



St Margaret's
Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter #6
28th February 2025

Dear Parents,

I hope you all managed to enjoy the February half term and are comfortably back in the swing of school days again.

Mrs Watkinson News and Message

In school currently there are over 400 children plus their families who have been touched by the magic of Miss Jo Watkinson. It is with real sadness that I write to let you know that Jo has left St Margaret's due to personal circumstances as she recovers from illness. Miss Watkinson was not only the ultimate professional, always with a smile, and always going above and beyond for the children and families; she was also the best colleague and team player a school could wish to have.

Foundation Stage is exactly what it says on the tin: it is the foundation for all future learning, personal, social and academic. And, without doubt, Miss Watkinson has been a significant part of those foundations for the children in Reception, and in their subsequent years in Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. She will be very much missed and I know that everyone at St Margaret's would love to see her return again one day with her special magic if she is able to. I wish her a full speedy return to full health.

Here is a short message from Jo:

It has been my absolute privilege to teach your children at St Margaret's and to work with such an incredible and dedicated staff team.

The Early Years is truly such a special stage of learning and development and each day has been full of fun and adventure! It has been such a joy getting to know each unique little person I have taught and they have all given me so many happy memories to treasure.

The St Margaret's community really is such a special place to work and I will miss you all dearly. I hope as my recovery continues, I will be able to pop in and visit from time to time.

I wish you all the very best for the rest of the academic year and beyond.

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Staffing News—Reception and Year 2

On Monday this week, we interviewed for new teachers. We were really happy to have a strong field of candidates interested in working at St Margaret's. Therefore, we were able to recruit some wonderful new teachers to start after the Easter holidays.

In Reception (Acorns), Miss Maisie Tolley will be joining St Margaret's as a full-time teacher. Miss Tolley is early on in her career with a specialism in the Early Years, and already with experience of teaching Reception children. We also officially welcome Mrs Harrison into the teaching team. Mrs Harrison has significant experience of the Early Years and is already well-known to the children, parents and staff in Acorns. She will be working part-time in a job-share with Mrs Russell. We are also really pleased to say that Miss Lauryn Lane is joining Acorns as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant. Miss Lane is a newly qualified teacher with a specialism in the Early Years.

In Year 2, we welcome Miss Laurie Miller who will be stepping in to cover Mrs Rice's maternity leave. Miss Miller is also early on in her career and has experience teaching Year 2.

Parents in these year groups, please look out for further information closer to the time.

Congratulations to Miss Blackburn

Big congratulations to Miss Blackburn who has recently achieved her Forest Schools Level 1 Award. Miss Blackburn works with Mrs Posey in our Wednesday Forest School which is a wonderful provision we are able to provide for some of our children.

What's App—Top Tips and Advice

This is a must-read for all parents these days. On our website under 'Useful Resources for Parents' you can find advice on What's App covering scams, strangers, fake news, chat lock, view once, location settings, privacy and sharing. Check it out [here](#).

Marvel Rivals—Top Tips and Advice

This player v player shooter game has surged in popularity. It's recommended only for children aged 13+. On our website you can find advice on all sorts of inappropriate content related to it, including how to disconnect payment options. Read more [here](#).

Curriculum News

In the DT Blog have a look at the [Year 3](#) Valentine's Gift Boxes.

Just before half term, Year 5 and Year 6 were joined by police officers who came in to talk about good citizenship in the community. Have a look in our [PSHE Blog](#) to read more. Thank you to Mrs Hollis for organising this important visit.

In the Arts Blog you can enjoy the [Year 5](#) spectacular space art.

In the Science Blog you can enjoy reading about the [Year 1](#) Woodlands trip that took place on Wednesday this week along with seeing several great photos.

Wear Red to Show Love for other Children

In our [SMSC Blog](#) you can see a nice picture of the student council from before half term when they collected money for their chosen charity: Torbay Hospital's paediatric ward. Thank you to everybody who contributed. We raised over £200, the final total will be confirmed by the charity shortly.

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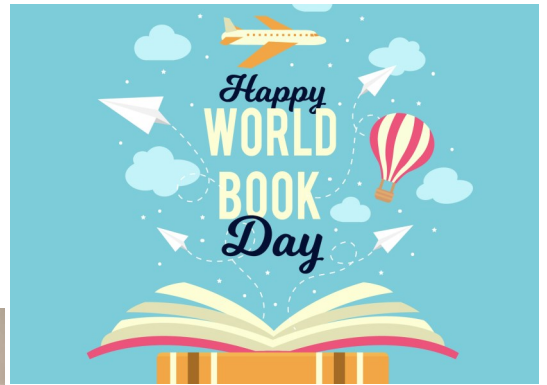


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World Book Day

Next Thursday, 6th of March, is World Book Day. Children can come to school dressed as their favourite story book character. If you're struggling to find an outfit, don't worry, they can come in non-uniform and bring in a decorated potato. They can also come in an outfit and bring in a decorated potato. It's all about having some fun and celebrating the fun of reading. There will be celebrations taking place in class too.



Junior Bake Off

Do you have a little person at home who loves baking? If so, you might want to consider applying for Junior Bake Off. Interested bakers can apply online at www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk

Our Amazon Book Wish List

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref_=wl_share

Help with Rising Costs -Reminders

- Riviera Life Church Food and Baby Bank – [link here](#). We can make a referral for you or phone 07486 402493
- **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 the weekend.

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)

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Diary Dates

1st April 2025	Non Uniform Day to donate an Easter Egg for the Thursday Bingo
3rd April 2025	PTA Easter Bingo after school
W/C 7th April 2025	Easter Holidays
22nd April 2025	First day back for children
5th May 2025	Bank Holiday
W/C 26th May 2025	Half Term
3rd June 2025	First day back for children
24th July 2025	Final day for the children



Beech	The Beech Star of the Week is someone who returned from half term ready to learn. She has truly embraced the skills we have been working on and has made a great effort to incorporate them into her writing. Well done, Amelia-Rose! Keep up the excellent work!
Pine	Stanley is our star! We have all noticed Stanley this week. He is starting to understand what he needs to do and has been really trying his best. Well done Stanley we are so proud of you.
Oak	Teddy is our star in Oak this week for his aspirational writing in his Literacy lessons, extending his sentences adding nouns, verbs and adjectives to make his writing a very exciting read! Fantastic work Teddy!
Apple	Isabella is our star this week. You have been working so hard in your maths lessons and performed really well in our recent assessments. In addition to this, your DT evaluation about your seagull proof bag was fabulous and was all completed independently! Great work Isabella!
Holly	This will be the second time that this week's star has earned the award which shows how hard he is working. He has really impressed us with his resilient attitude to all aspects of his learning, particularly in geography, writing and maths. He has shown motivation and determination to never give up. What a role model you are Albie!
Willow	Cain is the star of the week in Willow class. He has been demonstrating great active thinking this week by working hard to recall previous knowledge in RE. He has also been showing fantastic motivation in writing and maths. He continually challenges himself to do the best he can. Well done Cain you SuperStar!!
Cherry	Cherries star of the week is everyone! We have really focused this week on using class discussions and dialogue to develop our learning. Everyone who has been learning in the class has shown incredible motivation and active thinking to thoughtfully engage with ideas and each other. They have all been respectful when disagreeing and providing reasons for their thinking which has helped everyone else to learn too. I am so impressed with all of the Cherries, Well done everyone!
Hazel	Hazel's star of the week is Lewis. Lewis has made me feel so comfortable coming back, always offering to help and always trying to impress me with his hard work and excellent behaviour. Thank you, Lewis. Well done and keep it up!
Birch	Hayden is our star this week in Birch class! He has been so resilient this week with coming back and having changes of adults. He has shown real motivation too in his learning. Well done Hayden-you have blown us away!
Rowan	This week's star is Vincent. He could be the star every week as he can always be relied on to show the correct learning behaviours and is motivated to do his best in all areas of his learning. He is such a joy to have in the classroom so keep being amazing!
Maple	Lily-Summer could be star of the week every week due to her amazing learning behaviours and kind, caring nature. She has blown us away with her fantastic diary entry in Writing this week, where she showed excellent active thinking and included some very powerful vocabulary. Well done!
Hawthorn	Scarlett you are our star for amazing motivation this week and making a real effort with every piece of learning you have been given! We are super proud of you!

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