

St Margarets Academy

HANDS – FACE – SPACE – FRESH AIR ----- ACT AS IF YOU'VE GOT IT

Dear Parents,

As Thursday was *Martin Luther King Day* we started this week with an assembly about him as part of our *Dreams and Goals* theme for this half term. Doctor Martin Luther King's story helps inspire our dreams to become a reality and helps us remember how important it is to be tolerant of others. *Tolerance* is one of our British values. We often use it to remind the children that we celebrate differences and show curiosity of others to help prepare them to take their place in the wider world.

Fire

I hope you all received the update about what happened on Thursday. Just to reiterate, it was caused by a faulty light in the library. It was a small fire. It activated our fire alarm. The fire service attended promptly, put it out and made the area safe. Electricians have attended and also made sure it is safe. We are fully operational.

Curriculum News

Last week, Year 5 were privileged to meet local author, Chris Robillard, who spoke to the children about his work. Have a look in the [Writing Blog](#) to find out more.

In school we use the *White Rose* scheme for our Maths planning. They have recently released a free one-minute Maths app that you can download from the Apple or Google store. It looks really good for building fluency and confidence so worth a look: <https://whiterosemaths.com/1-minute-maths>

Community Science Project

This week we launched an optional science homework project in advance of British Science Week that takes place in the week beginning 14th March. The children have been shown a simple experiment with lemonade and sultanas to help get them inspired. Now they have a blank canvas to take their project in any direction that interests them. We are making it into a fun competition, hoping to link in with our neighbours at Dunboyne Court.



Upcoming Events

14th February

Year 3 Roman Workshop

17th February

School Photos



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

BIRCH CLASS

99%

Well done!

You might recall we did this previously in pre-covid times for a local history project and science project. All being covid-well, we hope some Dunboyne residents will come to school again to judge the entries and have lunch with the winners. It worked really well last time for the children and our friends from Dunboyne

Dates for you Diary

To mark Queen Elizabeth's 70th year of being our monarch, there is an extra Bank Holiday this year. Because it falls in the summer half term break, schools have been given permission to take an extra day during term time. We will be taking this day on Monday 6th June, tagging it on to the end of the summer half term break.

The dates for the 2022-2023 academic year will be published very soon – sometime early next week hopefully.

Clubs

If your child attends an after school club and if for any reason is unable to attend, please do make sure you notify the office. It is not enough for the child themselves to inform us just so we are fully certain who is and who is not attending. Thank you.

Active Playtimes – a huge thank you to Big Game Hunters

One of our key priorities this year is to ensure playtimes are fun and engaging for the children, led by staff. As part of this we are always on the lookout for new and inspiring resources. With a limited school budget, staff are often scrounging, begging and scouring various places for good stuff. This is why we have our amazing giant play pod on the top playground. Recently, Miss Truscott, one of our TAs in KS1, has managed to secure a donation of five *Everyfly Kites* from 'Big Game Hunters'. These will be a brilliant addition and help us make better use of the field in more wet conditions. A massive thank you to Miss Truscott and 'Big Game Hunters'. You can check out their website here to see their full range of fantastic play equipment: <https://www.biggamehunters.co.uk/acatalog/Everyfly-Rainbow-Kite.html>

Reading Corner

This morning before school Madeline and her friend from class, Arlo enjoyed a book from our entrance hall. Madeline was waiting for the yoga club to finish and while waiting she enjoyed sharing a book with her Mum. Next time you come into school why not share a book with your child or even look at the books for inspiration as to what book you could read next. There are books for all ages! If you have any recommendations please do let us know, we all love books at St Margaret's Academy.



Covid Update

We have seen an increase in cases this week in both staff and children. However, this rise has slowed significantly by the end of the week which is good news. At the time of writing we have 39 people absent and isolating because they have tested positive. Most of these are coming to the end of their isolation and will hopefully be back in school on Monday. We have outbreaks in Year 1 Beech Class, Year 2 Oak Class, Year 2 Apple Class, Year 3 Rowan Class and Year 5 Holly Class. Parents in these classes have all been informed and advised to test their children daily for 7 days. Further additional cleaning is taking place in these classes. If you can get hold of any LFD tests and your child is in a parallel class to one of these you might want to consider more regular testing.

We are responding with caution to the government's notification of reduced restrictions. In the interests of everybody's safety and mental well-being, we will continue with our enhanced safety around ventilation, personal hygiene and social distancing as best as possible. We will also take our lead from local Public Health in response to the situation in Torbay.

Staff are still being advised to wear face coverings in communal areas and likewise we please ask you to wear one when in busy areas on the school site. We are also continuing with our one-way system from the sloped gate for the time being. Thank you for bearing with us.

I would like to thank our amazing staff once again for stepping up and supporting colleagues to help cover absence.

Have a super-sonic weekend – or just a really relaxing one.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Beech	Bentley- you have been really brave this week and we can see you growing in confidence every day. You have been putting your hand up to answer questions in maths and explaining your answers wonderfully. You've finished the week by making an Aspirational hedgehog house and worked with Mrs Price to make sure that it would keep them dry. Well done Bentley - keep it up.
Pine	Alanna- Great subtraction work this week in maths, brilliant group participation and approaching her class number sums with a fantastic fun attitude. Well done Alanna.
Oak	Abigail- has really impressed me with her aspiration and attitude in writing this week. She has also been incredibly responsible, helping others and around the classroom. Well done Abigail- you are a star!
Apple	Isaac is our star this week. He has been simply amazing recently, aspirational, showing kindness to others and so responsible by stepping up into the role of a maths mentor to his peers. Well done Isaac, you should be very proud of yourself!
Birch	Ludo for listening so well and putting maximum effort into his writing and maths. We are so proud of you!
Rowan	Edith has been an absolute star this week! In maths, she has been working completely independently multiplying by 10 and 100 and setting her work out beautifully. She always has a smile on her face and an aspirational attitude towards her work. Well done Edith!
Cherry	Max - he takes great responsibility for his learning. He is a careful thinker and concentrates hard on all activities.
Hazel	Amelia - Amelia has settled into a new school brilliantly over the past couple of weeks. She has made many friends and always works extremely hard in all subjects. We are very lucky to have you in our school, Amelia!
Willow	Charlie Ho for his fantastic aspiration in his independent writing this week. Well done, Charlie! Keep it up!
Holly	Adam - He has really impressed us by working so hard. His participation in lessons has improved and he is a great working partner.
Maple	Ben for always having an aspirational attitude towards his learning. This week, Ben has been sharing so many ideas in class discussions and always putting in maximum effort - keep up the great work!
Hawthorn	Saphia - she always works so hard and gives her absolute best in every piece of work, even when she finds it tricky. Her hand is always up to participate and she's not afraid to have a go at a challenge or get something wrong. Such great aspiration Saphia - well done!