

# St Margaret's CEVA Primary

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR



Newsletter Spring 1 2025

## New Year Plans



We hope you like our new look newsletter. We thought it was time that we refreshed it. We are also looking at updating our website, as it contains so much information for parents.

We will be changing a few things in 2025 which you can read about on the next page and throughout the year. If you know any local companies that we could use for a new website please let Ms Thomas-Dawes (Revd Gunn's PA) know on the school admin email account. We would love to support our local businesses where we can.

admin@stmargaretsipswich.org

WEBSITE



## Happy New Year

2025



Welcome back to school for the Spring Term. We trust you had a relaxing and refreshing Christmas break and we wish you all the very best for this coming year.

As always, we are here to support you with your child's learning, friendship issues and any concerns that you may have a parent.


## Reading Volunteers needed


We are looking for another 2 or 3 reading volunteers to listen to children. If you have an hour a week spare, have a good level of English literacy skills and are willing to undergo checks and be safeguard trained, then this would be a very rewarding role for you. Please email the school office for the attention of Mrs Cashen. You would not be placed in your own child's year group.





# Improving Learning Behaviours

**S** Sit Up 

**L** Look and Listen 

**A** Ask and Answer 

**N** Never interrupt 

**T** Track the Speaker 

To ensure the pupils get as much as they can out of their learning, we have introduced 'SLANT' which are good habits for learning, which should stay with the children into their high school journeys are further.

The teachers will be expecting very high levels of attention from pupils in lessons, so they are fully listening and making the most of the teaching. This will result in more progress in class.

## New Teampoints System

We are changing our team point system from the region's rivers to local parks here in Ipswich. This is very exciting and when we told the children this morning, they shared our excitement! From now the teams are:



**BOURNE**  
**CHRISTCHURCH**  
**GIPPESWYK**  
**HOLYWELLS**



Team point celebration will be half termly and siblings will be put into the same teams. The colours have also changed so the children do not get mixed up with Zones of Regulation.

## Tips for Parents and Carers

- Keep working hard to get your child to school on time - we can help if you with strategies if you find this challenging. Learning starts at 8.40am (children should be at their desks ready). Gates are open at 8.30am
- Research tells us that home learning around shared book reading, playing with letters and numbers promote improved outcomes
- Encourage regular routines and good homework habits
- Support your children by encouraging them to set goals, plan, and manage their time, effort, and emotions. This type of support can help children to regulate their own learning and will often be more valuable than direct help with homework tasks.

# Uniform

You may have seen in the news that the government are planning limiting branded items for primary school age children to 3 articles. We only request 2 at our school to assist with the cost of living and so there will be no changes from us.

The items that we request are:

EY/Key Stage 1 - A school sweatshirt (£14.50) and a bookbag (£5)

Key Stage 2 - A tie (£4.95) and a cardigan (£23.95) *or* a v-necked pullover (£22.95)



The generic school uniform items required are:

black shoes

grey trousers or skirts

white shirt (KS2)

white polo shirt (EY and KS1)

grey or white socks

plain white t-shirt and green shorts for PE/navy or black tracksuit



The uniform policy is gender neutral and can be found on our school website. Pupils are invited to meet with the school SENCO or Inclusion Manager if they experience medical or physical sensory issues and require adaptations to this policy.

# Support Meetings to help with lateness



Due to this term being so short (only 50 days left) and teachers have considerable teaching content to get through, we will be asking parents and carers of children who are regularly late, to come and meet with Revd Gunn and Mrs Richards, to support with strategies with attending school on time for the benefit of them and their peers.

If your child has been regularly late, you will be receiving a letter from us with an appointment in which we can work together to try and help with routines and strategies.

If your child has SEND and there is a plan in place and you will not be asked to come in, your communication will continue with Mrs Sheeran as normal.

# Subject Leader Profile



## Mrs Barnes School Chaplain

Happy New Year!

As School Chaplain, I am in the very privileged position of being able to spend time with lots of our children across the school, doing what I can to help support their spiritual development. This involves a variety of different things. I spend some lunchtimes with the pupil worship leaders, learning about different elements of collective worship and planning how we are going to teach the rest of the school about our Christian values or preparing to help lead our school church services.

I also have 1:1 or small group meetings with children who have referred themselves to the Wellbeing team or have been recommended by an adult who works with them, to support them with something they are struggling with, or give them some time out.

Once per term, I get to see every class in the school for a session during one of our 'Soul Space' days. These give our children a chance to reflect on big questions and themes in a creative way in a non-threatening space. Our most recent Soul Space was themed around light and we asked questions like, 'Who means a lot to you in your life?' and 'What message would you like to share with the world?'

We had the opportunity to write cards to spread our own 'light' and thought about what we can learn from the Bible about light too.

I also get to spend time supporting our amazing staff with the challenging and rewarding work they do too with 'Staff recharge' after school sessions and termly staff blessings. My ultimate aim is to support the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of students and staff and help St Margaret's to be a safe, inclusive, joyful, worshipful place.

If you would ever like to be involved, please don't hesitate to contact the office and get in touch, I would love to hear from you.

# Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Notes
W/B Monday 13th January	Late support meetings begin	You will receive a letter
Wednesday 15th January	Year 6 SAT's information session for parents	5pm in the Year 6 classrooms
Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day	
Friday 14th February	Well being/ French Enrichment Day	
W/B Monday 17th February	Half Term Week	
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day	
Tuesday 11th March	Silent Disco Years 4, 5 and 6	
Thursday 27th March	Wonderful Women Day	
Friday 4th April	Last day of Spring Term	
Tuesday 22nd April	Start of Summer Term	
Academic Calendar Dates	<a href="https://www.stmargaretsipswich.org/term-dates/">https://www.stmargaretsipswich.org/term-dates/</a>	