



Withington Road,
Whalley Range
Manchester M16 8FQ
Tel 0161 226 2271
www.stmargaretsmanchester.co.uk

Wednesday 13th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the Christmas break. As Christmas approaches, school has held a number of festive activities. The turnout for the Christmas craft events was fantastic and I hope everyone who attended enjoyed the mornings. I would like to thank our Parent Kind volunteers who served hot drinks and cakes each day.

Last week, saw the nativity performance by pupils in Reception and Nursery. On Thursday, pupils enjoyed the annual Christmas dinner and the wearing of Christmas jumpers. The whole school has enjoyed a Christmas pantomime and the Christmas Movie Night sold out in record time! The school choir has been invited to perform some Christmas songs at Manchester Metropolitan University. Later this week, pupils will be enjoying Christmas parties in their classes. I would also like to thank Manchester South Central food bank who have donated a significant number of parcels and presents for pupils this Christmas.

As we come to the end of 2023, I would like to reflect back on what has been a very successful year for St Margaret's C of E Primary School. We are very proud of the attainment and achievement of pupils across school. The outcomes for pupils at the end of Early Years were the best the school has ever achieved and above the national outcomes for a Good Level of Development. In the Year 1 Phonic Screening Check, we also had our best ever outcomes with 89% of pupils reaching the expected standard well above the national outcomes. Despite the impact of COVID-19, our Y6 pupils produced results that were above the national outcomes.

In June 2023, school were visited by Ofsted inspectors who judged the school to be good overall with two areas (Early Years and Personal Development) judged to be outstanding. Safeguarding was judged to be effective with leaders taking their safeguarding responsibilities very seriously and having a thorough understanding of the issues pupils may face. As a result of our successful Ofsted inspection, a number of schools have visited St Margaret's to share our expertise and observe the work of teachers and support staff. All visitors have commented on how well pupils behave and what a lovely school St Margaret's is.

As a school, throughout 2023 we have offered a range of after school activities that have been very well attended. Each week, there have been more than twenty clubs available. Booking for clubs for the spring term can now be made via school gateway. St Margaret's held an Easter and Summer HAF and will also be hosting a Christmas Holiday and Food club from 18th December to 22nd December. Parents can book places by clicking the link below.

<https://www.mcractive.com/activity/holiday-activity-in-manchester>

I would like to thank parents and carers for their support throughout 2023. The attendance at parents' evening have been excellent with a high level of engagement. Our annual Culture Day was fantastically well received and during the year you have given generously to a number of causes. Over the course of this term, we have been holding coffee mornings for parents and carers to drop in and find out a little more about school life. Staff have enjoyed engaging with parents and carers and we will be continuing these in the new year.

Headteacher: David Hunter – d.hunter@st-margarets.manchester.sch.uk

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I would also like to thank parents and carers for their support around pupil attendance. This year, pupil attendance has been a key school priority. For pupils to succeed in school, it is vitally important that they attend every day and this year we have seen a significant increase in pupil attendance thanks to the hard work of staff and the support of parents and carers.

Finally, I would like to thank the team of staff at St Margaret's who go above and beyond to provide the best experience we can for the pupils who attend our school. Over recent years, there have been significant real terms cuts to school funding which has led to the number of support staff we can employ reducing whilst at the same time the number of complex needs in mainstream education increasing. Despite these challenges, the staff team have worked incredibly hard to meet the needs of all pupils, ensure that school is a safe place and delivered excellent progress and academic attainment. I feel very fortunate to lead such a great team.

I hope everyone enjoys the Christmas holiday and has a happy new year.

Best wishes

David Hunter
Headteacher