

St Margaret's CEVAP School

Autumn Newsletter 3

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of the first half term, it's good to step back and acknowledge what we have already achieved this year. The children have settled well into new routines and have worked hard to show their new teachers what they can do. Staff continue to endeavour to meet the needs of all pupils and the teachers have met with senior leaders to talk about objectives for the rest of the year.

We look forward to welcoming you to parents' evenings this week. These will take place in the hall as usual, and you should enter school via the main entrance. The playground will be open for car parking from 4.30pm. Please make sure you arrive on time, to avoid delays for other parents.

Remember that school is closed on Friday 23rd October for staff training and will reopen after the half term break on **Monday 2nd November**. There are various competitions included in this letter which your child may wish to enter. Something to keep them busy during the week off school.

On Wednesday we say a fond farewell to our Chaplain, Mrs Barnes, who will be moving on to a new role with Christian Youth Ministries. We will also be saying goodbye to Miss Miller-Clark shortly after the half term break. We wish them both well for the future.

Mr Gates
Interim Co-Headteacher

New Governors

We are delighted to welcome two new members to The Governing Body of St Margaret's CEVAP School. They have already attended their first meeting and both bring fresh eyes and useful skills to our dedicated team of governors.

Mrs Oliver



Mrs Rose-Thompson



Dates

Half Term Holiday
Friday 23rd Oct - Sun 1st Nov

Back to school
Monday 2nd November

Odd Socks Day and Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 16th November

EYFS Christmas Sparkle
Tuesday 15th December
Parents are invited

Years 1 & 2 Nativity in church
Wednesday 16th December (pm)
Parents are invited

Last day of term
Friday 18th December

Transforming lives by living and learning together in God's love

Working together

We are keen to continue working in partnership with parents and carers to ensure the best outcomes and experiences for all our children. To support this, please note the following…

- ✓ Tours are available for parents wishing to apply for their child to join us in September. Details are on our website.
- ✓ Current EYFS parents are invited to watch a Phonics session on 27th November at 9.00am.
- ✓ Our new Parent Code of Conduct makes clear expectations in and around the school.
- ✓ Please continue to follow the one-way system at the start and end of the day to avoid congestion. Thank you to those who queue patiently and don't try to jump or push in.
- ✓ Once you have collected your child from the line at the end of the day, please move away promptly to allow other parents access. Pupils should always be dismissed by staff not taken from the back of the line so that we know everyone is safe.
- ✓ Thank you for parking responsibly and remembering that the school entrance should not be used as a drop off area for those with cars. There has been the occasional dangerous moment when parents have forgotten this.
- ✓ Lost Property is being put out on the playground at least once a week. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled with your child's name so that missing items can be returned.



Menu

Thursday 5th Nov
Please note a change to the menu on this day

Bonfire Banger Hot Dog baguettes with potato wedges and smoky BBQ baked beans

or

Quorn Banger Hot Dog baguettes with potato wedges and smoky BBQ baked beans

and

Toffee Apple sponge with custard



The new Autumn menu is now on our school website.

Year 6 Residential Trip

Year 6 had a wonderful time at PGL Bawdsey. They took part in new experiences, including a zip wire and climbing wall. It was a pleasure to see the children gain in confidence and self-belief. Thank you to Mrs Febvre and the team for organising the trip and accompanying the children.









The children's comments included…

"It helped us work as a team" *"It helped me face my fears"*

"It makes you more independent" *"We made memories for life"*

Do you know what to do if you suspect a child is at risk?

Safeguarding

is everyone's responsibility

If you are concerned about a child,
please call Customer First

0808 800 4005

or talk to a member of the Safeguarding Team



Mrs Sheeran DSL



Mr Gates ADSL



Mrs McCann ADSL



Mrs Febvre ADSL



Mrs Ransome ADSL



Mrs Richards ADSL

Pink concern forms are in classrooms and the staffroom.

In an emergency you should call **999**

and speak to the police.

From the Bible



School Council

The new School Council has been elected and meet monthly with Mrs Goldfinch. Here are the minutes from their first meeting.

Look out for more information soon about

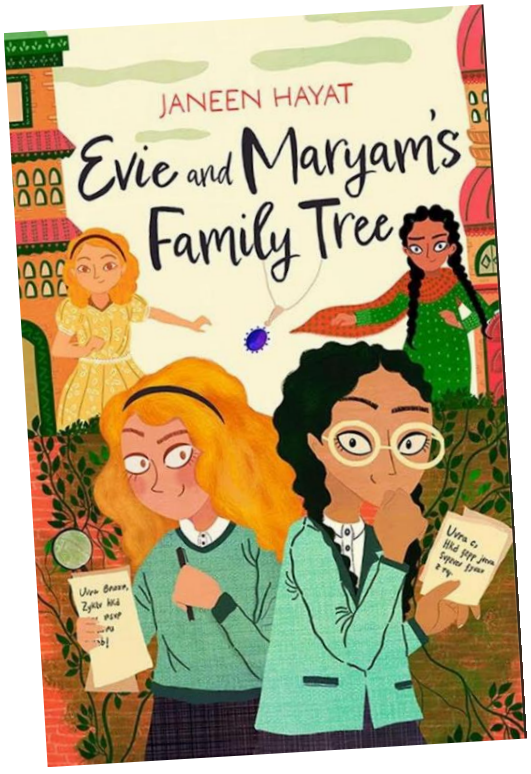
Children in Need
Non-Uniform Day
Friday 13th November 2026

Odd Socks Day and
Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 16th November 2026

Author Visit

On Wednesday 30th September the children in KS2 had the opportunity to attend a special assembly with author Janeen Hayat. This was arranged in association with Dial Lane Books as part of the Ipswich Book Festival. Janeen shared her experiences growing up in a mixed heritage household and how this shaped her writing. The children were able to share their own family backgrounds and stories and Janeen modelled for them how to turn their own experiences into the basics of a narrative.

It was wonderful to hear the children sharing their ideas and it was a brilliant reflection of the diversity that makes St Margaret's such a special school. Children who ordered copies of the book also had the opportunity to get these signed and meet the author.
Please do visit Dial Lane to find out more about the various events they are putting on and our thanks to Janeen for visiting us and for her inspiring talk.





Courage – Key Christian Value

We have continued to think about courage in Collective Worship and have found out about the bravery shown by Malala Yousafzai (growing up under Taliban rule) and Aretha Franklin (facing racism). The whole school contributed to this display which can be found in the hall.



We reflect about ways we can show courage in our everyday lives, from standing up for what is right to challenging ourselves to try new things.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." **Philippians 4:13**

Design a Christmas Card - Two Competitions

The festive season is just around the corner. Mr Gates has already finished his Christmas shopping and wrapped most of the presents! The school has been asked to promote two competitions to design a Christmas card.

Jack Abbott MP

Jack Abbott recently visited our school to see the Breakfast Club in action.
The template to design his Christmas card can be downloaded and printed here.
Please do not use glitter as the cards will be professionally printed.

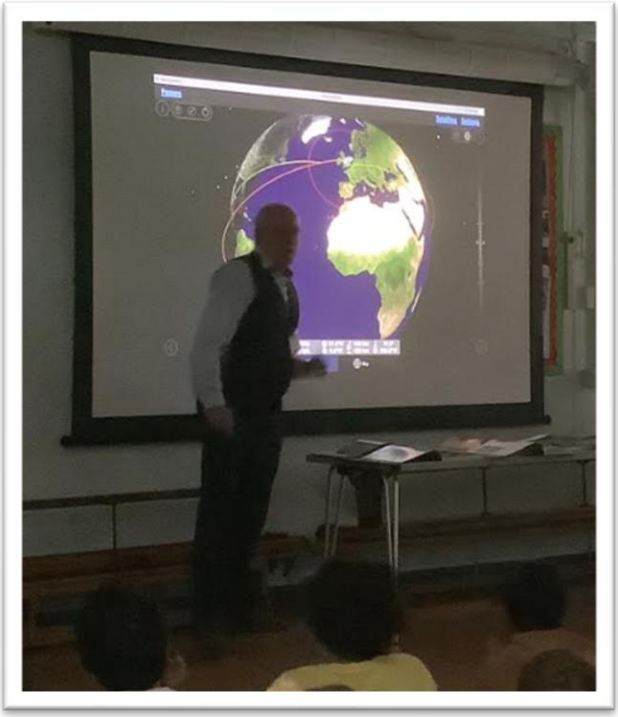
The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

If your child wishes to design the official Christmas card for the Bishop, they have been asked to focus their design on the themes of hope, joy, peace, love and light that lie at the heart of the season. Designs can be landscape or portrait and again shouldn't include glitter.

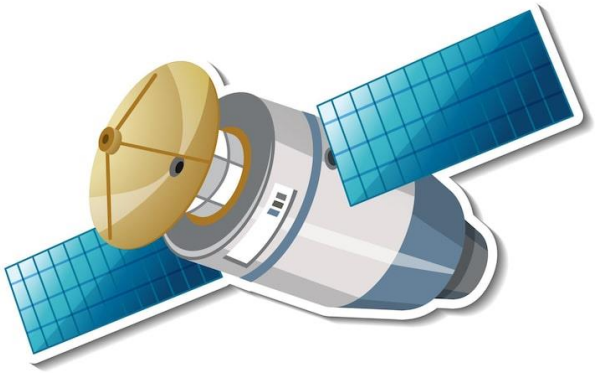
Entries for either or both competitions to Mr Gates by the end of school on **Monday 2nd November.** We will be unable to return designs so please take a copy if needed.

Space

Recently the children in Years 5 and 6 had the opportunity to attend a talk from Professor Paul Febvre, Head of Space at Cranfield University, London.



Professor Febvre has an extensive resume when it comes to satellite communications and has worked with NASA in the past, so we were delighted to welcome him to our school. He spoke to the children about our solar system and how different types of satellites worked, answering some excellent questions from the children as he went.



This was a wonderful way for Year 6 to consolidate their learning about space and for Year 5 to add to the learning they are currently doing in their Science lessons. Our thanks to Professor Febvre for his time and for sharing his expertise with us.

Allergies

Some children in school have severe allergies. Our Allergy Safety Policy is on our website. Please remember that we are also a nut free school. Please don't send in any products with nuts, including Nutella. Thank you.





Litter Heroes

Drawing competition for a cleaner Ipswich

Win tickets to see your art at an Ipswich Town Football Club Premier League match.

For primary school children who live in or attend school in Ipswich.



IPSWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL

IPSWICH TOWN FOUNDATION

Litter Heroes Competition

Calling all young artists!

Do you care about keeping Ipswich clean and tidy?
We want to see your creativity in our Litter Heroes drawing competition.

The prize: two tickets to see your art displayed in the official programme of an Ipswich Town Football Club Premier League match.

Just create a picture showing why it's important to pick up and bin litter and help keep Ipswich tidy. This is our town, and your drawing could inspire others to be proud of where they live.

Who can enter?

Children of primary school age who live in or attend school in Ipswich.

What should I draw?

Your artwork should show one or more of the following:

- Putting your own litter in the bin
- Picking up litter to help keep Ipswich tidy
- Keeping parks, streets and open spaces clean
- Highlight the ‘This is our Town’ message which encourages us to take pride in our local area and help care for our environment

Be as creative and colourful as you like!

How to enter

Email a clear photo or scan of the artwork to: communications@ipswich.gov.uk

Please include:

- Child's name
- Age
- School
- School or parent/guardian contact details

Closing date 🗓 Friday 6 November 2026

Entries received after this date may not be included in the judging.

The prize

🏆 **The winner will receive two tickets to the Premier League fixture between Ipswich Town and Brentford on 26 December 2026 where their artwork will be displayed in the official matchday programme for thousands of fans to see.**

Terms

- One entry per child.
- Entries must be the child's own work.
- By entering, you agree that Ipswich Borough Council may use submitted artwork in publicity and promotional materials relating to the competition or the ‘This is our Town’ campaign.
- The entries will be judged by Ipswich Borough Council.