

St Margaret's Academy

Dear Parents

This week we've continued our theme of celebrating differences by looking at the United Kingdom in our Monday assembly, discovering how England, Wales, Scotland and then Northern Ireland joined together to make our great country. We reminded children about our British values of *respect*, *tolerance*, *rule of law* and *democracy* and recognised St Andrew's Day that was celebrated in Scotland on Monday.

Curriculum News

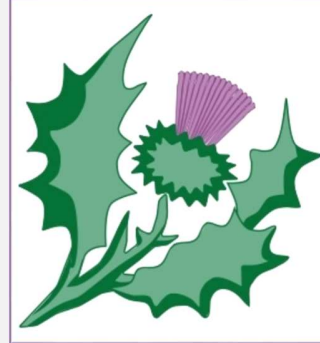
This term has seen some really exciting History learning in Year 5 and Year 6. Check out the History Blog to see [Year 5 refugees](#) arriving because of the world war 1939-1945 and the [Year 6 Victorians](#) back in the 19th Century. Many thanks to both the Year 5 and Year 6 parents for their efforts with some amazing costumes! Have a look at the Writing Blog to see some lovely [Stone Age Boy writing](#) in Year 3. Look in the [Sports Blog](#) to find how our pupils have been taking part in virtual competitions this term, and the amazing success of 4 of our top gymnasts who have made it to the county finals out of 1700 entries! Wow!

Fancy a Frozen Meal from a Cruise Ship?

If you are registered for free school meals, the cruise ships in the Bay have frozen meals that obviously aren't being eaten that they would like to donate to schools. If you would like to take up this offer, please contact the office.

Non-uniform Day on the Last Day of Term

This non uniform day will be on Friday 18 December. Children can wear something festive and Christmassy. Any contributions, however



Upcoming Events

December 10

- Reception Christmas Dinner

December 11

- Year 1 Christmas Dinner

December 14

- Year 2 Christmas Dinner

December 15

- Year 3 Christmas Dinner

December 16

- Year 4 Christmas Dinner

December 17

- Year 5 Christmas Dinner

December 18

- Year 6 Christmas Dinner
- Whole school Mufti for cued speech (donations welcome)

small, will be gratefully received in aid of the Cued Speech Association who support school's work with our deaf children and their families. Thank you.

Very Important News

COVID update

On Tuesday I had a briefing from Public Health and the Local Authority. You will be pleased to note that cases in Torbay have dropped significantly because of the lockdown which is really good news. However, the big message they are giving is to not be complacent over Christmas because whatever actions we all take during the holiday will affect what happens in January. Please keep your distance from each other and bear in mind that the reason for the Torbay spike was people socialising and taking the virus home; it was not because of schools or tourists.

COVID Precautions in December

- Christmas cards: children are welcome to bring in cards but they must be given directly to their class teacher who will keep them in a safe place for 3 days before giving them out at the end of the school day for taking home straight away. Children must please not share cards with each other; they must be given direct to the teacher. **The last day that your child can bring in a card is Tuesday 15th December.** Any cards that come in after this will not be given out until January.
- Please don't bring in gifts for your child to give to another child.
- Continue to follow the rules – **hands – face – space** is a good mantra to hold on to. Any confirmed case after 10.12.20 will result in isolation on Christmas Day to stay safe now.
- There are no 'real-life' Christmas shows this year but there are some virtual festive surprises coming along
- Once we reach the holiday period, if you have a positive covid test up to and including 23rd December please still notify school via admin@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk
- If you have any illness that has symptoms similar to COVID-19 such as a chest infection, please do make sure you isolate and get a covid test to be on the safe side.
- Please follow the government's [guidance for the Christmas period.](#)
- The general [guidance for parents and carers](#) was updated on 27.11.20 for your information.

MAIN COVID MESSAGES FOR CHRISTMAS

- Actions over December and the holiday will impact on January
- Be aware of who you are in contact with over Christmas
- Stay in your bubble
- Christmas doesn't change the transmission of the virus
- Hands, face, space – key message
- Keeping distance is key
- The spike in transmission in Torbay in October and November was caused by people mixing with friends in pubs and then taking the virus home

Christmas Dinner

If you want your child to have a Christmas dinner please **book by Monday 7th December at the latest**. The kitchen needs to place their order for turkey and potatoes etc. by Monday afternoon so it can be delivered in time. If your child requires a vegetarian meal please inform the office. See '**Upcoming Events**' on page one for the dates of the Christmas meals.

Have a lovely weekend.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Whole School
Attendance

97.2 %

This week's class
attendance star goes
to.....

APPLE CLASS

YEAR 2

This is now your 3rd star which
entitles you to a non-uniform
day!

Compared to local schools,
St Margaret's has the joint
highest level of overall
attendance so thank you very
much to everybody for making
an effort with this. It also helps
show how much your children
are enjoying coming to school.





Beech	Penny - you ALWAYS come into school with an enormous smile on your face! You have thrown yourself into your busy time this week and have persevered to complete your wonderful creations. You are always ready to help and do jobs around the classroom and we love your enthusiasm for everything - thank you!
Pine	Ginny- For her fabulous effort in writing this week. She worked so independently, using her sound mat to help her with trickier words. Great job!
Oak	Molly- for her great effort and creativity when making her trolley this week. Also for showing perseverance when constructing a number line to add two 2 digit numbers. Well done Molly!
Apple	Giovanna has tried hard with her learning both in school and with her reading at home. She enjoys completing tasks and works well when with an adult or when learning around the classroom during 'busy time'. Keep going Giovanna!
Birch	Jake - For being a model student to the rest of the class. Always setting a exceptional example of behaviour and working so hard in everything that you do!
Rowan	Quinn - for persevering with his learning so much this week. You have made amazing progress in spellings and maths!
Cherry	Nate for his aspirational attitude in maths. He works with concentration, perseverance and quiet determination to solve problems presented to him. He clearly explains his answers orally giving reasoned explanations and is becoming clearer with his written explanations too. Well done Nate.
Hazel	Maya is always a pleasure to have in our class and this week she has continued to set an excellent example for others and to be an all-round star! Well done Maya - Keep it up!
Willow	Corey - You have been a superstar this week, getting through your work and it turns out you are a super sewer!
Holly	Avalon - for being a good role model to others in demonstrating kindness. She always offers to help in class with tasks such as giving out books and has given her time to support a charity organisation alongside her parent in her spare time.
Maple	Orah - for making a huge effort to participate in maths with a growth mind-set, taking risks in your learning and not being afraid to be wrong. You've made some excellent progress recently and should feel proud that you are listening to advice and showing such aspiration. Well done!
Hawthorn	Poppy- for a fantastic half-term! You always share your ideas in class, and I'm hugely impressed with how keen you are to challenge yourself. In your writing this week, you have listened carefully to advice to design an incredible story. You deserve to be proud of your amazing attitude!