attend, donate or bake for this event, we greatly appreciate your support.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

On Friday the 10th of October, we marked World Mental Health Day by wearing green and yellow. We had a presentation from Mr Saker all about 'Hello Yellow' and the great reasons we celebrate mental health day. Right now, the world can be a tough place for children and young people to grow up in - and they're feeling the pressure. You're helping us raise vital funds to show them things can get better, so thank you for your donations.



MINI YOUTH GAMES

On Thursday the 9th of October, the new Mini Youth Games series began with a hockey tournament held at Holcombe Hockey club. Mrs Reeves and Mr Knight had the pleasure of taking 17 children along in two teams to participate.

It was a day of tough competition competing with lots of different schools from across Medway. Throughout the day, all the children continued to demonstrate our school values of respect, responsibility and resilience at all times even when it was proving tough.

Our Champions series team competed in 7 games across the day. They finished with three wins, one draw and three losses. This gave them an overall placement of 7th place.

Our Cup series team competed in 8 games across the day. They finished with four draws and 4 losses. This gave them an overall placement of 25th place.

Everyone that participated in yesterday's competition should be incredibly proud of their performances and were a credit to St Margaret's.

We look forward to seeing how we get on at the basketball tournament next term.



KEY DATES FOR TERM 2

Monday 27th October: Inset Day
Tuesday 28th October: Start of Term 2
Tuesday 28th October: Christmas Artwork Deadline
Thursday 30th October: Flu Vaccinations
Monday 3rd November: Sapphire Class return to Swimming
Monday 3rd November: Year 3 Rochester Cathedral Trip
Thursday 6th November: Mini Youth Games Basketball
Monday 10th November: Odd Socks Day
Tuesday 11th November: Remembrance Day
Wednesday 12th November: Year 4 Kent Life Trip
Friday 14th November: Children in Need Day (Wear Red)
Monday 24th November: Turquoise Class to start Swimming
Thursday 27th November: Mini Youth Games Badminton
Thursday 4th December: Christmas Fayre
Friday 12th December: Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 17th December: Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 18th December: Own Clothes Day
Friday 19th December: Christmas Service and Carols on the Playground - End of Term 2



**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

ATTENDANCE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to share a quick snapshot of our school's attendance for term 1.

- Overall Attendance Rate: 94.8% (National Av 95.5%)
- Authorised Attendance Rate 2.7% (National Av 3%)
- Unauthorised Attendance rate 2.5% (National Av 1.5%)
- Late 0.58%

Regular attendance is vital for academic success and social development.

Unauthorised absence which includes term time holidays can impact on a child by causing:

- Academic Disruption: Missing school can interrupt learning continuity, especially in subjects that build sequentially like maths and languages.
- Social Disconnection: Children may feel left out of peer activities or group projects, which can affect their social integration.
- Routine Disruption: For neurodivergent children or those with learning disabilities, changes in routine can be particularly disorienting.
- Stress on Return: Catching up on missed work can be stressful, especially if the absence coincides with assessments or key learning periods.

We appreciate your continued support in ensuring your child arrives on time and attends school every day. If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please notify the school office as early as possible.

Let's work together to reach our goal of 96% attendance next month!

Warm regards,

Miss Lacy

Pastoral Attendance Officer

"Let all that you do be done in love' Corinthians 16:14