

# ST MARGARET'S

## Mailing



Dear St M's families,

It has been lovely to welcome you all back after half term, and a very warm welcome to the 9 new children who have joined us this week. We hope you settle in quickly and enjoy being part of the St M's community.

As always, the summer term is full of exciting events, and this year is no exception. In this newsletter, you will find highlights of the fantastic experiences the children have enjoyed this week, along with important information about upcoming events.

It is also very important that you take the time to read the information on Free School Meals on page 4. Recent changes mean that many more families may now be eligible, which in turn increases vital funding for the school. If you think you may qualify, please speak to the office, who will support you.

Finally, many of you may have seen the sad news that Middle Street School will be closing on 31st August. I will be overseeing the closure process and will then be returning to St M's full time from September. I can't wait to be back here full time!

Best wishes, Rachel & the St M's Team



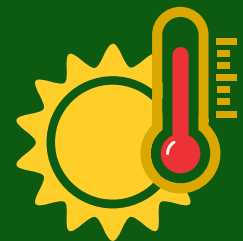
### Class Photos

School photographs will be taking place on Monday 8th June.

Please ensure that all children come to school smartly dressed in full school uniform.

Year 6 pupils should also remember to bring their hoodies in for the photographs.

Thank you for your support.



Please remember on hot sunny days to send your child to school with a water bottle and hat so that they can keep cool at break times - thank you !



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## ROCKSTEADY



This week we were delighted to welcome Rocksteady Music School into school to introduce children to the exciting opportunities available for next year. The children had the chance to experience what it's like to be part of a band, trying out different instruments and learning how they can develop their musical skills through weekly lessons.

It was a fantastic session and there was a real buzz of excitement - a great time was had by all, with lots of enthusiasm from our future rock stars! For anyone looking to take part in this next year, please sign up on the rocksteady website here:

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>



## SPORTS DAY



Sports day will take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June in the afternoon. The event will begin at 1pm on the sports field, and we will open the gates to parents from 12.45pm.

The afternoon should last approximately 2 hours and once done, parents can take their children home with them. Children should wear PE kits all day and bring a water bottle and hat in!

We are looking forward to an exciting afternoon of sporting excellence - hope to see lots of you there!



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## AUTHOR VISITS



We were delighted to welcome David Fuller into school this week, where he spoke with our KS2 children about his work as an author and his journey into writing.

The session was engaging and insightful, giving pupils a real understanding of how stories are created and the inspiration behind them. David shared his experiences with warmth and enthusiasm, encouraging children to explore their own creativity.

It was a truly inspiring visit, and we hope it has sparked a love of writing in many of our budding authors!

KS1 had a visit from Marc, who is also the local vet in Rottingdean and has written an amazing book named after his late grandfather - 'Leon's Reef'! We were the first school in the world to hear this story!

We were very lucky that before it is even published he came in and read the story to us and after discussed with the children the hidden messages in the story. We must be kind and look after each other and look after our oceans and planet to protect our animals. Watch out for Marc in local book shops over the next few weeks promoting his book!



## ANT DAY

This week we were excited to welcome Darroch, an ant specialist and former pupil of St Margaret's, back into school.

Darroch led sessions across the whole school, sharing his fascinating knowledge about ants and their colonies. Children learned about a wide range of species, including European Fire Ants as well as species from Indonesia and Australia.



He explained how his passion began when he sailed across the world, eventually leading him to keep and study rare ant species. Darroch now documents his work, with the aim of sharing his enthusiasm and inspiring others.

It was a truly engaging and memorable experience, and we are very grateful to Darroch for returning to inspire the next generation with his unique interest and expertise. [Written by Daisy C and Robert H](#)



## IMPORTANT UPDATE: CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

We would like to make families aware of important changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility, which will take effect from the start of the 2026-2027 academic year.

The government has confirmed that all children from households receiving Universal Credit (UC) will be eligible for free school meals, regardless of income. We want to ensure that every eligible child is registered so families receive the support they are entitled to and the school can continue to access vital funding.

From September 2026, there will be two FSM categories

### Targeted Free School Meals

Children will qualify if their household:

- receives Universal Credit, and
- has annual earnings of £7,400 or less

Children in this category will receive:

- free school meals
- Pupil Premium funding for their school
- access to the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme
- for secondary pupils, the extended rights element of school travel assistance (where applicable)

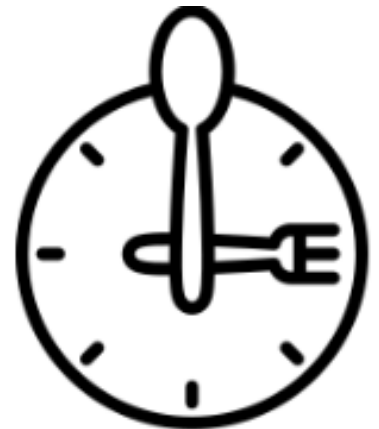
### Extended Free School Meals

Children will qualify if their household:

- receives Universal Credit, and
- has annual earnings above £7,400

Children in this category will receive:

- free school meals only



### Why registering matters

- your child can receive a free meal each school day
- the school receives extra funding to support learning, wellbeing and enrichment

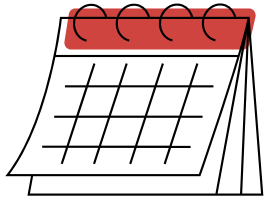
Even if your child does not usually have a school meal, registration is still very important. Please contact the office for support in doing this.

### You may be eligible if you receive:

Universal Credit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related ESA, Child Tax Credit (with an income limit), or support under the Immigration and Asylum Act. (You do not need to be working or unemployed.)



## UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES



A full list of dates are listed below, but here are the highlights for this half term.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June - Phonics Screening Week

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June - Year 2 Brighton Pavillion trip

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June - Year 6 - Surf Life Saving Day

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June - Years 4-6 Withdean Athletics

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June - CIRCUS - tickets available now!

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June - Sports Day - afternoon parents welcome!

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June - INSET Day - school closed to pupils

## Celebrating us!

Our learning skills winners are:

Hedgehogs - Cy

Foxes - Halo

Squirrels - Gilly

Badgers - Elira

Otters - Freddie W

Woodpeckers - Jaxon

Owls - Annie

**GOLDEN DUSTPAN: Foxes**

**HOUSEPOINT WINNERS: EMERALD**



## SUMMER TERM 2026 DATES

Apr		May		Jun		Jul					
1	We	EASTER BREAK	1	Fr	Mental Health Awareness month	1	Mo	Y4 MTC Window	1	We	
2	Th		2	Sa		2	Tu		2	Th	Play & Stay EYFS
3	Fr		3	Su		3	We		3	Fr	Curriculum Showcase
4	Sa		4	Mo	BANK HOLIDAY	4	Th		4	Sa	
5	Su		5	Tu	Y5 bikeability Y4 Ukulele starts	5	Fr	World Environment Day	5	Su	
6	Mo		6	We	Y5 Bikeability	6	Sa		6	Mo	Perform Workshops Y1, Y3, Y5
7	Tu		7	Th		7	Su		7	Tu	Y6 leavers service – Hove 1:30
8	We		8	Fr	VE Day	8	Mo	Phonics Screening Week Class photos	8	We	New EYFS Forest School
9	Th		9	Sa		9	Tu		9	Th	Y4 swimming ends
10	Fr		10	Su		10	We		10	Fr	Reports Issued to Parents
11	Sa		11	Mo	SATS WEEK	11	Th		11	Sa	
12	Su		12	Tu		12	Fr	Y2 Pavilion Trip	12	Su	
13	Mo	INSET – school closed for pupils	13	We		13	Sa		13	Mo	Pupil leadership meets
14	Tu		14	Th		14	Su		14	Tu	6pm Y6 leavers show
15	We		15	Fr		15	Mo		15	We	YR to Middle Farm
16	Th		16	Sa		16	Tu	Y6 Surf Life Saving	16	Th	
17	Fr		17	Su		17	We	Withdean Athletics	17	Fr	
18	Sa		18	Mo		18	Th	9.30am CNCS assembly New to EYFS Meeting	18	Sa	
19	Su		19	Tu	Tri Golf (pm) SEND Coffee 2pm	19	Fr		19	Su	
20	Mo		20	We	Y6 Safety In Action (am)	20	Sa	PTA Summer Circus	20	Mo	
21	Tu		21	Th		21	Su		21	Tu	9am Y6 Leavers Assembly
22	We	Perform EYFS/Y1/Y2 (am)	22	Fr		22	Mo		22	We	INSET – school closed for pupils
23	Th	Y4 Swimming starts	23	Sa		23	Tu		23	Th	
24	Fr		24	Su		24	We		24	Fr	
25	Sa		25	Mo	HALF TERM	25	Th	Pm sports day – no swim	25	Sa	
26	Su		26	Tu		26	Fr	INSET – school closed for pupils	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	9.30am CNCS assembly	30	Sa		30	Tu		30	Th	
			31	Su					31	Fr	



**Brighton and Hove Parent Carers' Council (PaCC)***'a voice for parent carers living in Brighton & Hove'*<https://paccbrighton.org.uk/>**Resources and services available in Brighton & Hove for families of neurodivergent children****1. Information and support****Amaze**

Amaze is a charity that gives information, advice and support to families with children and young people 0 to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex. Contact SENDIASS [sendiass@amazesussex.org.uk](mailto:sendiass@amazesussex.org.uk) or 01273 772289

<https://amazesussex.org.uk/>[info@amazesussex.org.uk](mailto:info@amazesussex.org.uk)**01273 234020****Brighton & Hove Local Offer**

TheLocalOffer is support for children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and their families.

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities>**2. Parentcarers support groups and befriending****Amaze**

Amaze runs regular, support groups in Brighton & Hove for parents of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Some groups are in person, some are WhatsApp groups. Amaze also offer one-to-one befriending for those parents who need more individual support.

<https://amazesussex.org.uk/parent-groups-and-befriending/brighton-hove/>[info@amazesussex.org.uk](mailto:info@amazesussex.org.uk)**Brighton Pebbles**

Brighton Pebbles provide support and groups for SEND families who live in Brighton & Hove, especially for families who find difficult to access mainstream activities because of their child's special needs.

<http://www.brightonpebbles.org.uk/>[brightonpebbles1@gmail.com](mailto:brightonpebbles1@gmail.com)**07506 105265****mASCot**

mASCot is a parent led peer to peer support network for families with autistic children. mASCot brings families together and enables them to connect with others in similar situations as themselves.

<https://www.asc-mascot.com/>[info@asc-mascot.com](mailto:info@asc-mascot.com)**07943346055****T21 Brighton**

T21 Brighton & Hove offers friendship & support for children & young people with Trisomy 21/Down Syndrome and their families. They run monthly preschool meet ups, info sessions, social & sporting activities.

[T21Brighton@gmail.com](mailto:T21Brighton@gmail.com)**07930 418298****The Dads Group**

The Dads Group brings fathers of children with additional needs and disabilities together, to meet and talk about issues that surround their family's lives.

<https://amazesussex.org.uk/parent-groups-and-befriending/>[dads@amazesussex.org.uk](mailto:dads@amazesussex.org.uk)**FOR MORE NEWS AND UPDATES FOLLOW US**

# ROLL UP! ROLL UP!

COMING TO  
ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL

★ SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE ★

A central graphic featuring a white and yellow striped circus tent with a red flag on top. A blue banner with yellow text reads "CIRCUS" and a red banner with white text reads "PAZAZ". The background is a vibrant orange and yellow sunburst pattern with confetti and streamers. Various circus-themed items are scattered around: a pink cotton candy on a stick, three hot dogs in buns with mustard, and a blue balloon dog. A rainbow-colored hula hoop is also visible.

CIRCUS  
PAZAZ

**PRIORITY TICKET SALES**

FOR ST. MARGARET'S FAMILIES  
★ FRIDAY 8TH MAY ★



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**HOLIDAY CLUBS**

**SUMMER**  
Holiday clubs

More fun, More friendships, More smiles during the Summer break!

Book Today!

Premier Education

Excellent  
★★★★★  
Trustpilot

### Your Nearest HAF Holiday Club

<p><b>BRIGHTON AND HOVE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Luke's Primary School, BN2 9ZF</li> <li>• Rudyard Kipling Primary School, BN2 6RH</li> <li>• Stanley Deason Leisure Centre, BN2 5PB</li> </ul>	<p><b>HAF Bookings:</b></p> <p>*FREE HAF spaces for those eligible for benefits-related free school meals</p> <p><a href="https://eequ.org/">https://eequ.org/</a></p>
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**Please bring**  
Plenty of water  
Suitable clothing  
Loads of energy!

The Summer Holidays are coming. Thankfully, Premier Education holiday clubs are too!

Kids moving. Confidence growing. Dozens of activities. Tonnes of fun. And your childcare worries? Sorted.

And with the HAF programme, your children can attend sessions free of charge. Each session includes healthy food and enriching activities.

**Book now** for a holiday full of excitement!

**Clubs are better with friends!**

Treat your friends to 20% off...and get 20% off too!

\*T&Cs apply. Refer a Friend discount on new bookings only.

Excellent  
★★★★★  
Trustpilot

