

St Margaret's CEVA School

Newsletter 1 - September 2023



Welcome back! It has been so lovely watching all of your children settle in last week – there has been a lovely atmosphere around the school. Thank you to everyone for your support yesterday in Roald Dahl Day, the children looked amazing.

RAAC

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete, as it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

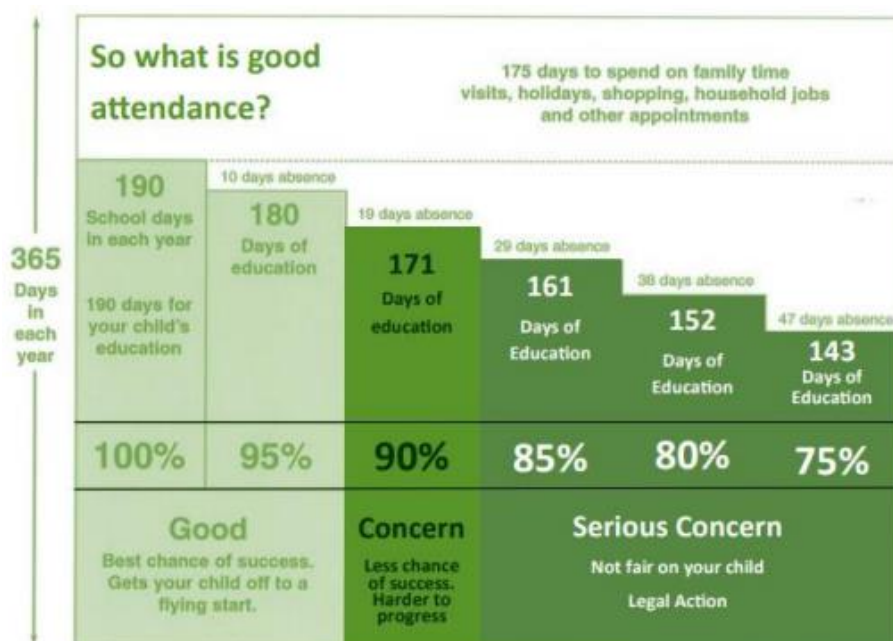
The Diocese has informed us that, RAAC has not been used in our school estate. This is something I will be keeping an eye on, and if advice and recommendations change, I will let you know.

Attendance and illness

Research shows that there is a direct link between good attendance and achievement in school. Poor attendance can have a direct effect on a pupil's attainment. For example, 90% attendance might sound quite good but what this means in reality is:

- On average half a day's school missed every week
- This would also mean in one year, four whole weeks of school would be missed

Pupils whose attendance is good are more likely to feel happy within their peer group socially, feel better able to 'keep up' academically and more able to cope with the many demands of a busy school life. Good attendance habits and punctuality in school are often carried into later life. You can find more information on our attendance policy [here](#).



Having said all of that, we understand that children do get ill. The NHS '[Is my child too ill for school?](#)' Guidance has further information on when it would be appropriate to keep your child at home.

Tax Free Child Care vouchers

A reminder that our school is registered with The Government-backed Tax-Free Childcare scheme. This scheme can help reduce the cost of wrap-around care (Breakfast & Stay & Play club). The scheme is designed so that for every 80p you put into your Tax-Free Childcare account, the state will add 20p. It essentially gives you basic-rate tax back on your bill – hence the scheme's name. Information can be found here Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

Please contact Mrs Morgan in the office (office@stmargaretsceva.com) if you would like more information on how this works in our school.

Pupil Premium

Has your situation changed - is your child eligible for free school meals? Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

It is easy to check and apply. Click [here](#) and complete the form.

Milk

If you would like your child/children aged 5 and over to have milk at break times, you need to visit the Cool Milk website and pay for this. Any children entitled to Free School Meals can receive it free of charge, so please let the office know if you would like your child to have it

We are a nut free school



Please ensure that no part of your child's snack or lunch contains nuts. It is vital that this is adhered to.

Lunch orders

School dinners are available to purchase up until October half term, please continue to order each week by the Wednesday morning.

Microsoft Office

All pupils whilst at St Margaret's have full access to Microsoft office, for information on this, please contact the office (office@stmargaretsceva.com)

School Uniform

On the days which the children have P.E or Forest School, they will need to bring their clothes to change in to. Wellie boots and Plimsolls are not appropriate for all-day wear.

Jewellery is not permitted. Only stud ear-rings are to be worn in respect of our School Health and Safety Policy and covered prior to the P.E lesson.

Hair accessories should be without adornments and in school colours

It is preferred that parents keep to the school uniform and school colours.

- Grey trousers / shorts / skirt / pinafore dress
- White aertex short-sleeved shirt
- Red sweatshirt / Cardigan
- Grey socks / White Socks / Tights / Black shoes
- Red sweatshirts/aertex shirts with School logo may also be purchased from the National School wear Centre in town (Yeovil).
- Trainers are not appropriate for School Uniform.
- During the summer, Summer Dresses may be worn if they are red and white checked.

INSET DATES 23-24

Dates for inset can be found [here](#).

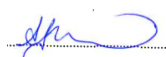
DATES FOR THE DIARIES

September		
4 th	INSET day	No children in school
12 th	PTA AGM	Tuesday 12 th 3:30pm School Hall
13 th	Ronald Dahl Day	Whole School
15 th	Carymoor Enviromental Trust Trip	Year 3 and Year 4 – all day
	Creator Class (Years 5 and 6) swimming this term	
27 th	Cross Country Race 1	Rugby Club Times TBC
October		
5 th	The Tutankhamun Exhibition	Creators Class
5 th	School Tours – Open morning, perspective parents 2024	13:30pm - 15:30pm By appointment
6 th	Harvest Service	St Margaret's Church Whole school - 2pm
6 th	School Tours – Open afternoon, perspective parents 2024	9:30am - 11:30am By appointment
10 th	Investigators Class Literacy open morning	11:00am – 12:00pm
10 th	Parents evenings	3:30pm – 5:00pm
11 th	Explorers Class Literacy open morning	11:00am – 12:00pm
11 th	Creators Class Literacy open morning	11:00am – 12:00pm
11 TH	Parents evenings	5:00pm – 6:30pm
12 th	Adventurers Class Literacy open morning	11:00am – 12:00pm
18 th	Cross Country Race 2	Aldon Hill Times TBC
20 th	Flu Vaccination Programme	WHOLE SCHOOL 09:30am
20 th	Wear it Yellow Day for St Margaret's Hospice	Whole school
23 rd - 27 th	October HALF TERM	CLOSED
November		
1 st	Cross Country Race 3	Yeovil Town Football Club Times TBC
14 th	School Photographer	pupil/parent/ family portraits Whole school photo
17 th	Children in Need	Details TBC
December		
8 th	Christmas Panto - Cinderella	Whole School - 13:00pm at Westlands Entertainment Venue
11 th	Nativity dress rehearsal	2:00pm – parents welcome
12 th	Explorer & Investigators Nativity	4:00pm – parents welcome
13 th	Carole Service	St Margaret's Church 2pm Whole school
15 th	LAST DAY OF TERM	
18 th – 1 st	CHRISTMAS HALF TERM	CLOSED
January		
	Creator Class (Years 5 and 6) swimming this term	
2 nd – 3 rd	INSET days	No children in school
4 th	First day back	
9 th – 13 th	Book Week	
February		
12 th – 16 th	February HALF TERM	CLOSED
19 th	First day back	
	Ash Wednesday	
March		
7 th	World Book Day	Details TBC
10 th -19 th	Science Week	
	Parents evening	Details TBC
13 -15 th	Bikeability for Year 6	Year 6 only
17 th	Comic Relief	Details TBC
19 th	Northe Fort Trip	Creators Class
20 th and 21 st	WOW Day at Stanchester Academy	Details TBC
28 th	Easter Service	St Margaret's Church Whole School - 2pm

29 th	BANK HOLIDAY	CLOSED
April		
	Adventurers Class (Year 3 and 4) swimming this term	
1 st	BANK HOLIDAY	CLOSED
2 nd – 12 th	EASTER HALF TERM	CLOSED
23 rd	School Photographer	Class, leavers and Whole school photo
May		
6 th	BANK HOLIDAY	CLOSED
13 th	SATS WEEK	
9 th May	Ascension	Whole school - 2pm
24 th	INSET day	No children in school
27 th – 31 st	May HALF TERM	CLOSED
June		
3 rd	First day back	
17 th 24 th	Sports day & family picnic	Parents welcome details TBC including dates
26 th – 29 th	Year 6 Residential Trip	Year 6 - Braeside Education Centre
July		
1 st	Year 6 to secondary schools	Details TBC
	Step up to Preston Year 5's	TBC
16 th	Key Stage 2 Production rehearsal	
17 th	Key Stage 2 Production	4:00pm
22 nd	Reports out	TBC
23 rd July	Leavers Service and Refreshments	Year 6 parents welcome - 11am St Margaret's
23 rd	LAST DAY OF TERM	
24 th	INSET day	No children in school
26 th – 30 th August	SUMMER HALF TERM	CLOSED

As always, we have an open door policy, please do speak to your class teacher or a member of staff if you have any concerns. We also love to hear good feedback!

Kind regards



Ms Robinson

If you are worried about a child or young person who may be in danger,
Please contact:

- Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224
- or by email at childrens@somerset.gov.uk
- The police on 999

for more information please go to: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/childrens-services/safeguarding-children/report-a-child-at-risk/>





YEovil DISTRICT SWIMMING CLUB



JOIN US!

*Do you love to swim and want to progress further?
Do you want to be coached by qualified coaches?
Do you want to stay fit and be more healthy?
Want to be part of a fun, competitive club?*

It's the start of the swimming season and we are looking for keen swimmers aged 7+ to join our highly successful swimming club.

We have limited spaces on our **FREE ONE HOUR TASTER SESSIONS** on the following dates:

Saturday 23rd September

Goldenstones
(Yeovil)
8am - 9am

Sunday 24th September

Oxley Sports Centre
(Sherborne)
8:30am - 9:30am

YDSC swim at various pools around the area and we hope that these free taster sessions give you an idea of what it would be like to swim with the club. Ideally, the swimmer should be swimming around stage 4/5 or above, at around age 7 - 16 with the following criteria:
7-10 year olds must be able to swim 15m

10-13 year olds must be able to swim 25m at freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke

13-16 year olds must be efficient at all 3 strokes and swim consistently for 15-20 minutes or more

Do not delay, these free sessions fill up fast. Please email membership.ydsc@gmail.com to book your space. Please see ydsc.co.uk for more information.

