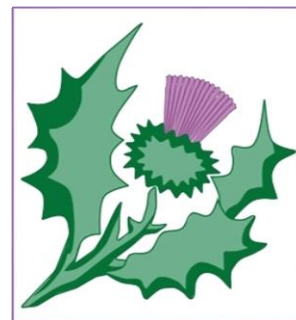


# St Margarets Academy

Dear Parents,

I hope your child has settled in well during their first 3 days in their new class. We feel the extra transition we did in July really helped prepare them. It has been a lovely atmosphere in school. Staff took part in two training days at the start of the week and it has been lovely to welcome all the little people back with their big smiles.



One of our areas for improvement this year is to communicate and engage more with yourselves. As part of this, teaching staff are offering parent information meetings about the term ahead. These will be happening very soon so look out for an invite if you haven't received one yet. They will be talking through the term and year ahead, and it will be a chance for you to ask questions and put names to faces. If you can't make the meeting, don't worry because all the information will be sent out on a letter. I shall also be making an extra effort to make sure you have all the relevant dates well in advance. Over the next week Sam will be compiling a list of 'dates for your diary', these will also be added to the school website calendar.

## Sad News

With the death of Queen Elizabeth II yesterday, teaching staff made some time today to reflect on this with the children. I'm sure we will revisit this in the days ahead but in the meantime, do enjoy this poem by Oliver in Year 5:



*Dear Queen,  
You shall be seen.  
You have reigned for 70 years,  
Helped me and my peers.  
You had a big heart and always did your part,  
You and your song, lasted really long,  
You helped the poor escape through a door.  
Philip and you shall be reunited.  
Love Oliver.*

## Computing News

This term, the theme for our termly homework project that will be judged by our friends from Dunboyne Court is Computing. The deadline for entries is Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November so there's plenty of time to get thinking. If you're looking for a bit of inspiration, have a look in the Computing Blog to see how Year 5 got on with their [photo editing](#) when they were still in Year 4 back in July. You can also find some final memories of last year's Year 6 by having a look at their work on [spreadsheets](#).

## Book Fair on Monday 19.9.22

Another of our improvement priorities this year is to further improve reading and develop our school library. To support with this, we have a Book Fair on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, a percentage of the takings going towards resourcing more books for the library. Look out for more details about the fair which the children always love.

## Snacks, Drinks, Nuts and School Dinners



We are encouraging you to please send your child into school with fresh fruit, vegetables or plain dried fruit snacks. This is to help support a healthy diet as so many foods can contain hidden sugars and to help reduce waste as many processed snacks come in non-recyclable packaging.

We are also encouraging you to send your child in with only water as a drink to have between meals.

This is a reminder that we are a "nut aware school" and we ask you to please consider the children in our school who have nut allergies and to therefore please not provide nuts as snacks or in packed lunches.

Please encourage your child to take up the offer of a school dinner. We have an award with the Soil Association for our food. Dinners are carefully planned using local produce and advice from farm to food and Growing Minds.

## PE Timetable

Below is a PE timetable. Could children please attend school in their PE Kits on the days they have PE. Please can **Holly Class** bring their swimming kit and Towel for Mondays. **Reminder:** Earrings should be removed on PE days or taped at home.

Many Thanks Mr. Mayling

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Monday    | Hawthorn, Cherry, Hazel, Birch             |
| Tuesday   | Beech, Pine, Maple, Hazel, Cherry          |
| Wednesday | Rowan, Beech, Apple, Oak                   |
| Thursday  | Willow, Holly, Pine, Maple                 |
| Friday    | Apple, Oak, Rowan, Birch, Hawthorn, Willow |

## Help with Rising Costs

I expect you are all starting to feel the pinch with rising costs. Here are some places that might be useful to check out.

I find Martin Lewis a good source of information: <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/>

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) is offering a free course on money. This is open to people of all faiths. 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.

A couple of reminders:

- Free school 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

A new community hub for Torbay has opened at Paignton library next to the bus station. It is open 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

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/>

Enjoy your weekend and I look forwards to working with you in the year ahead.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)