



# St Margarets Academy

We have had a big focus on well-being and happiness this week, starting on Monday with an assembly to mark World Mental Health Day. See out HI FLK mnemonic below to help us all remember how to look after our mental health. Then we finished the week today with anti-bullying workshops organised and funded by our fantastic PTA. This will lead very nicely into Anti-bullying Week which starts on 14th November.

## Magic Words and Stories

There have also been a lot of lovely language-based activities happening recently.

Thanks to Mrs Turner, Monday saw a visiting author, Rob Holmes, inspire the children... and be inspired in turn. A huge thank you to Rob who commented afterwards:

*"I really enjoyed my day at the school. All the children were very well-behaved and very respectful. They asked some really good, intelligent thought-provoking questions. There seemed to be lots of aspiring writers as well, which is always great!"*

Do look out for his books. You can find out more about him on his Facebook page: @Author Rob Holmes – Master Owl. See Facebook and our [Reading Blog](#) for photos and more news.



Following on from National Poetry Day last week, Miss Pilkiewicz is collecting acrostic poems together on the theme of the environment for entry into a national competition. Have a look here for more details if you want to get involved at home: <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/the-lost-words-competition/>

Our school writing group has also had their latest article published in the St Marychurch Gazette. Have a look in the [Writing Blog](#) to find out more about this.

## More Curriculum News

This academic year we have made some adaptations to our curriculum so that some subjects are blocked together over a period of weeks to better help the children immerse themselves in the subject. This is not only to help them build their knowledge and skills in that subject but also to help make more meaningful connections to other subjects. For example, if after studying the Great Fire of London, they have to write a diary account of the fire, they will better be able to focus on the writing skills while their history knowledge will greatly enhance the realism of their writing, and help embed their historical knowledge. This half term Science and Music has been blocked.



**Please see the updated  
'dates for your diary' at the  
end of the newsletter**

Have a look in the Science Blog to see what's been going on. By looking through the blogs you'll be able to see how teachers plan creative lessons to help bring the learning alive. *Learning* is one of the five a day for good mental health too and there has certainly been a real excitement about Science from the children this term.

If you haven't seen it yet, have a look at the video of an investigation into materials in [Year 1 Beech Class](#) as it captures the wonder of learning so well – and will make you laugh out loud. In Year 4 there has been a real *buzz* with electrical experiments. [Hazel Class](#) loved getting stuck into investigations, predictions and testing last week. In [Cherry Class](#), have a look at their light-up circuits and see their engagement as they tested different materials for conductivity. In [Year 3 Rowan](#), some very creative teaching helped the children learn about the properties of different rock types by making edible rocks. Well worth a look. If you made it to the PTA AGM



yesterday, you will also have seen Rowan's amazing display. In [Year 6](#), the children examined a real sheep's heart and got active themselves to better understand how the heart works. In [Year 2](#), Superhuman creations have helped them learn about body parts and senses! In [Year 5 Holly Class](#), you can see them puzzling out how to separate different materials while in [Year 5 Willow](#) they've been conducting experiments to learn more about the properties of different materials.



In the Music Blog you can see some of the learning from this term too. [Year 5](#) have sung with the Fresh Prince and practised their xylophone skills. [Year 2](#) have gone Boom Whacker big band funky.

In the Sports Blog you can see two intra-school competitions: [Year 4](#) taking part in Dodgeball and [Year 6](#) getting stuck into football.

If your child is in Reception, do keep an eye on the [Reception News Blog](#) which is updated weekly and does what it says on the tin, covering the learning from the week and how you can help at home.



# HI FLK

To support pupils and staff with mental health awareness we refer to these images and talk about "5 a day for mental health". 'H' stands for **h**ealthy and **f**it (doing exercise). 'I' is for some **I** time (doing something for oneself). 'F' is for **f**riendships (staying connected and hanging out with friend). 'L' is for **l**earning (engaging and enjoying learning something). 'K' is for **k**indness (showing kindness to others is good for our own mental health).



## Building Works Disruption

***This information has been updated since it was previously communicated. Please read in full.***

Extensive building work at the front of school will now start on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October. As a result there will be no access to the main school office from the car park side of school. This disruption is due to last until March 2023.

Reception children will still be able to be dropped and collected as normal via the car park but access will be from the second set of large double gates; not the ones with the barrier.

All other children and parents will access school via the back gate or slope gate only.

If you need to visit the school office at drop-off or collection, a member of the office staff will be based in the library which you can access via the back gate or slope gate, passing through the courtyard at the rear of my office.

If you need to attend school during the school day, you will need to phone the school office. A member of staff will then meet you at the gate at the top of the slope.

Access to Breakfast and After School Club will be via the car park double gates without the barrier.

If you can keep most of your enquiries to phone or email, this will help.

Thank you for your understanding during this time. It's all for the benefit of your children. Once the building work is complete, we will have a more secure school entrance and increased room space for offices and teaching.

### Parents of Children with SEND

The Local Authority, Torbay SEND team will be running monthly drop-in sessions to share improvements they're making to the service and to hear your views. They will take place on the first Tuesday of each month between 6pm and 7pm. The first session will be on 1st November 2022 on Microsoft Teams. Any parent or carer from Torbay is welcome to come and join in. (Please be mindful that they cannot discuss individual children/young people)

To join on your computer, mobile app or room device, visit <https://tinyurl.com/TorbaySEND>

Or download Microsoft teams and enter the following: Meeting ID: 356 027 397 524

Passcode: fmfEDq

### Parent/Carer Orchard Tidy Up Friday 21st October 3.30-4.30pm

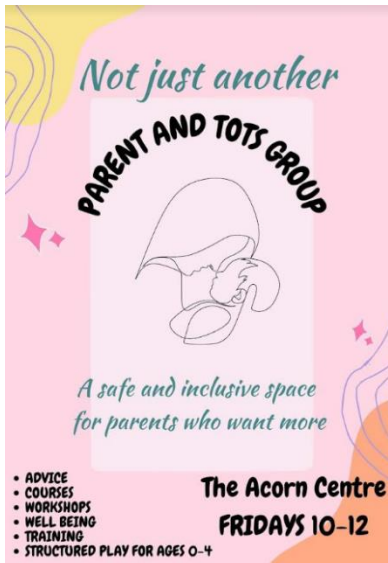
Message from Mrs Posey:

*As autumn is setting in we would like to invite the children and their parents/carers into our orchard for a little tidy up next Friday. There are lots of weeds to dig up so please bring gardening gloves if you have them. Wellies are also advisable! There will be a list in the orchard of all the jobs that need to be completed, we can then mark them off one by one. Please ensure that your child **ONLY** attends if they have an adult with them as we cannot take responsibility for them. There will be biscuits at the end for all of the hard workers! We hope you can make it!*

## Half Term Fun Days and Family Fun - Reminders

If you are looking for some free Halloween activities for half term, have a look what Play Torbay is offering: <https://www.playtorbay.org.uk/half-term-events>. Activities run from 11.00-2.00 on 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October but you'll need to book in advance.

These free events for Parents and Tots, and family cooking, are worth a look:



## Help with Rising Costs - Reminders

- The PTA has lots of quality school uniform for a small donation – see their FB page
- Martin Lewis: <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/>
- CAP (Christians Against Poverty) is offering a free course on money. These are taking place at St Matthias Church Lounge at 7.00pm on 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
- 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>

## Torbay Community Support - Reminders

The new community hub for Torbay is open at Paignton library next to the bus station, 9.30am – 1.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. You can just walk in and chat to somebody for advice on any of the following areas:

- Health and social care
- Caring for family and friends
- Access to local groups and activities
- Practical and IT support
- Finance and welfare benefits
- Housing
- Emotional wellbeing including bereavement and isolation
- Domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Other areas already supported via the Torbay Community Helpline (e.g. befriending)

### **0 to 19 Health Advice - Reminders**

- On our website under 'Wellbeing for Families' – 'Resources for Parents' you can find an excellent document which signposts you to all the resources and help you can access for you and your family from aged 0 to 19; direct [link here](#).
- Top parenting tips: <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

Wishing you a restful weekend

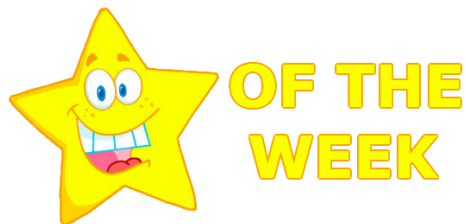


Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



# Diary Dates

14th October	PTA funded Anti-Bullying workshops
19th October	PTA Meeting via zoom 8pm
21st October	Non Uniform Day - Wear Yellow in honour of Frazer
<b>24th-28th October</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
1st November	Flu Vaccinations
1st November	PTA Halloween Disco - Time TBC
3rd November	Year 4 trip to Torquay Museum
W/C 14th November	Parents Evening Week
16th November	Deadline for Computing homework project
18th November	Mufti- Children in Need
21st November	School Photos (individual and sibling)
21st November	PTA World Cup Football Cake Sale
6th December	Christmas Disco - Times TBC
13th December	Upton Vale Concert



# OF THE WEEK

Beech	Liam - you have been amazing this week. You have shown all of our core values everyday. Your hand is always up to ask questions and you are showing respect to all the adults you meet. You have had a go at every job and tried so hard with each and everyone. We are all VERY proud of the progress you are making, Let's keep it up - thank you Liam!
Pine	Natalia- For her wonderful attitude towards music and dancing. She is a superb influence to the rest of the class, well done Natalia!
Oak	Mila- for always showing the school values and for settling into Oak class really well. She has also shown great effort when writing some poems this week. Well done Mila!
Apple	Well what can we say about our star in Apple this week? Issy has shown aspirational learning, kindness towards everyone around her and very responsible for her decisions. So many adults have commented positively about Issy recently which goes to show everything she is doing is not going unnoticed. Amazing Issy!
Birch	Michael G - for being an absolute trooper whilst Mr Tullier has been on paternity leave! He has been so kind, thoughtful, respectful and hardworking. A real champion!
Rowan	Cristiana - for her never-ending kindness and bravery when working and playing with others in the school. She always follows our core values and is always keen to correct other children (however old they are!) when she spots them not following our core values. What a fantastic member of our school you are!
Cherry	Alfie V - for his determination and effort with his story writing this week. He was also a fabulous role model at the dodgeball tournament where he demonstrated all of our school values. Well done Alfie. You truly are a star!
Hazel	Lily-Summer -For your aspiration in Science and energy saving this week. You even went home to do extra research and have been an advocate for energy saving tips all week. Wow!
Willow	Willow's star this week is for Oliver L. Oliver has worked extremely hard in our independent write for Writing, but not only that, he has been a fantastic friend. Oliver really supported another member of the class during our PE lesson, making them feel included. To top it off, he made us so proud in the anti-bullying workshop today - Rich even offered to hire him when he turned 18! Oliver - you truly deserve the star this week. Keep up the fantastic work!
Holly	Pepe - for his aspirational learning this week. He has worked so incredibly hard in his maths where he has shown such resilience in just having a go and trying his absolute best. We're so impressed and proud of his achievements this week - well done!
Maple	Our star of the week is Oakley for the respect he always shows. Oakley listens really well during lessons and sat beautifully during the anti-bullying workshop we had today, getting involved and setting a great example to the rest of the class. Well done Oakley!
Hawthorn	Hawthorn's star of the week is Chloe. She has shown fantastic resilience in maths when tackling tricky multiplication problems and worked really hard to practise until she was confident. Well done Chloe!