

St Margaret's at Hasbury Church of England Primary School

Hagley Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 4QD

Headteacher: Mrs S Shepherd

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LIVING LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

8th September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to all our families and a very warm welcome to our new families. I hope this letter finds you all well. I apologise in advance for the amount of information in this letter.

Lunches

We have been able to outsource a catering company who will cook and deliver hot meals to school daily. This service will begin week beginning 18th September. For the first two weeks (week beginning 4th/11th September) we will only be offering grab bags. Each grab bag will contain a ham or cheese sandwich on wholemeal bread, a yoghurt, packet of crisps, cake/biscuit, piece of fruit and a drink of squash. As we are continuing to use an outside agency (until money is found to improve the kitchen), it is imperative that you order your child's lunch by **midnight each Sunday**. After this time, the options will be frozen so **you will not be able** to book your child a lunch for the whole week. You must make sure that you 'checkout' even if you do not need to make a payment (for example if you are in receipt of free school meals)

The office has been spending a lot of unnecessary time calling parents and asking for lunches to be dropped in because children are coming into school without a lunch or without having a lunch booked for them. If you are unsure if your booking has worked, please send an email to info@hasbury.dudley.sch.uk (school office) where the office will happily check for you.

PTA

Thank you to the parents who have registered their interest in supporting a newly established PTA (Parent, Teaching Association). At present, we do not have enough people to set this up. There needs to be 4 committee members, Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer as well as a committed team to support the running of events. School will endeavour to run events in the meantime because funds raised at these events goes straight back to the children.

We have already started to organise this year's Christmas Fayre and Christmas disco.

Medication

If your child has been given a course of antibiotics that needs to be administered 4x daily, we will administer them. Please pop into the office with the medication (must be in the prescribed original packaging) to complete a form. Unfortunately, if the antibiotics are to be administered 3x daily, the dose must be administered out of school hours.

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Uniform

Well, we didn't expect to be coming back to a heatwave did we! It is important to us that the children are comfortable in school so we have extended the wearing of summer uniform up to Friday 15th September. After this date, please can I ask that your child wears the agreed autumn uniform, which is:

- Grey trousers, skirt, pinafore
- White polo shirt
- Royal blue jumper, school logo jumper preferred
- Grey socks with trousers, grey/white socks with pinafore/skirt, grey tights
- Black shoes only

PE uniform

All black shorts/leggings/jogging bottoms, royal blue school T-shirt, school hoodie/school jumper/cardigan, trainers (pumps — reception/nursery).

You have been notified of PE days via School Life. All year groups are asked to come into school in their school PE kit except for Reception class who change in school during the autumn term in order to develop more independence.

Communication

'School Life' is our main form of communication for sending emails, text messages and online forms so can I ask that if you haven't yet signed into your 'School Life' account please do so ASAP. You WILL MISS vital information if you do not sign in and your child is likely to miss out on attending clubs etc.

We are trying to become a paperless school and only send out paper letters and forms when absolutely necessary. You have received this letter as a paper copy so we can be assured everyone has received key information. If we do need to send a paper copy of information out to the whole school, we will send only one copy per family which will be sent home with the oldest sibling. We are aware of families who require additional copies, and we will ensure these are sent out.

Clubs

Autumn term clubs will commence week beginning 11th September. Online forms have already been sent out to the participating year groups. When we use external providers, school pays for them to enable children at St Margaret's attend for no cost. Many of our other clubs are run by school staff who do not receive overtime payment. We ask you to be respectful of this and to ensure your child regularly attends the club they have signed up for.

If your child's behaviour falls below expectations they will lose the privilege to attend.

Trips

In addition to the range of clubs, we also ensure classes go out on visits or visitors come into school to offer a broad curriculum. As you will appreciate, the cost of entry and transport has increased greatly in recent times. We always endeavour to keep costs down and will subsidise to lower the overall cost. Last academic year, three trips were nearly cancelled a few days before they were

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due to happen to lack of contribution. We will always find a way to help you and are able to offer a payment plan, please speak to the ladies in the office.

Attendance

All school age children should be in school. We have high expectations for attendance and expect all children to have an attendance percentage above 97%. We have adopted the Dudley attendance policy while also ensuring we have included guidance from 'Working together to improve school attendance' <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>. Holidays taken in school time cannot be authorised. If your child's attendance falls below 95% they are classed as a persistent absentee which means an action plan will be drawn up to improve their attendance and 'safe and well' visits to the home will be carried out by myself and/or Mrs Hill each time your child is off sick.

I told you it was going to be long!

Kind Regards



Mrs S Shepherd

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