

# St Margaret's C.E.P. School

## Newsletter

Learning as we grow, Growing as we learn, Rooted in Jesus

---

**Monday 11th March**

**Issue No: 8**

### Opening of the Spiritual Garden

Last week, we were delighted to welcome Bishop Simon of Tonbridge. He led worship and then toured each classroom where the pupils had the opportunity to ask questions about his role as a Bishop. There was one particularly interesting question from a Year 3 pupil; what age were you when you realised you were religious? And then as the discussion moved to his next responsibility for the day, Bishop Simon revealed that he had never before been asked to open a Spiritual Garden.

All pupils and staff gathered outside (thankfully in the dry after such a wet spell recently) with many other guests including governors, representatives from Benenden School, parents who have been heavily involved in the whole project from its design to completion and other special guests to witness the official opening.

The Spiritual Garden has distinctive zones; places to sit, mirrors to contemplate 'What do I see?', outdoor musical instruments and a gazebo where there are different activities to undertake individually or with a friend. There are flower beds with a white and purple theme depicting the liturgical year as well as 4 stunning pictures representing the school's biblical story in which our vision is based upon, the Parable of the Sower.

The parable enables us all to remember the role and the responsibility we have ensuring that individually and collectively we are responsible for creating the very best 'growing' conditions within our school community so that everyone can indeed grow and flourish both academically and also as a unique human being. The Spiritual Garden will enable the school community to experience tran-

quillity and time to contemplate questions such as:

- How can I create more fairness in the world?
- How am I a good friend?
- Should you respect yourself over others?
- Does having more mean being happier?
- How do I flourish?

The garden represents much work and dedication from many members of our school and further afield. Thank you to them all.

(Please see the website for some great photographs)

### World Book/Maths Day Dressing up

Congratulations to the following children for winning:

Year R—Harley  
Year 1—Amelia  
Year 2—Arthur  
Year 3—Arabella  
Year 4—Isaac  
Year 5—Evie  
Year 6—Fabian

Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to Yalding Education Foundation for funding the prizes.

### Diary

Friday 15th Comic Relief—Alongside your uniform, please feel free to wear something red and donate a minimum of £1. After school, the School Council Toy Sale takes place. Any donations of toys before Friday would be most appreciated.

Thurs 21st Last swim for term 4. FOCSS discos 5.30–6.30 KS1 and 6.30–8.00 KS2. Tickets will be on sale very soon.

Fri 22nd Clubs finish for the term

Tues 26th After school, FOCSS Easter Egg Hunt and pre-loved school uniform Sale (reserve Wed 27th)

Thurs 28th 9.15am Easter Service with

refreshments served from 8.45am  
END OF TERM

*Easter holiday*

Mon 15th April Children return to school for the start of term 5

Tues 16th Year R places for 2024 sent via e-mail

Mon 22nd Clubs start

Fri 26th From 4pm, group of recorder players representing the school at the Gravesend Recorder Festival

Tues 30th Family Trust worship

Wed 1st May 3.15pm Parent's Meeting for Year 6 involved in the PGL residential

Thurs 2nd School being used as a polling station for local elections. School open as usual.

Fri 3rd Pippin to Brogdale Collections

Mon 6th Bank Holiday—school shut

Fri 10th FOCSS Fizz & Quiz Evening

From Monday 13th to Thurs 16th Year 6 SATS.

Wed 15th 7pm Meeting for parents of Year 4 and 5 re secondary school transfer and PESE. A separate letter will be issued.

Fri 17th Science Day

Wed 22nd—Fri 24th Year 6 residential. Bikeability for Year 5. End of term 5

*Mon 27th—Fri 31st Holiday*

Mon 3rd June Staff Development Day—school shut

Tues 4th Children return

### Future dates:

Wed 3rd July—Sports Day starting at 1.30pm (Reserve Fri 5th)

Fri 12th Staff Development Day—school shut

**TUES 23rd** July End of academic year

*Have a good week.*