

NEWSLETTER

Vol 4

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our January Newsletter.

The snow attempted to disrupt the start of the spring term; however, while some schools closed for two days, we were only required to close for one. As I have shared previously, keeping the school open is always our priority. Unfortunately, there are occasions when conditions make the site unsafe and, in these circumstances, I have no alternative but to close the school.

Thank you for your support with the recent school census. It was fantastic to see so many children choosing a cooked school lunch. Families who have been with St Margaret's for several years will remember a time when we did not have a working kitchen. Following a significant investment and refurbishment, we contracted Shire (Shropshire) to provide an in-house catering service just over a year ago.

Sadly, the long-term sustainability of this service is now at risk, particularly due to reduced uptake in Key Stage 2. Like many schools nationally, we are operating in an increasingly challenging financial climate. In order for the kitchen to remain financially viable, we must secure a minimum number of daily lunch bookings. Over the past 12 months, the school has incurred losses amounting to several thousand pounds.

We have spoken directly with pupils about the lunches and listened carefully to their views on what they would like to see on the menu. During open sessions last academic year and again this year, Shire provided food-tasting opportunities, which were met with positive feedback. Despite this, overall bookings have not increased. As a result, school leaders, including governors, are closely monitoring lunch uptake, as the school cannot continue to sustain these losses.

I am sharing this information not to cause concern, but to be open and transparent with our school community.

In a previous newsletter, I explained that while our email address, info@hasbury.dudley.sch.uk, is monitored, it may not always be checked while the school day is in progress. If you need to pass on a message that requires action on the same day, please contact the school office by telephone to ensure it is received promptly.

I am pleased to share that we will be welcoming our new School Business Manager, Jemma, who will be starting on Monday 23rd February. Jemma currently works within a school office and is very much looking forward to joining the team. She will be popping into school on Monday, during her day off, to begin getting to know the school and our community.

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This half term in Collective Worship, we have been reflecting on **change** — how challenging it can be, how positive it can be, and how sometimes even a small change can make a big difference.

We are delighted to share that we now have **six pupils from Years 5 and 6** who have taken on the role of *advocates for change and stewards of God's creation*. They will be supporting the school with their first project, focusing on **climate and sustainability**.

Please look out for news about the 'Polar Bears', as they begin to lead and inspire positive change.

2026 has been designated the **National Year of Reading**, with the theme 'Go All In'. This national initiative aims to inspire children, families and communities to develop, or rediscover, the joy of reading. Reading expands minds, builds confidence and fuels creativity. It underpins success across the curriculum and plays a vital role in pupils' personal development, wellbeing and lifelong learning.

Led by the Department for Education and supported by a wide range of passionate partners, the National Year of Reading will be brought to life through a diverse calendar of activities and events. These will encourage reading for pleasure, strengthen reading habits at home and school, and celebrate the power of stories, information and imagination. As a school, we are committed to **going all in for reading**, ensuring every child is supported to become a confident, fluent reader who reads widely and often, both for learning and for pleasure.

We will be sharing our reading journey with you throughout the year and, as always, we would very much value your support. We encourage everyone to make that change and get stuck into a book, comic, newspaper or work-related article. By modelling a love of reading, we can help the next generation see the positive impact reading has on learning, confidence and life beyond school.

Can I please remind the school community that dogs are not permitted on the playground. This has been communicated before.

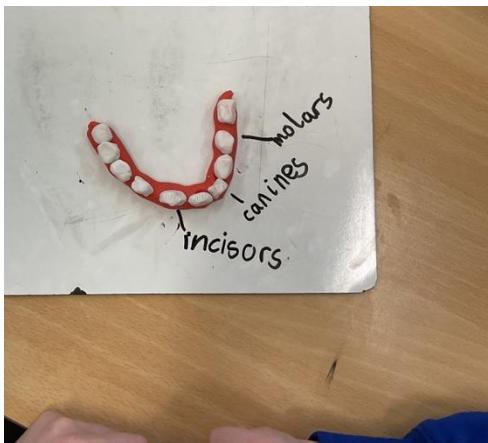
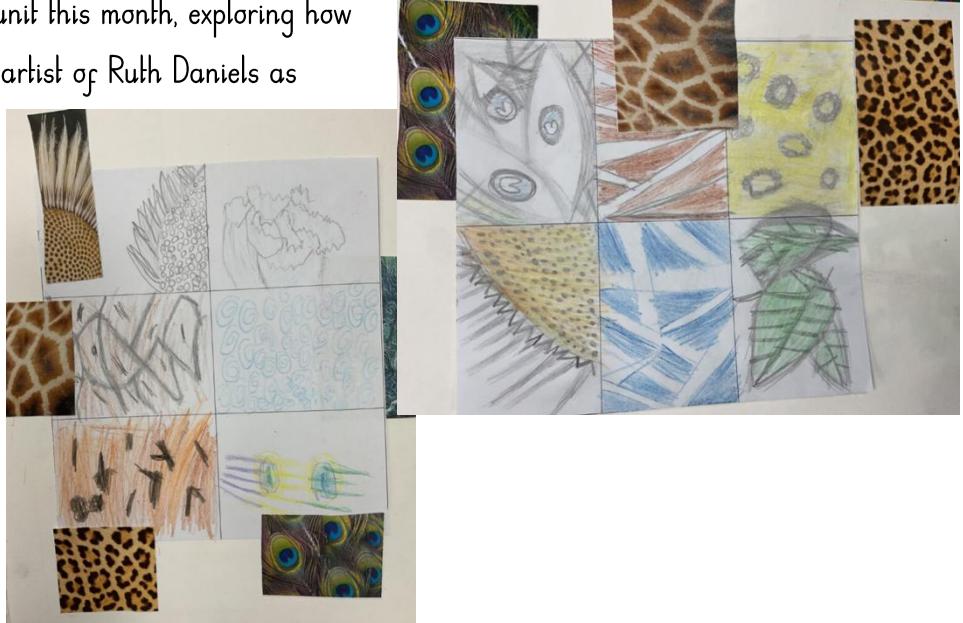
Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Shepherd

Headteacher

Living Life in all its Fullness

Year 3 have started their new art unit this month, exploring how to make patterns using their focus artist of Ruth Daniels as inspiration. We can't wait to see how this builds into their own repeated pattern prints by the end of the learning journey.



As part of **Year 4**'s topic Animals, Including Humans, the children began by learning about teeth. In their first lesson, they explored the different types of teeth humans have and learned about their functions. Using playdough, the children created their own models of teeth and carefully labelled each type, helping them to understand how incisors, canines, and molars are used for different jobs.

Year 2 have been busy exploring the Blue Mountains in Geography. They have learned where the Blue Mountains are located in Australia, identified important physical features such as mountains, valleys and forests, and discussed what makes the area a popular tourist destination. The children have enjoyed learning about the physical features, wildlife and climate of the region. They have designed informative posters to encourage people to visit the Blue Mountains, proudly demonstrating their knowledge of the area so far in the unit.

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Year 6 were visited by local artist Ella who led a workshop in polyblock printing. The children all designed a print before creating their block and then printing.



Reception have settled back into the school routine wonderfully after the Christmas break. They have returned with lots of enthusiasm and are eager to learn. In Literacy, we have thoroughly enjoyed reading our class story *Oh No, George!* The children have produced some lovely work linked to the text, including "roll on the wall" activities and hot-seating one of the characters. This encouraged them to think carefully about feelings, actions and viewpoints.

Polar Bears

You may have been wondering why your children have been asking for small change. Three pupils—Aria, Alba and Minnie—have been inspired by a book read in class to make a difference. They have learned about the impact of climate change on the polar bears' natural habitat and wanted to take action by supporting charities that protect and care for polar bears.

Across the school, each class has a large polar bear, and our whole school community has been challenged to fill the polar bear with English coins. In addition to this, the girls have shown great creativity and initiative by making items such as hair bows, bracelets and bookmarks, which they are selling during playtimes and lunchtimes.

I am incredibly proud of the compassion, determination and sense of responsibility our children continue to show as they seek to be advocates for change and stewards of God's world.



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Stewards

Following a successful application process, our stewards—who will be championing change and supporting our school community—have now been selected. Congratulations to Fleur, Aria, Taylor, Lueta, Emily and Arthur.

We are proud of their willingness to serve others, take responsibility and help make a positive difference within our school community.

Diary Dates

11th February, 2pm – Donna David Author Event KS1

11th February 5-7pm - Parents Evening

16th -20th February - Half Term

24th February, 2:30pm – Year 2 Mastery Number Parent Session

25th February, 2:30pm – Year 1 Mastery Number Parent Session

25th February 3:30-5:30pm - Parents Evening

26th February, 2:30pm – Reception Mastery Number Parent Session

5th March - World Book Day

13th March, 2pm - Reception/KS1 Mother's Day Celebration

18th March – Year 5 Bikeability (information to follow)

19th March – Year 5 Bikeability (information to follow)

25th March, 9am – Reception Parents Workshop (information to follow)

26th March, 9am - KS2 Easter Service

27th March, 9:15am - Reception Easter Garden Service

27th March - Last day of term

13th April - Start of summer term

24th April, 8:30am – Reception/KS1 Reading Session

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4th May - Bank Holiday

22nd May - INSET Day

25th-29th May - Half Term

26th June, 8:30am – Reception/KS1 Reading Session

9th July, 9:30am & 2pm - Year 6 production

16th July, 9:15am Year 6 leavers' service

16th July, 5pm - Year 6 leavers' party

17th July - Last day of term

20th July - INSET Day