

# ST MARGARET'S

## Mailing



Dear St M's families,

We've had such a lovely start to this half term, helped along by the gorgeous sunshine we've been blessed with — it always lifts everyone's spirits. It's been wonderful to see the children back in school, happy, engaged, and eager to jump back into their learning.

This half term is set to be an exciting one, packed full of enrichment opportunities. From sports tournaments to special enrichment days, there's so much for our pupils to look forward to. Make sure you take a look at the Spring Term Events section later in the newsletter so you don't miss anything coming up.

This newsletter also has updated information from Brighton and Hove Council about attendance support and reminders on pages 7-8, and I would encourage parents to read this and to engage with the sessions being offered if you are worried about your child's attendance at school.

Best wishes for a lovely weekend,  
Rachel & the St M's Team

### REMINDERS

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all families of our school's expectations regarding uniform and personal items.

Please ensure that children attend school in full school uniform each day. Non-uniform clothing should only be worn on special event days, and these will always be communicated to you in advance.

In addition, pupils should not wear nail polish or makeup, and only small stud earrings are permitted for safety reasons.

We would also like to remind parents that toys and personal items from home should not be brought into school. This helps us prevent upset or distress should these items become lost or damaged during the school day.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a positive and focussed learning environment.



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## YEAR 3 LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



Badgers Class enjoyed a vibrant and joy-filled Lunar New Year enrichment day, transforming their classroom into a sea of colour and celebration. They explored the tradition of red envelopes, carefully crafting their own to gift to the Reception Hedgehogs, spreading good luck across the school. The children baked golden coin cookies, created lively music, and even performed their own traditional dragon dance with great enthusiasm. To finish the day, Badgers gathered for a class feast before stepping outside to set off sparklers—symbolically burning away the old year and welcoming the new with excitement and hope.

## YEAR 5 - FOREST SCHOOL



Year 5 stepped back in time to explore our Anglo-Saxon topic in a hands-on way! In the morning, the children designed their own runes and created them using twigs gathered from the woodland. Once finished, these were hung around the school to bring good fortune—just as the Anglo-Saxons believed. After break, we built a fire together and made traditional Anglo-Saxon bread. The children cooked their dough over the flames, timing it by reciting the Lord's Prayer twice, just as would have been done in the past. We enjoyed the freshly baked bread with goats' cheese while listening to the epic tale of Beowulf. A wonderful day of creativity, teamwork, and history brought to life!



## SWIMMING GALA

We are incredibly proud of the St Margaret's swim team for their outstanding efforts at the Brighton and Hove Swim Gala.

The children showed exceptional teamwork, camaraderie, and true team spirit throughout the event — and we even came home with some medals! Well done, everyone!



## RUGBY DAY



A big thank you to Brighton Blues Rugby!  
We had an amazing coaching session this week— the children absolutely loved learning more about the game and getting stuck into some fun activities. Huge thanks to the coaches for bringing so much energy, enthusiasm, and expertise. The smiles on the children's faces said it all!  
We can't wait to welcome you back again soon!



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## AN AMAZING WORLD BOOK DAY!



What an incredible World Book Day we've had! It was wonderful to see so many children completely engaged with reading and excited to share their love of stories. The whole day was action-packed, with every activity centred around the joy of books.

Children across the school took part in buddy reading, where older pupils read with younger year groups—such a lovely opportunity for them to connect, chat about books, and enjoy stories together.

One of the highlights was our potato book character creations! The imagination and creativity on display were fantastic, and the hall looked amazing with all the characters proudly exhibited for everyone to admire.

Throughout the day, classes enjoyed a range of quizzes, games, and story-sharing activities, all designed to celebrate reading and inspire our young readers.

It truly was a pleasure to see favourite stories being shared, new books being discovered, and children enjoying some quiet time reading together.

We are All In for reading this year—and World Book Day showed exactly why!



## FORMER STUDENT HELPS IN PHILLIPPINES



It is always so wonderful for us to hear from former pupils who are out in the world spreading kindness and hope, so I was delighted to hear from Zandah recently to tell us about his amazing work in the Philippines.



He wrote.....'In 2025, I joined a missionary trip to the Philippines, serving with ANCOP. This charity constructs homes for families in poverty, supports children's education, and shares Christ's message. I will return in June. We aim to raise £25,000 to fund housing, schooling, and new opportunities for families in need. I ask you to consider supporting this Christ-centred mission prayerfully. Thank you. God bless.'



Should you wish to make a donation to this amazing cause, you can do so by following this link: [JustGiving](#)

## Celebrating us!

Our learning skills winners are:

Hedgehogs - Ola

Foxes - Roman

Squirrels - Harley

Badgers - Cree

Otters - Daisy C

Woodpeckers - Amelie

Owls - Artie

**GOLDEN DUSTPAN: HEDHEHOGS**

**HOUSEPOINT WINNERS: DIAMOND**



# SPRING TERM EVENTS

We have an action packed spring term of events that parents and carers are welcome to come along to - we hope to see you there!



## Science Week

This year's theme is: "Curiosity: What's Your Question?" We will be undertaking some scientific investigations and enquiry from 9th-13<sup>th</sup> March.



## Curriculum Showcase

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March from 2:30pm

You are welcome to attend our curriculum showcase afternoon and see what the children have been learning about this term.



## Parents Evening

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

Bookings are now available via Ping, so, make sure you book a slot!



Our Year 4 Otters Class have already started rehearsals for the Let's Dance show held at Brighton Dome in March.

You can get your tickets from Brighton Dome Box Office. We will be performing on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March - we hope to see you there supporting!

<https://brightondome.org/whats-on/Lq0-lets-dance-2026/>



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## ATTENDANCE UPDATES: SUPPORTING EVERY CHILD'S SUCCESS

### Support for Parents if Your Child Is Struggling to Attend School

The School Mental Health Team (SMHT) is running informal support sessions for parents and caregivers whose children find attending school difficult.

Upcoming dates:

- 17 March, 10–11.30am – Modelo Lounge, Hove
- 21 April, 10–11.30am – Al Campo Lounge, Brighton
- 23 June, 10–11.30am – Al Campo Lounge, Brighton



These sessions offer practical advice and a chance to talk with professionals and other families.

### Helpful Parent Webinars (Free)

Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs) have created short, accessible webinars for families on common issues:

- Low mood in children – <https://tinyurl.com/ytb3t53j>
- Helping children cope with fears and worries – <https://tinyurl.com/4b23uv4a>
- Transition into Year 7 – <https://tinyurl.com/ycxa9yht>
- Sleep difficulties – <https://tinyurl.com/z7ncutef>

CAMHS has also released additional workshops for parents:

<https://www.sussexcamhs.nhs.uk/resources/resources-for-families-carers-and-professionals/parent-and-carer-workshops>

### Year 6 → Year 7 Transition

The Department for Education has produced a helpful webinar on how the move from primary to secondary school can affect attendance and wellbeing.

Watch here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzbvKZUUj0A&list=PLXjcCX3hH9LV-atDG7rxT8Izl2AurN3XX)

[v=YzbvKZUUj0A&list=PLXjcCX3hH9LV-atDG7rxT8Izl2AurN3XX](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzbvKZUUj0A&list=PLXjcCX3hH9LV-atDG7rxT8Izl2AurN3XX)

### Notes About Medical Appointments

There has been a rise in school absences caused by medical appointments, particularly on Mondays and Fridays.

Parents are encouraged to:

- book appointments outside school hours wherever possible
- be aware that schools may ask for confirmation of appointments if sent via text message

Local GPs have been given new guidance to help support schools and families with illness-related absence.



## ATTENDANCE UPDATES: SUPPORTING EVERY CHILD'S SUCCESS

### Family Hubs & Local Support

Brighton & Hove Family Hubs provide:

- free parenting workshops
- support for families
- guidance for young people



More information:

Parenting support: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/family-help-online/relationship-support-families/parenting-support-through-family-hubs>

Family Hub locations: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/family-help-online/family-hubs-and-what-they-offer/how-contact-family-hubs-and-family-hub-locations>

### **Holiday Activities & Food (HAF)**

For families receiving benefits-related free school meals, Brighton & Hove offers free holiday activities during Easter, summer and winter— including sports, arts and music sessions.

Details: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/holiday-activities-and-food-haf>

Schools Mental Health Service





### Does your child struggle to go to school?

**Regular drop-in sessions for parents and carers**

Hosted by the Family Support team, the sessions are a friendly space to access information and support and meet other parents/carers facing the same challenges.

**Online sessions**

24 February 7-8.30pm  
19 May 7-8.30pm

**Face-to-face sessions**

**Modelo Lounge** (145 Church Road, Hove BN3 2AE)  
17 March 10-11.30am

**Alcampo Lounge** (84 London Road, Brighton BN1 4JF)  
21 April 10-11.30am  
23 June 10-11.30am

To find out more or [book onto the online sessions](mailto:schoolsmentalhealthservice@brighton-hove.gov.uk), please email:  
schoolsmentalhealthservice@brighton-hove.gov.uk or Jo Roeg: jo.roeg@brighton-hove.gov.uk





## SPRING TERM 2026 DATES

Jan		Feb		Mar	
1 Th		1 Su		1 Su	
2 Fr		2 Mo	9.00am Candlemas service National Story Telline Week	2 Mo	World Book Week Multi sports festival
3 Sa		3 Tu	Book fair in school all week	3 Tu	
4 Su		4 We		4 We	Swimming championships
5 Mo	INSET - school closed	5 Th	Indoor Athletics (Y5 & Y6)	5 Th	World Book Day
6 Tu	8.40am School reopens	6 Fr	Number Day	6 Fr	
7 We	3.15 school nurse dental team	7 Sa		7 Sa	
8 Th	PACC Coffee morning 9.00am 1:30pm TOUR	8 Su		8 Su	
9 Fr		9 Mo		9 Mo	National Science Week
10 Sa		10 Tu	Safer Internet Day	10 Tu	Assessment Week
11 Su		11 We		11 We	Y5 last Roedean session
12 Mo		12 Th		12 Th	Y4 beach school
13 Tu	Rec Heights and Weights Y6 Antarctica Day	13 Fr	School Talent Show Finish for half term	13 Fr	
14 We	Y5 Roedean sessions start	14 Sa		14 Sa	
15 Th		15 Su		15 Su	
16 Fr		16 Mo	HALF TERM	16 Mo	Y4 Let's Dance week
17 Sa		17 Tu		17 Tu	
18 Su		18 We	Ash Wednesday	18 We	Y1 Forest School Session
19 Mo		19 Th		19 Th	1:45 PACC Coffee
20 Tu		20 Fr		20 Fr	Y2 Australia Day 2.30pm showcase
21 We		21 Sa		21 Sa	
22 Th		22 Su		22 Su	
23 Fr		23 Mo	8.40am School reopens	23 Mo	Parents Evening
24 Sa		24 Tu		24 Tu	
25 Su		25 We		25 We	Y4 Streetfunk dance event Parents Evening
26 Mo		26 Th	Y3 Chinese New Year Day	26 Th	9:15 Easter Service - Church
27 Tu	Pm Y4 badminton	27 Fr	Y5 Forest School Session	27 Fr	Last day of term
28 We		28 Sa		28 Sa	
29 Th	Y1 to Paradise Park			29 Su	
30 Fr				30 Mo	EASTER BREAK
31 Sa					



## SUMMER TERM 2026 DATES

Apr		May		Jun		Jul					
1	We	EASTER BREAK	1	Fr	Mental Health Awareness month	1	Mo	8.40am School reopens Y4 MTC Window	1	We	
2	Th		2	Sa		2	Tu		2	Th	
3	Fr		3	Su		3	We		3	Fr	2.30pm Curriculum Showcase
4	Sa		4	Mo	BANK HOLIDAY	4	Th		4	Sa	
5	Su		5	Tu	Y5 Bikeability sessions	5	Fr	World Environment Day	5	Su	
6	Mo		6	We	Y5 Bikeability sessions	6	Sa		6	Mo	
7	Tu		7	Th		7	Su		7	Tu	1.30pm Y6 leavers service -Hove
8	We		8	Fr		8	Mo	Y1 Phonics check week Class photos	8	We	
9	Th		9	Sa		9	Tu		9	Th	Y4 last swimming lessons
10	Fr		10	Su		10	We		10	Fr	Reports Issued to Parents
11	Sa		11	Mo	SATS WEEK – YEAR 6	11	Th		11	Sa	
12	Su		12	Tu		12	Fr		12	Su	
13	Mo	INSET – school closed	13	We		13	Sa		13	Mo	
14	Tu	8.40am School reopens	14	Th		14	Su		14	Tu	6pm Y6 leavers show
15	We		15	Fr		15	Mo		15	We	
16	Th		16	Sa		16	Tu		16	Th	
17	Fr		17	Su		17	We		17	Fr	
18	Sa		18	Mo		18	Th		18	Sa	
19	Su		19	Tu	2.00pm SEND Coffee	19	Fr		19	Su	
20	Mo		20	We		20	Sa		20	Mo	
21	Tu		21	Th		21	Su		21	Tu	9am Y6 Leavers Assembly Last day of the year
22	We		22	Fr	9am Pentecost Service Finish for half term	22	Mo		22	We	INSET – school closed
23	Th		23	Sa		23	Tu		23	Th	
24	Fr		24	Su		24	We	Withdean Athletics	24	Fr	
25	Sa		25	Mo	HALF TERM	25	Th	Pm sports day	25	Sa	
26	Su		26	Tu		26	Fr	INSET – school closed	26	Su	
27	Mo		27	We		27	Sa		27	Mo	
28	Tu		28	Th		28	Su		28	Tu	
29	We		29	Fr		29	Mo	Assessment Week	29	We	
30	Th	Y4 Swimming starts	30	Sa		30	Tu		30	Th	
			31	Su					31	Fr	





## Be a chorister for the day!

**Saturday 21 March 2026 | 1.30-4.30pm | Chichester Cathedral**

Spend an afternoon finding out what it is like to be a cathedral chorister. Join us for a singing workshop, open-forum Q&A, a short service and tea.

We welcome children who enjoy music and are curious about the choir, as well as those who might want to explore the opportunity to join our choir school and become a chorister.

### Who is this event for?

The open day is suitable for boys and girls in years 2, 3, 4 and 5, accompanied by a parent or guardian. No musical experience is expected: we welcome children who are enthusiastic about singing and music.

### Booking

To book a space or ask any questions about the event, please contact Chris George:

**E: [Chris.George@chichestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:Chris.George@chichestercathedral.org.uk) T: 01243 812488**

For more information about the chorister life please contact Charles Harrison:

**E: [organist@chichestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:organist@chichestercathedral.org.uk) T: 01243 812486**



ALL MONEY RAISED FOR CHARITY

**CoppaFeel!**  
breast cancer awareness

**BACK to 90's**

A Dance Party

TICKET £20  
+SOP BOOKING FEE

FRI MAY 1ST

With DJ ATOMIX

THROW IT BACK TO THE 90S WITH BIG TUNES & NOSTALGIA, RAISING MONEY FOR COPPAFEEL & BREAST CANCER AWARENESS. ❤️

**GRAB YOUR FRIENDS AND LET'S PARTY FOR A PURPOSE.**

*Saltdean Lido* BN2 8SP  
7:30pm - 10:30pm

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FOR TICKETS VISIT - [TINYURL.COM/SALTDEAN90](https://tinyurl.com/saltdean90)





**👑 Easter Holiday Mindfulness Pony Day for Kids! 👑**

**Dates:** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April  
**Time:** 9.30am- 2pm  
**Location:** Hill Crest Farm, Horsham

*Join us for a magical day of ponies, riding, art, friendship, and mindfulness!*

**🔮 What to Expect:**

- 💖 Mindfulness Time with Ponies
- 🐾 Pony Care
- 🐾 Riding and Mounted Games
- 🌲 Connect with Arts and Nature
- 👯 Make New Friends

**Click the links or scan the QR code to book the day of your choice:**

[Thursday 2nd April- Mindfulness Pony Day- Book Now!](#)

[Friday 10th April- Mindfulness Pony Day- Book Now!](#)



**Cost: £140 per child**

*BY PURCHASING A TICKET VIA EVENTBRITE, YOU ARE PAYING £40 DEPOSIT. YOU WILL BE INVOICED VIA EMAIL FOR THE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT ON 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH.*

**Spaces limited to 10 children per day**

**We are an inclusive team and warmly welcome children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We celebrate diversity and are committed to providing a supportive environment where every child can thrive.**



# FOODIE WALL ART COMPETITION

Let your imaginations run wild and win £200 fund for your school and £20 book voucher for **YOU!**

**DEADLINE 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH**

**CREATE AN A4 PAGE OF COLOURFUL, FOODIE-INSPIRED LANDSCAPES.**

THINK BROCCOLI TREES, BAGUETTE FENCES, OR EVEN CARROT CHIMNEYS – THE MORE CREATIVE, THE BETTER!

MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR **NAME, AGE AND SCHOOL ON THE BACK!**

EITHER POST TO **HOP HOUSE TN2 4HS** OR EMAILED TO **INFO@CATERLINKLTD.CO.UK**

*Good luck*



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feeding the imagination



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