



– WELCOME –
BACK TO SCHOOL

St Margarets Academy

Welcome back to the start of another academic year. I hope you all enjoyed a fantastic summer and managed to keep up with the adventures of Fred Frog on school's Facebook page. We started our week for the children with an assembly on Tuesday sharing Fred's travels and thinking about how each of us has a new adventure for this year, and how we have a blank page to fill with all our achievements ahead of us.

Staff started the week with a training day on Monday, mostly to do with updating all our safeguarding training. Today, we had a staff training day learning how to better integrate IT into our curriculum. This was led by Mr P who is well known in education circles. If you are interested in knowing more, have a nosy on his website: [MR P ICT ONLINE CPD - Home](#)

Roald Dahl Library Day – Wednesday 13th September



Next Wednesday we are launching the opening of our new library on the day of Roald Dahl's birthday. Please remember to send your child in a Roald Dahl character. If it's all too much to organise though, please don't stress; just have your child wear non-uniform and tell them they are *Danny* from *Danny the Champion of the World* or *Matilda*.

After school, you are invited in for some special themed events organised by our wonderful PTA. So do come along to the hall and our fab new library.

Working Together



We understand that working together in a partnership between home and school is so crucial, in so many ways. The school website is an important link with information regularly being added. Do also look out for text messages, emails and please do follow us on Facebook.

We are also always happy to chat to you in person. If it's a quick query, please do ask on the gate or catch the teacher or teaching assistant at the start or end of the day. If you need a bit longer, please do email or phone through to arrange a time to chat which could be over the phone, in person or virtually.

With the best will in the world and being fortunate to have a fantastic staff, there will inevitably be occasions when something goes wrong. If this does happen, please do speak to us. Face to face or over the phone is always better than email if possible, so we can talk things through and find a solution that works for your child.



What will my child be learning in 2023-2024?

On our 'Curriculum' page you can find everything you need to know for the year ahead, what's happening in class and how you can support at home. As well as the whole school view do have a browse under each year group where you will find

- An information letter about the term ahead
- A curriculum overview for the term telling you what will be taught
- The collectables for this term showing you in detail the learning for each subject – very useful so that you can follow the same methods at home
- For Y3, 4, 5 and 6, new for this year, you can see a child's artistic interpretation of all the learning for that year (this was created by children at the end of last year as a means to help them recall their learning). It's an intriguing insight for you and your child for the year ahead. Quick links here: [Year 6](#), [Year 5](#), [Year 4](#) and [Year 3](#). Enjoy.

While most of the above information will be all uploaded and available by the end of next week, please do check in regularly over the term and year because more stuff gets added e.g. teachers may complete new collectables.



Dates on School Calendar

We are always aiming to give you as much notice possible of all dates relevant to you. Two go-to places for you are the bottom of this newsletter and the calendar on the school website; both of which we endeavour to update as regularly as possible.



Starting to think about which secondary school to choose?

Mostly suitable for parents of children in Years 5 and 6, Torbay is hosting events to help parents better understand the provision in secondary schools, aiming to dispel myths and ease worries. The events for parents and carers of children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) are led by the Torbay SEND team. Definitely worth booking on, which you can do via the links here:

- [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](#)

Harmony before 8.45

From Monday morning, please look out for one of our members of staff, Jenna Bundy, who will be out and about before school from 8.30am. As well as being one of our teaching assistants, Jenna is also a School Support Worker, helping to foster happy communities in Torbay. She will be mixing and chatting so please do reach out and chat to her. She will be recognisable with a School Support Worker uniform. You are also very welcome to join her too in helping build positive relationships.

SEND Roadshow

Torbay is promoting their updated strategy to meet the needs of children with SEND by touring schools with a SEND roadshow van. They will be visiting us on Thursday 21st September and will be based in the main car park. Please come along to find out more.

Safeguarding and Information Sharing

On our website under 'Parent' you can find a page on 'Safeguarding' that is regularly updated with various relevant information for you. Added this week is a document titled 'Information Sharing 2023-2024' which explains the protocols around how different agencies share information to keep children safe.

Parent Support

If you are interested in understanding how your [child's brain develops](#), the NHS is offering free courses related to their emotional development that look very informative. See the 'Parent' tab, 'Useful Resources for Parents' for this and more.



Snacks, Drinks, Nuts and School Dinners

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

We highly recommend that your child drinks water in between meals to further reduce their sugar intake.

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 do 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 **Birch Class Y5** bring their swimming kit and Towel for Mondays. **Reminder:** Earrings should be removed on PE days or taped at home.

Many Thanks Mr. Mayling

PE Timetable

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

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>

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



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)





DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 12th September	Year 1,3,4 & 5 Parent Curriculum Meeting after school in your child's classroom
Wednesday 13th September	Roald Dahl Day -Dress as your favourite character Special PTA Library Opening Event
Thursday 14th September	Year 2 & 6 Parent Curriculum Meeting after school in your child's classroom
Thursday 21st September	Torbay SEND Roadshow Van 3-4pm in the car park
Friday 29th September	Year 6 Dartmoor Trip
Tuesday 10th October	World Mental Health Day - Wear Yellow
23rd-27th October	October Half Term
31st October	Flu Vaccinations (more information to come)
13th November	Parents evening week
20th November	Individual Photos