



Spring Term Newsletter No.1 (10.1.20)

Welcome back to the start of the new spring term. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and I wish you all a healthy and happy 2020. Staff started back on Monday feeling refreshed and recharged, with a training day on ipads and robots. I'm sure your children will be telling you about these at some point.

The School Curriculum

A big focus for teachers and teaching assistants' professional development currently is our curriculum design and implementation. Prior to Christmas, the Senior Leadership Team put together a [Curriculum Statement](#) to help define and drive the work we do. There is a copy on our website for your information so you can see why we're delivering the type of curriculum we do. A huge part of what we do is about the pastoral support we provide and how we get children ready to learn by supporting their emotional and social development. You can find lots of information about this under our 'Well-being in Action' tab. Mrs Essam, our specialist Nurture Teacher would like to share '[Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs](#)' which is a useful motivational reminder about human needs and the basics we need to have in place for our children to thrive in their lives.

We have also articulated our school vision. I know we feel very proud of the school we work in and I think the following vision captures in words why we're doing what we do at St Margaret's:

We want ourselves and the children in our care to be successful, resilient and inquisitive learners who are happy and well-equipped to participate positively in the community and wider society.

You can find information about [what your child is learning](#) this term on our school website under *Curriculum Information*. Year 2 teachers are also offering Maths workshops for parents at the end of January so look out for their letter and please sign up as this will be an invaluable opportunity to learn how we teach and how you can help at home. Teachers are planning creative learning that gets children engaged. For example, take a look at how Years 3 and 4 launched their [art-based topic](#) this week, called, 'Picture This'. Read the [PSHE Blog](#) to find out how children in KS1 have been learning how to stay safe around dogs with a visit from the Dogs' Trust this week.

Have a look at the two new puzzles in Miss Wooldridge's [Maths Blog](#)! This week, we have *Four Lines* and *Add up to 20* to try. Becoming an excellent mathematician involves much more than rapidly recalling your number facts quickly. Puzzles help your brain to think logically and develop your problem solving skills. Why not make a weekly maths challenge one of your New Year's Resolutions! Solutions to Miss Wooldridge at playtime next Friday, 17th January.

Governors

On Wednesday evening the full Governing Board met to review the school progress since the start of the year. We are lucky to have an experienced group of governors with backgrounds and skills in education, welfare, health and safety, personnel, sites and finance. Hence, they offered expert challenge and insightful support towards future improvement. I'm pleased to report that the school is making good progress this year and we have clear plans in place for continuing this in the spring and summer terms.

Term Dates and Calendar

For your information, term dates are updated on the website for this academic year and the next one. You can find downloadable documents under the '[Parent and Carer](#)' tab. This school calendar which has its own tab is a useful point of reference for any events happening in school over the terms. For your attention, the first day back for the children after the summer break is 7th September 2020.

School Meals On-Line

Thank you for bearing with us as we introduced 'Meal Manager' this week. You can find more information and the spring term menu under the Parent and Carer tab - [School Meals](#). Thank you to Sam Newman in the office for her lead on this. **Please remember to pre-order your child's meal.**

School Census Day

Thursday 16th January is Schools' Census Day. On this day, the number of children who have a free school meal is used as data by the government to determine our future funding. Please can we appeal to all parents whose child is entitled to a free school meal, to please have one on this day i.e. all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 plus any other older child who is entitled. The kitchen will be running a fun 'random plate' competition open to all children to help promote this day. Thank you for your support.

Admissions to Reception in September 2020

If you haven't yet applied for a place for your child, or know someone who might need a gentle reminder, please note that the deadline to apply for a place is 15th January 2020. Ideally you should apply on line (<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/admissions/primary-place-2020/>). If you would like a paper version, or any help with the process, please see any of our office staff.

Token Collection for Collins Big Cat Reading Programme

If you are a reader of The Sun or know someone who is, we'd really like your help. We're aiming to collect 3500 tokens which are printed in The Sun every day until Saturday 18.1.20. If we reach our target we have a chance to claim a whole school reading scheme from Collins called *The Big Cat Reading Programme*. This would really help boost our reading collection so if you think you can help please do collect those tokens and send them in.

Miss Palfrey and the Reading Ambassadors' Weekly Book Choices

Miss Palfrey's Reading Ambassadors are meeting next week—watch this space for their 2020 recommendations



Weekly Attendance Award

Congratulations again to **Rowan Class** for winning the School Attendance Award with **97.2%** attendance. School target: 96% The whole school achieved **95.6% last week**



Stars of the Week

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| Elm | Archie - your enthusiasm for school life and learning is wonderful. You are always such a Think-a-docus, sharing your ideas in class with us. Jake - We are so impressed with how hard you are trying to do your very best in your learning and your behaviour choices - what a star! |
| Ash | Kyron-John - for being such a 'try-a-tops' with his writing in school and at home. We are very proud of you! Raya - for always being so ready to learn and joining in with such enthusiasm! What a star!! |
| Beech | Lily - for being a super sensible member of Beech Class. She is always in the right place at the right time, ready to learn and eager to help out in whatever way she can. Thank you Lily! |
| Pine | Ellie - she is a super member of Pine Class because she is always focused on her learning and tries her best in everything she does. Thank you Ellie for being such a great role model |
| Oak | Isobel- for always putting in 100% effort into every aspect of her learning. It has been lovely to have your enthusiasm and participation in our new topic Isobel. Well done! |
| Apple | Libby - for facing each day in a positive way :o) well done Libby keep going! |
| Birch | Bethany - For doing some outstanding maths over the Christmas holidays - very aspirational! |
| Rowan | Freddie - for a massive effort in listening, looking and trying his best. Your work this week has been amazing! |
| Cherry | Archie - has been nominated by his classmates as he is always a kind and considerate friend and all the adults agree! You are a lovely person to have in Cherry Class Archie - thank you! |
| Maple | Corey - It has been lovely to see more participation and enthusiasm from Corey in our new topic. Well done! |
| Willow | Olivia- Olivia always sets an excellent example others and has started the year in the same way that she left in December. An excellent attitude and valued member of the class. |
| Holly | Emily - for beginning this term with a really positive attitude. She has worked hard and contributed lots of ideas in our English lessons. Well done Emily! |
| Hazel | Toby - for exemplary participation and curiosity in lessons and consistently showing such respectful behaviour with your excellent manners and general attitude. Well done Toby! |
| Hawthorn | Summer- for a superb start to 2020! She has shown great focus, positivity and enthusiasm in our lessons! |

Diary Dates

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| Thur 16.1.20 | School Census Day—please support our school funding by signing your child up for a free school meal if they are entitled to one. |
| Sat 18.1.20 | Last day that the <i>Collins Big Cat Reading Tokens</i> are printed in The Sun. Please send to the office. |
| Thur 23.1.20 | M&M Drama Show 'Sleeping Beauty' in school time—for all children—£3.40 voluntary donation |
| Mon 27.1.20 | Year 2 Maths workshops for parents—9.10am or 3.15pm. Please return the slip to sign up. |
| Wk beg 2.3.20 | Year 6 Residential / Activity Week |
| Thur 5.3.20 | World Book Day—further details to follow about a theme |
| Wk beg 9.3.20 | Advance notice: parents evenings will be held this week Science Week—lots of whizzing and popping coming up |
| Wed 11.3.10 | Science homework fair supported by our friends from Dunboyne Court |

KINDNESS

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

ASPIRATION