



Autumn Term 2023. St Agatha's RC Primary School (StAGs)

Dear Parents,

After an amazing year Chess begins again on 12th September 2023. We are able to offer a **Y2-Y6 After School** session **including Year 2 children for the first time** in over a year. With **limited places** available, all sessions are open to pupils of **any standard** including complete beginners on a **first-come-first-served basis**.

Chess **improves** concentration, memory, cognitive thinking and calculating ability. It also **develops** analytical skills, training the mind to **plan ahead**.

We play and learn about strategy and tactics together

Although fun, it is not all about winning. The children will learn from their losses, becoming more **resilient** and learn how to stay **calm under pressure**. You will see your child grow in confidence as they progress! **Last year, StAGs had seven Gigafinalists and some players were selected for Surrey to play in the County Finals!**

This Autumn Term all children will be prepared for the popular UK Chess Challenge (70,000 kids nationwide take part!) which starts in the Spring Term. In addition, some children will be entered for the ECF Certificate of Excellence – Bronze/Silver/Gold levels

My name is Mark Hogarth, I am a very experienced Chess teacher, Junior Chess County selector and qualified Chess Arbiter. Complete beginners are taught from scratch until they are ready to be assimilated into the main group which covers Openings/middlegame strategy/basic endgames & checkmating patterns.

County U11 Chess Selector • England Senior Team Player • Chess Arbiter • managed teams nationally/internationally

Whilst working at Credit Suisse First Boston I successfully pioneered Chess Partners as part of the Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership, a Charity, teaching Primary School kids in London's East End.

The club will run for 12 weeks as follows:

Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm Y2 to Y6 £90 12th Sep- 5th Dec 2023 (12 weeks) * NEW – now including Y2 as well *****

To register your interest in joining the club **please would you email hilary.hogarth@btinternet.com** the following information:

Your Child's Name

- 1) Year Group and Class (in September 2023)
- 2) Chess Playing Ability (Complete beginner, Basic knowledge - piece value and moves, castling, chess notation)
- 3) Parent/Guardian Contact Name– **please name who will collect**
- 4) Parent/Guardian Contact **email address** and **mobile number**

Open for bookings from **6th July 2023** on a **first-come-first-served basis**. **Places will go fast, so please apply early to avoid missing out.** We will **email you directly** to confirm your child's place and at that stage send our **payment details** and general joining instructions. Cost for the Term is **£90**. If you are in receipt of free school meals then chess is **free**.

Regards, Mark Hogarth, Chess Teacher, mark.hogarth@btinternet.com **07976 639250**

Please note sessions will only be refunded in the event of a whole school closure.