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# St Margaret's Academy

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**The end of another academic year! This final week has been a special time with celebrations, final transition preparations and farewells.**

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## Final Transitions and Celebrations

Our new Reception starters who will join us in September enjoyed a picnic on the field with their parents and our current Reception and parents. Thank you to the PTA who funded the ice creams and provided a welcome pack. It was a lovely event. At the other end of the school, we said farewell to our Year 6s with an emotional assembly this morning. In between these year groups, we held our final transition events when children joined their new class and teachers.

We held our special end of term assembly when children were nominated for extra special values badges. We celebrated those children who had managed 100% attendance and our Chair of Trustees, James Bennet, joined us to award £5 book vouchers to all those children who achieved the Governors Reading Award (240 reads on separate days!). We also recognised some of our children who had achieved BSL (British Sign Language) Level 1 – super impressive.

We then celebrated the children who achieved the Head Teacher Reading Award for those with 200 reads, with the Head Teacher tea party in the orchard today.



## Farewells

We wish Year 6 well on their journeys into secondary school and beyond. We hope they thrive and keep in touch with all their news as they continue to grow.

We wish Mrs Bindon well in her new adventures. Mrs Bindon has worked at St Margaret's since 1996, recently leading our art provision and also in the past, leading with literacy; long years of service helping almost 700 young people to learn and grow. On behalf of St Margaret's Academy, and Head Teachers past, thank you Mrs Bindon and good luck for the future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Fletcher who has been working with us for just over a year and finished today. If there was ever a knight in shining armour, it was he, with a unique set of skills that are much needed in our world. Good luck, Mr Fletcher.

## Welcome

Welcome to Miss Smith who will be one of the class teachers, working on Thursdays and Fridays in next year's Year 3 Holly Class.

## Ofsted Report

Today we received the [Ofsted report](#) from our inspection that took place on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June. You can find this on our website under 'About the School' and you should also have received a copy via email today.

Staff and trustees are delighted with the report. We know we provide a high-quality education for your children, with a constant drive to help nurture and guide them to take their place in society, so we were super pleased that the inspection saw and recognised this. We also feel the two next steps identified are fair and we will always strive to provide your children with the best experience.

The inspection was a very rigorous process with no stone left unturned. I'm sure you have heard many stories in the media about how Ofsted is supremely challenging for staff. I would therefore like to say a massive thanks to our amazing staff team and also, to you wonderful parents for the support and positivity you provided during the inspection. It really is a privilege to work with this team and our lovely families.

## September – Planning Ahead

| Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept                  | Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Thur 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept                  |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Staff training. School closed for pupils. | School open for pupils.  | School open for pupils.  | School open for pupils.   | Staff training. School closed for pupils. |

Reminder: the first week back in September will be unusual compared to normal. Please note the first day back for children will be Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September. The last day that week for children will be Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September. This is because we have staff training days on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Our Friday training is being led by Mr P who is well known in education circles and will be helping us to better integrate IT into our curriculum. We will be joined by other schools also. If you are interested in knowing more, have a nosy on his website: [MR P ICT ONLINE CPD - Home](#)

The times of the school day will stay as they are this year. We were planning to extend the school day but the government has changed its mind and we now don't need to do this until the following year.

I hope you found this week's final transition event useful in planning for September and know where to drop off and collect your child. If you are still unsure, please just come to the office on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and one of the staff will point you in the right direction.

Reminder: key dates coming up across each term and the year ahead are included at the bottom of this newsletter and on the school [calendar](#) which you can access from the school website. We always endeavour to give as much notice as possible to help with your planning.

## Fred the Frog's Summer Adventures

Fred the Frog will be out and about with staff over the summer holidays. Look out for posts on the school Facebook page to see where he visits. Children will know Fred from their phonics lessons so we hope he will help them remember to keep reading and to look forward to coming back to school in September.



## Clubs for September

We have a range of clubs available for your child to join in the next term. These will be available for booking when children return in September. In the meantime, you can book the following clubs directly with the external organisation (these are still held on school site) by contacting [office@educationbox.co](mailto:office@educationbox.co)

- Singing club (Fridays 3.20-4.20pm)
- Musical Theatre club (Mondays- 3.20-4.20pm)

## Dunboyne Art Self-Portrait Competition

On Monday, those children who came 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Dunboyne art competition visited Dunboyne Court to share their self-portraits with those residents who could make it into school. As usual, it was a heart-warming and much enjoyed trip by residents, staff and children alike. Have a look in the [Arts Blog](#) to see a few photos and read a special message from Phil at Dunboyne. Here's one taster comment in reference to all the entries: "The standard of the art work was phenomenal and we felt a good number of the pieces would not have been out of place as exhibits in a commercial Art Gallery."

The standard of entries from across the school was indeed very high, and judging them was an unenviable task, especially because of art being in the eye of the beholder. So, a huge well done to all the children who took part. We are looking forwards to the next subject competition in the autumn term.

## Roald Dahl Day 13.9.23

There will be a surprise special event this day. More news to follow but in the meantime, save the date. We're asking children to dress down on this day or to dress as their favourite Roald Dahl character if you'd like to get creative.

## Online Safety Newsletter

Have a look under the 'Parents' tab – 'Useful Resources for Parents' for this month's [online safety newsletter](#) – very useful with the summer holiday upon us as it has excellent advice about online gaming, social media and top tips for the lovely much-used grandparents.

## Online Safety in the Summer Hols

On Monday 24th July, CEOP Education we will be launching #CEOPSummerChallenge, six weeks of thematic challenges for you to complete with your children. The challenge aims to support you to talk regularly with your children about being online and how to be safer. Each week, you can choose one challenge (or more if you wish!), from four options per age group, for ages 4 to 11 and 11+. Topics covered: online security (week 1), a balanced view of being online (week 2), sharing photos online (week 3), socialising online (week 4), online videos (week 5) and online gaming (week 6). Follow the challenge on [Facebook](#) (Click CEOP), where you can look out for posts every Monday and on the professional network on [Twitter](#) (@CEOPUK).

## SEND Info about Primary and Secondary Schools

Please see below the links to the Eventbrite listings for the September series of Dispelling the myths about primary / secondary school:

- [Dispelling the myths about mainstream secondary school Tickets, Wed 13 Sep 2023 at 16:30 | Eventbrite](#)
- [Dispelling the myths about mainstream primary school for SEND children Tickets, Mon 18 Sep 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- [Dispelling the myths about mainstream primary school for SEND children Tickets, Mon 18 Sep 2023 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

## Inclusive Club for Children with Disabilities

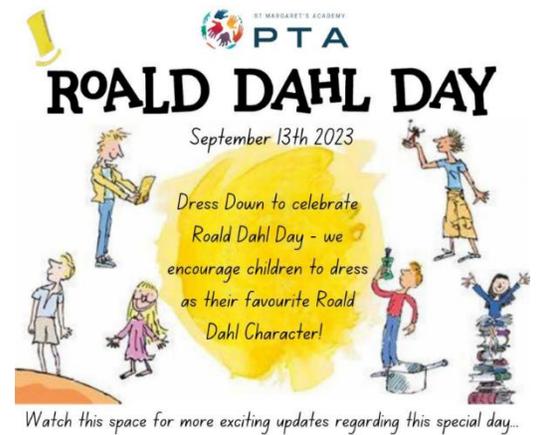
Every Wednesday, 6.30-8.30pm Barton Baptist Church is hosting a [club](#) for children with disabilities. Check out the website for more details under the *Parent* tab.

## Parent Support

Just a reminder that on our website, under 'Parent' there is a tab called 'Useful Resources for Parents' with a wide range of support such as SEND advice, free holiday clubs, online safety and a lot more.

## Help with Rising Costs – Reminders

- **Household Support Fund** – if you are on a welfare benefit / tax credit or have a disposable income of less than £50 per week:  
[Household Support Fund - Torbay Council](#)
- Do you need help with child care? If so, try this website: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>
- Help for households – very useful government website: <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>
- This community kitchen has some very affordable meal options and is well worth a look:  
<https://www.turningheads.org.uk/community-kitchen/>
- The PTA has lots of quality school uniform for a small donation – see their FB page
- Martin Lewis: <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/>
- Free uniform and help with rising costs: <https://www.punkagainstopoverty.org/>
- Try here for cheaper broadband: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>



Wishing you all a very happy, safe and fulfilling summer holiday. Really looking forward to working with you all again in the new academic year.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



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| <b>4th September 2023</b>       | <b>Non-Pupil Day (staff training)</b>  |
| <b>5th September 2023</b>       | <b>1st day back for pupils-</b> please note the short week due to non pupil days |
| <b>8th September 2023</b>       | <b>Non-Pupil Day (staff training)</b>  |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 | Roald Dahl Day – dress down day or dress up as a Roald Dahl character            |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023   | Flu Vaccinations   |