



St Margaret's CEVAP School

Newsletter Spring 3



Dear Parents and Carers

There has been lots going on during this very short half term, including Safer Internet Day, World Book Day, Science Week, and cinema trips as well as all the usual teaching and learning.

A reminder that parents' evenings are scheduled for 19th and 24th March in the school hall. You will be asked to sign up in the usual way, but this term there will not be a report sent home before the meeting. Instead, when you discuss your child's progress with class teachers, you will agree a couple of next steps for action, and these will be noted and logged in the meeting. This new approach seems more collaborative and a better use of teachers' time. Pupils and staff are busy with assessment tasks this week to ensure we can give you the very latest update on their progress at school.

A big thank you to the PTA for organising the recent discos and for the Mother's Day event in the hall this Friday. We know the children really enjoy taking part in extra curricular events such as these.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Mr Gates Associate Headteacher

Dates

Wonderful Women PTA event

Friday 13th March 2026

Space Dome in the hall

Monday 16th March 2026

Parents' Evenings

Thursday 19th March 3.30 – 6.00pm

Tuesday 24th March 4.00 – 7.00pm

RE Day – Easter themed

Thursday 26th March 2026

End of the Spring term

Friday 27th March 2026

Start of the Summer term

Monday 13th April 2026

Half term break

Monday 25th – Friday 29th May 2026

End of the school year

Friday 17th July 2026

New Caterers - Aspens

From the start of the summer term the cooked meals in school will be provided by Aspens. This follows a rigorous selection process by the Governing Body.

Aspens



There will be no change to prices in the summer term. A new menu will be emailed to parents shortly and added to the school website.

If your child has food allergies or intolerances, you will also be sent new paperwork to complete. Apologies for the additional work, but as it is a different company (but using the same staff) we cannot simply transfer records. Pupils will continue to use the lanyards in the dinner hall to ensure they receive the correct meals.

British Science Week

Science Week kicked off on Monday 9th March with a whole school assembly about Charles Darwin.

The teachers have planned some exciting science-based activities in their classes this week. Make sure you ask your child what they've been up to!



Mental Health and Wellbeing Books

You may have seen us featured in the local press recently during Children's Mental Health Week.

Thanks again to Barratt and David Wilson Homes for their donation of books



School Council

Take a look at the [minutes](#) from the latest School Council meeting, which show that the children have lots of good ideas about how to make things even better at school.

At the moment, they are thinking about breaktimes and football and how to ensure everyone can enjoy their time outside without football dominating the playground.

The children are also keen to explore the idea of having an afternoon regularly where the classes are mixed across the age range for craft-based activities. Watch this space!

A Few Reminders

Please remember that only pupils in Years 5 and 6 with written permission should be walking to or from school on their own. All other children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Please remember to send your child to school on PE days wearing the correct kit. PE uniform should not have large logos or be fashion-based. There is a reminder [here](#) on the school website.

Children should bring plastic or metal water bottles and food containers to school. We have had two incidents where glass items were brought in and subsequently smashed. Thank you

Year 6

As well as working hard in preparation for SATs the children in Year 6 also learn crucial life skills on Wednesday afternoons. These lessons include things like cooking and sewing.



The Hold

Mrs Hall recently took a group of pupils to The Hold where they had a great time interacting with the Play Sculptures.



Staffing update

- As we approach the end of the term, we will be saying a fond farewell to **Miss Elsdon**. We thank her for her many years of hard work at St Margaret's and wish her well with all her future endeavours.
- **Mrs Hall** will be teaching the Zebra Class (Year 2) full time during the Summer term.
- **Mrs Elliott-Duff** will be teaching the Stingray Class (Year 5) full time during the Summer term.
- **Mrs Rodger** will continue to teach the Puffins Class from Monday to Wednesday during the Summer term. She will be joined by **Mrs Flood** on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Flood is a very experienced Early Years teacher and a former St Margaret's pupil. She is very excited to be joining our school on a permanent basis.
- We currently have a [vacancy](#) for a **cleaner**. See our website for more details. The closing date for applications is 19th March.



SEND Information

It has been lovely to see so many children accessing **Numberstacks** recently. The children seem to be really enjoying this resource, and it's wonderful to see their confidence grow as they make progress.



Next month, we will be celebrating **Neurodivergent Week** an opportunity to recognise and appreciate the strengths and experiences of our neurodivergent learners.

Here are some organisations you may find useful. Further [SEND](#) information is available on our website.



YOUNGMINDS

Click on the image for a link to the relevant website

Living and learning together in God's love

A Message from the Police

We are writing to make you aware of a social media trend, sometimes referred to as **Red vs Blue School Wars** which has been reported in some areas of England. This trend involves posts on platforms such as TikTok and Snapchat that name schools and encourage pupils to gather after school, sometimes implying confrontations between groups of students. Many of these posts appear to be rumours or attempts to provoke reactions online. Nonetheless, schools and the police are monitoring the situation and promoting awareness to help keep young people safe.

We would like to reassure you that there are currently no specific concerns relating to our school. This issue seems to mainly be affecting high school children, but some older pupils may be aware of it. Therefore, we feel it is important to share this information so that we can work together to promote pupil safety and responsible online behaviour.

We kindly ask parents and carers to:

- Talk with your child about safe and responsible use of social media
- Remind them not to engage with or share harmful or distressing content
- Encourage them to report anything worrying to a trusted adult
- Reinforce the importance of travelling safely to and from school
- Please reassure your child that if they see posts or images suggesting school-related conflict, they should not respond or share them, but talk to you about them

We will:

- Monitor the situation closely
- Work with local partners where appropriate
- Remind pupils about staying safe online and in the community

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils is always our highest priority. If you have any concerns, or if your child has seen worrying messages online, please contact the school.



From the Bible

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4: 6-7

Melody Makers

A huge well done to the Melody Makers senior school choir who performed in St Andrew’s Church Rushmere on Sunday 8th March. This was a joint event with Farlingaye High School. The choir sang a range of songs, including a rousing version of *Dancing Queen* by ABBA. One member of the audience commented that their singing was “hugely moving and inspirational.”

World Book Day

World Book Day was a big success. The children enjoyed dressing up and spending the day thinking about books and reading. Make sure you take your voucher to a local book shop and swap it for one of the ten special titles available. Many thanks to *Dial Lane Books* who donated the complete collection to the school so they could be shown in assembly before the event. Look out for a new display in the main corridor coming soon about the teachers' favourite children's books.



CELEBRATING WITH
WORLD BOOK DAY



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