

St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School
Trench Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9NG

To Parents of Pupils in Reception Classes

September 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Reception classes at St Margaret's. We hope this will be the beginning of a happy and positive year for your children as they begin their school life. You will receive termly 'Knowledge Organisers', on which you will find information about the children's learning. We hope this will be helpful for you to share and extend learning at home. During this term, we will be undertaking the Government Baseline Assessment of your children's learning so far. We will also be getting to know your child and what they already know through our daily Challenge Time, (learning through play) activities.

The Welcome pack you received in the summer outlines systems in place regarding sickness and absence from school. If your child is not well enough to come to school please inform the office as soon as possible on the morning that your child is unwell.

- **Please label all clothing and personal belongings clearly.** We have found that a key ring or similar attached to the zip pull helps children locate their coat quickly. A key ring on the bookbag handle helps children to find their book bag easily too.
- Please encourage your child to put coats, jumpers and shoes on and take them off independently as this will be expected at school.
- Please practise using a knife and fork so the children feel confident using them at lunchtime.
- Please talk about the lunch menu daily with your child, so they know what to expect.
- Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for working and playing outside, as we will be going outside every day. For the early autumn, we suggest a light waterproof coat which can be left on their peg. As we move into the colder months, we suggest a uniform raincoat, scarf, hat and gloves/mittens; **all named**. Please also provide a **named** pair of wellies which can be stored on the boot racks outside the classrooms and a **named** pair of waterproof trousers that can be stored on your child's peg.
- We appreciate you providing a change of clothes in a bag for toilet, water play and mud kitchen accidents, these will be stored in the toilet area.
- Please talk to your child about school and how all the adults are there to help them. We will be discussing politeness and co-operation as expected behaviour.
- Please discuss taking care of things at home and at school and why we need to put things away when asked. Remind children that school property stays at school. Talk about rules you have at home to stay safe and why we have similar rules at school.
- The school drive and the approach to school are potentially dangerous for young children. Children should always hold your hand and walk alongside you when walking up and down the path as we have buses and other vehicles on site at the beginning and end of the day.
- Please continue to encourage your child to use the toilet independently, to wash their hands and practise good hygiene at home. We are teaching the children the NHS handwashing song and practising good hygiene at school.

Our PE day is Monday and our woodland day is Tuesday. On PE days your child should wear school PE kit. If you do not have PE kit yet, your child can do PE (BEAM-balance education and movement) this term in their normal school uniform.

On woodland days your child needs waterproof trousers and welly boots, these can be stored in school as they are also used on wet days in our reception garden. We would also like the children to wear PE kit on woodland days.

We are always happy to discuss any aspect of your child's learning and development; please contact us via Tapestry or at the door, should you have any queries or wish to make an appointment to meet with us.

Thank you for using the proforma you have been given to tell us of the usual end of school day arrangements for your child. If there are any changes to the normal arrangements, please let us know via Tapestry or via the school office.

Kind regards

Mrs Mathieson, Mrs Heaton and the Early Years Team.