

Margaret Wix Primary School & Nursery

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



Friday 4th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

OFSTED Inspection Updates

Although we are still some way off from our next Ofsted inspection, I wanted to share some important information about the changes to the way schools will be inspected under the new Ofsted framework.

Understanding these changes now will help us continue to focus on the areas that matter most and ensure that we are well prepared when the time comes. Reassuringly, many aspects of the new framework closely reflect the excellent work that is already taking place across our school.

In 2025, Ofsted introduced significant changes to the way schools are evaluated and reported on. Most notably, the familiar single-word judgements, such as *Outstanding* and *Good*, have been removed and can no longer be directly compared to the new system.

Instead, schools will receive a **Report Card**, providing a more detailed picture of performance across a range of key areas.

What is on the Report Card?

Rather than giving a single overall judgement, the new Report Card allows schools to have what Ofsted describes as a "spiky profile". This means that parents can see a school's strengths and any areas for development more clearly.

The Report Card will evaluate schools in the following areas:

- **Curriculum and Teaching** – How well children are taught.
- **Achievement** – How well pupils are learning and achieving across the curriculum.
- **Attendance and Behaviour** – Pupils' attendance, conduct and attitudes to learning.
- **Inclusion** – A new area focusing on how effectively schools support children who may face barriers to learning or belonging. This includes pupils with SEND, those learning English as an additional language, children who have experienced trauma, and those facing challenging family circumstances.
- **Personal Development and Wellbeing** – Support for children's wider development, character and emotional wellbeing.

High Oaks, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6EL

Tel: 01727 759232

Email: admin@margaretwix.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Claire Gibbs



Margaret Wix Primary School & Nursery

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



- **Leadership and Governance** – How effectively the school is led and managed.

The New Five-Point Grading Scale

Each area of the Report Card will be judged using a five-point scale:

- **Exceptional** – Practice is transformational and among the very best in the country.
- **Strong** – High-quality, effective and consistently strong practice.
- **Secure (Expected Standard)** – The school is meeting the standards expected nationally and fulfilling all of its educational and legal responsibilities.
- **Attention Needed** – Some aspects are not yet meeting the expected standard, but leaders understand the issues and are taking action.
- **Causing Concern** – Serious weaknesses require urgent improvement.

It is important to note that the **Expected Standard** is intended to be a high benchmark. Schools judged at this level are providing the quality of education and care that the Government expects for all children.

How to Read These Reports

When considering a school's Report Card, it is important not to focus solely on the colour or grading attached to each area.

The accompanying narrative provides valuable context and helps explain the reasons behind the judgements. It gives a fuller picture of a school's strengths, priorities and unique character.

This short guide from Ofsted provides a useful introduction to the new Report Cards and how they can be interpreted:

[Ofsted Report Card Guide](#)

How You Can Help

At Margaret Wix Primary School, we believe children achieve their best when school and home work together in partnership. Parents and carers play a crucial role in supporting not only their own child but also our wider school community.

Prioritise Attendance

Every day in school matters.

High Oaks, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6EL

Tel: 01727 759232

Email: admin@margaretwix.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Claire Gibbs



Margaret Wix Primary School & Nursery

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



Strong attendance helps children make progress academically, build confidence and develop lasting friendships. Daily attendance ensures children remain connected to classroom learning, shared experiences and the wider life of the school.

Frequent absences can leave children feeling disconnected from their peers and make it more difficult to maintain important friendships. By ensuring that children attend school whenever possible, parents are helping them flourish both socially and academically.

Show an Interest in Learning

Talk to your child about their day, read with them regularly, support homework where appropriate and celebrate their successes, however small they may seem.

Your encouragement and interest make a tremendous difference to children's confidence, motivation and achievement.

Work with Us as Partners

We encourage all parents and carers to engage with the information and opportunities we provide throughout the year. By working together, we can ensure every child enjoys the very best educational experience possible.

Talk to Us

If something is not going as you would hope, please let us know.

Concerns can usually be resolved quickly through open, honest and respectful communication. We encourage you to speak with your child's class teacher or a member of the leadership team so that we can work together to find a solution in the best interests of your child.

Promote a Positive View of School

Every parent brings their own experiences of education, and these may not always have been positive. We encourage families to allow children to form their own views and relationships with school, free from preconceptions.

Children thrive when they see school as a safe, supportive and exciting place to learn.

Thank You

Most importantly, thank you.

Your support, encouragement and partnership help us create a school where children feel happy, valued and successful. Together, we can continue to provide the very best opportunities for every child at Margaret Wix to learn, grow and thrive.

High Oaks, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6EL

Tel: 01727 759232

Email: admin@margaretwix.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Claire Gibbs



Margaret Wix Primary School & Nursery

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



Kind regards,

Mrs Claire Gibbs
Headteacher

High Oaks, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6EL

Tel: 01727 759232

Email: admin@margaretwix.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Claire Gibbs

