

SCHOOL REPORT

The children and the staff at St Margaret's Collier Street have settled back into the school routine after the summer holidays. It is always a pleasure to see the children happy and confident when returning to school. We have welcomed a new teacher to Russet Class, Miss O'Connor. Miss O'Connor would like to thank the staff, parents, governors and children for their friendly welcome and positive attitudes.



We would also like to extend our warmest welcome to all the new members of the school and their parents. A full cohort of 17 children in Year R in Russet Class, two new children, one in Key Stage 1 and one in Key Stage 2.

It has been a very busy beginning of term. A huge well done to all the new children who have settled in quickly with very few tears; starting school can be a little scary and emotional for our youngest children. They have adjusted well to the full day and, most importantly, having to come back every day!

They have begun to develop friendships in their own classrooms and with the older children. The Year 1s in Russet class are being very respectful, mature and good role models.





They love using the mud kitchen, bikes and tool belt writing kits.

As part of the Key Stage 1 and Early Years topic on Transport, Russet and Pip-pins class were allowed to bring their bikes to school for a fun filled activity day. This brought much excitement and lots of happy smiles.

Our School Council has been elected by their peers in the first weeks of term and they are eager to get to work. They have already met and decided what is important to us as a school. Their ideas have been announced to the children in their classrooms and we are sure they will relay these to parents and carers.

We are looking forward to the next academic year at St Margaret's, growing and working together with our children, families and the wider community.

Our Harvest Festival service is on Friday 11th October 2019 at 9.15. Please feel free to come and enjoy our first visit to Church this academic year.





SCHOOL REPORT

Autumn has certainly arrived in Collier Street. On Monday 7th October, Bramley Class went on an autumn walk to capture evidence of the new season as part of their photography work. Children took inspiration from the Autumn walk to write list poems.

Autumn leaves swirl in the breeze,
Autumn leaves rustle under my boots,
Autumn leaves imprison harmless conkers,
Autumn leaves are amber, golden and brown,
Autumn leaves flutter to the ground.

William (Year 4)



Autumn leaves glide through the wind,
Autumn leaves crunch under my shoes,
Autumn leaves flutter through the harvest trees,
Autumn leaves change colour as they whirl from the tree,
Autumn leaves are amber, red, and auburn.

Sophia (Year 3)





Autumn leaves dance like ballerinas,
Autumn leaves flutter in the breeze,
Autumn leaves take their last breath,
Autumn leaves form a colourful carpet,
Autumn leaves fly with the wind.

Imogen (Year 4)



In Pippin and Russet Classes, our topic for the Autumn term to Christmas is 'Transport'.

The children started off with thinking up an amazing, inventive list of transport types, from hot air balloons to amphibious vehicles. The subject suddenly got bigger!

Children brought their own bicycles, scooters, and even an ezyroller to school. This was great as we could really look at how bicycles work and name the technical parts. Some of the bikes had gears, too. Then we just had fun riding safely on the field and around the huge circuit that Russet Class had chalked on the playground.



Next, we looked at the history of the bicycle. Lots of children already knew about the Penny Farthing, but not about the Boneshaker and Running Machine that came before it. We had a go at drawing bicycles, too



Meanwhile, the children were fascinated with how Jackson Pollock threw paint around and we did more or less the same, using toy cars to drive paint tracks over our paper. After that, we made vehicles of our own with working axles, a chassis and a body.



The children were inventive; we had a cart and three-wheeled models as well as 4-wheeled cars and tanks.

Travelling to the moon, rockets and the international space station were our recent focus on transport. If you haven't seen Chris Hadfield brush his teeth in space, look him up: children were astounded at the way a toothbrush left hanging in mid-air just STAYS THERE!!



We made rockets of course, by drawing around different shapes and cutting them out



On one very cold Monday, the children took the train to London on a visit to the London Transport Museum and had a great day out. The journey itself was an adventure.



What next as we approach Christmas? We'll be thinking about the classic *Polar Express* and that other special seasonal type of transport – the sleigh.

SCHOOL REPORT December 2019

Whole School Eco Curriculum Challenge!



Over the last year or so our school has had a keener focus on environmental issues; whether that is developing the wildlife area of the field, the launch of Eco Club and encouraging a wide range of recycling, being aware of seasons with Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter walks, discussing environmental issues in the classroom or thinking about the environment in our curriculum. To bring the whole school together thinking about the environment we set a whole school Christmas themed Eco Challenge ...



The children were asked to create a winter themed piece of art work made from recycled materials. It could be anything from 3d junk modelling to a textured painting or collage. The only rule was that it was made using recyclable materials and it was winter themed.



The results were so impressive that the creations were displayed in the hall and families were invited in to see them after school. It was clear that many families had worked together to meet the challenge. The children certainly enjoyed making them and were very proud to share and celebrate their creations. As you can see they used a wide range of recyclable materials and as well as lot of imagination! Hopefully they will be treasured Christmas decorations for years to come.



Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful festive season from the staff and children at St. Margaret's Collier Street CoE Primary School.



SCHOOL REPORT February 2020

In Pippin and Russet Classes, we have eagerly started our first Science topic for the New Year which is Seasonal Change and Wild Weather. The topic of Weather is making headlines across the world due to the Earth's global temperature warming, meaning that weather patterns and ecosystems are changing more quickly than animal species and human communities can adapt. The effects of the weather are being felt globally especially with the catastrophic fires in Australia, which have been caused by record temperatures and widespread drought. In our own locality, the impact of heavy rain over several days just before Christmas resulted in the River Medway bursting its banks between Maidstone and Yalding. This is a topic our pupils are really excited to learn about and over the term they will be finding out about the changing seasons, seasonal weather changes, daily weather and how the seasons are different around the world.



Our first lesson was an instant hit as we explored how weather forecasters tell us what weather to expect. We then listed typical words and phrases used in weather reports and wrote our own forecasts about the day's weather and recorded them on iPads using weather symbols.

Hello everyone, today's weather report comes from St. Margaret's, Collier Street in Kent in the South East of England. As you can see, the weather today has a gentle breeze, outbreaks of rain and sunny spells. This morning the weather was dry with clear skies and some frost. The sun will be shining in the afternoon with some swishing breezes. After school the weather should be dry and cloudy with a sparkle of frost in the evening. If you are in the playground today, don't forget to put on your gloves and coat. Thank you for listening and now back to the studio.

Teddy (Year 2)

Good afternoon, today's weather forecast comes from St. Margarets, Collier Street in Kent. The weather today is quite sunny with a slow moving breeze and it's quite mild for this time of the year. This morning the weather was very cold with some frost and fog in places. The wind is quite slow moving and will soon be joined by rain coming across from Wales. The sun is not shining in any of the countries across the world except Australia where it's reaching temperatures of 45c! After school the weather should be sunny with the fog moving away leaving clear skies. If you are in the playground today, don't forget to put on a extra jumper, gloves, hat and wellies! Thank you for listening and now back to your school work. Goodbye.

Lyla (Year 2)



What's next? We will look at weather in the playground, at the rain falling and what it sounds like. Make a rainfall gauge and record the results. Explore and find out if there is a link between wind direction and rainfall. Investigate how the wind changes direction during the day and making a wind-sock to measure the direction of the wind in the playground. Finally having fun with shadows by making them jump, chase each other and play shadow tag.

SCHOOL REPORT March 2020

St. Margaret's make music

Those who don't enjoy music must be few in number. We are surrounded by music; it may be listening to our favourite composer or band, or just enjoying the company of it in the background whilst we undertake our daily chores and routine.

The health and academic benefits are now well known. Several studies have shown that music education at an early age stimulates the child's brain in a number of ways that helps to improve verbal skills, communication skills and visual skills. A study that looked at 4 to 6 year-olds who were subject to one month of musical training that included training in rhythm, pitch, melody, voice and basic musical concepts resulted in enhanced ability to understand words and explain their meaning. A study using subjects who were 8 to 11 year-olds found that those who were involved in extra-curricular music classes were developing higher verbal IQ's and their visual ability was greater than those who were not receiving the training. No wonder then that music should be given a high priority.

At St. Margaret's, music can be heard throughout the building every day. Be it listening to music to set the scene for worship, composing, Music Time, flute, recorder or piano lessons as well as the orchestra and choir, the school community can enjoy and reap the benefits of musical experiences.



Most recently the 25 strong choir, who display commitment by sacrificing their lunchtimes, took part in The Young Voices Concert, held in the O2 Arena. After months of rehearsing with Mrs Barton-Holman, they joined 8000 other children from across the South-East and beyond for a rehearsal for several hours, followed by a much needed tea break before the evening concert at 7.00pm. It was a wonderful experience made even better by the audience of parents and families.



Here are some comments from the pupils:

'The lights were stunning but when they went out, the torches around the arena looked like fireflies!'



During the Easter Service, children will be singing some of their favourite hymns and Easter songs as well as performing some of the repertoire from a recent recorder festival. It takes place on Wednesday 1st April starting at 9.15am. Everyone is welcome to attend.