

Margaret Wix Primary School & Nursery

"Respect, Self-Belief, Curiosity, Kindness and Resilience"



Monday 13th April 2026

Dea Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Summer Term at Margaret Wix Primary School. I am sure this term will be brilliant with so much to look forward to. Please see a list of the key dates in my weekly update this Friday. There is a lot going on!

Today, our teaching staff have been meeting to discuss the importance of intrinsic motivation—the inner drive that helps children succeed academically and thrive emotionally. Research consistently shows that when children are motivated from within, they become more independent, resilient and engaged learners, and this greatly contributes to their long-term happiness and success in life.

As a school, we are exploring ways to further strengthen intrinsic motivation in our classrooms. We will be focusing on helping children develop confidence, curiosity, and a genuine enjoyment of learning, rather than relying on external rewards. We would greatly appreciate your support with this at home. Working together will help reinforce a consistent message for the children, both in school and beyond.

Over the next four weeks, our school is launching the **Independence @ Home Challenge**, designed to help children become more confident, responsible, and self-motivated in their everyday routines.

Research from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) shows that children are motivated by a combination of intrinsic factors (such as pride, enjoyment, and feeling capable) and extrinsic factors (such as praise or small rewards). When used carefully, small rewards can support children in forming habits that lead to greater intrinsic motivation over time.

Research into motivation also highlights the importance of autonomy and competence - children are more motivated when they feel in control and able to do things for themselves.

To help build these skills, each week has one simple independence habit. Instead of a tick chart, we kindly ask families to send one photograph showing their child practising the weekly habit at home. This can be the child in action or the result of their independence. Please send the photographs to: **head@margaretwix.herts.sch.uk**

High Oaks, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6EL

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Email: admin@margaretwix.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Claire Gibbs



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Our Weekly Challenges

Week 1 – "I Can Get Ready!"

Habit: Your child independently prepares their school things the night before.

Ideas for photos: packing their bag, laying out uniform, organising reading book or water bottle.

Week 2 – "I Read My Way!"

Habit: Your child chooses a daily reading activity they enjoy.

Ideas for photos: reading a favourite book, sharing reading with a sibling, reading in a cosy space.

Week 3 – "I Can Try!"

Habit: Your child shows independence and effort with homework or practising a skill.

Ideas for photos: trying before asking for help, using a strategy, showing a piece of work they are proud of.

Week 4 – "I Help at Home!"

Habit: Your child takes responsibility for one helpful home task.

Ideas for photos: making their bed, tidying toys, feeding a pet, helping with dinner.

Children who take part each week will receive a small prize as a celebration of their effort and independence. The aim is not perfection, but encouraging children to feel capable, confident, and proud of what they can do at home.

Thank you for supporting this whole-school challenge. Together, we can help our children develop lasting independence and motivation.

Kind regards,

Claire Gibbs
Headteacher

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