



ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Autumn Newsletter #1

13th September 2024

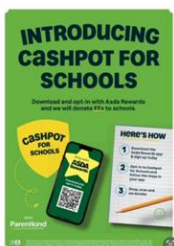


Raising Aspirations

This year our school improvement priority is to help raise children’s aspirations, to get stuck into learning and finding out about the world around them. Our first assembly back on Monday was all about this, using the inspiration of our amazing PTA fund raising and the talents of local artist, Neil Wilkinson-Cave. Look out for special invites for families to come into school each half term to see the work the children are doing.

Asda PTA App

If you shop at Asda please download the Asda rewards app and select St Margaret’s (be sure to enter the postcode TQ1 4PA). Every time you shop, our PTA will get a donation. And even if you don’t shop at Asda, just for downloading the app and selecting St Margaret’s, our PTA gets £1. If all our families do that, that’s an instant £400+ for no effort. Thank you.



Dear Parents,

I hope your children have enjoyed their first week back after the holidays. It has been a lovely atmosphere in school and super nice to see everybody enjoying themselves.

Timeline Mural, BBC and PTA

Over the summer holidays, Neil Wilkinson-Cave (Sacred Art Murals) spent 4 weeks in school painting a timeline mural depicting key events (local, national and world wide). This stunning piece of art greeted the children for the first time when they came into assembly on Monday, and the BBC were there to capture the moment. It’s a super good news story that we were able to share, as well as somewhat raising the profile of how schools are struggling financially. Over the last 12 months, our fantastic PTA has raised around £20,000 that has gone towards our library, the timeline mural, class and SEND resources, and even towards ensuring we can pay for our Reading scheme.

Enjoy this timelapse video from Neil that turns 4 weeks of work into 2 minutes: [History Timeline Mural, Timelapse of mural creation \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=History+Timeline+Mural+Timelapse+of+mural+creation). You can also see the BBC report on Spotlight which featured on the 6.30pm news on 11.9.24.

Lifeline4kids Grant

Well done to our wonderful PTA who successfully bid for a special grant from Lifeline4kids with which they have purchased a large amount of sensory resources to enhance our curriculum provision in school.



Curriculum News

Hopefully you have all received the information about what your child will be learning this term, and found the information meetings useful.

Leadership Structure

This is just a reminder about our new school leadership structure this year following Mrs Pike's retirement. Our senior leadership team comprises of myself, Mrs Turner (Deputy Head, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Foundation/KS1 Lead), Mrs Kerswell (Assistant Head and KS2 Lead), Mrs Essam (SENCO) and Mrs Colmer (Business Manager). You can find details about all the staff on our website under 'About the School'; quick link [here](#).

Our website is now mostly updated with this information too which you can find under the 'Curriculum' tab. Then navigate down to your year group to find out more. If you want to know about individual subjects, navigate down to the bottom where you will find 'subject specific information'. Keep an eye on the curriculum tab over the year as this is where you will find any updates about what your child is learning so you can support at home.

The other curriculum part to our website is the 'Subject Blogs and Reception News' tab. Here you can see photos and read about what the children have been up to in class. Good to look here if you'd like to be a fly on the wall. For example, in the Science Blog, you can already see how [Year 3 Holly](#) Class have been enjoying their study of rocks.

This year we have adapted our curriculum to try to bring greater creativity and purpose to the learning. As part of this, you will be invited in at the end of each half term to see what they've been doing. We really hope you enjoy this. Dates for your diary this term: Friday 25th October and Friday 13th December.

School Dinners

We have spent some time this week reflecting on our school dinners. We believe the meal is excellent value at £2.60 (this price is new from this month; prior to this we had kept the cost at £2.40 for several years). Here's what we provide:

- The menu is founded on all the nutritional guidelines from the Soil Association combined with what the kitchen staff know the children like to eat.
- Portion sizes are calculated from the Government's School Food Standards. For some children this seems too much (based on the tremendous levels of waste) while some children have bigger appetites. Kitchen staff generally know which children like to have more and do provide extra for them. All children are always welcome to ask for more if they are still hungry.
- All the fresh produce comes from the local Green Grocer, Frank Mann. Where possible, based on cost we use local suppliers such as the butcher, Terry Prentice who sources all his products locally.
- Each day, there is always fresh fruit and yoghurt available.
- This the daily offer in addition to a daily dessert and fresh fruit and yoghurt:
 - Monday: a meat and vegetarian option
 - Tuesday: a meat and vegetarian option plus sandwich option
 - Wednesday: multiple options with a jacket potato – chilli, cheese, beans, bolognaise, tuna and mayonnaise
 - Thursday: roast dinner (meat and vegetarian option) plus a sandwich option
 - Friday: fish and chips or a vegetarian option
- Sandwiches are not available every day because they are the biggest source of waste when chosen.

We have an open offer for any parent to come in on any day to join their child for a lunch and to see what we provide. If you would like to take us up on this, please just let the office know.

Our Amazon Book Wish List

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

Stay Safe Online

Continuing our theme from last term, here is a snippet of information I came across in the holidays that I wasn't aware of. I don't know if it's true but it's worth you checking. Apparently any parent controls you set on your child's device get wiped the moment they log into external WiFi like at McDonalds.

Torquay Family Hub Online

A very useful website is the Torbay Family Hub page: [Home - Family Hub \(torbayfamilyhub.org.uk\)](http://torbayfamilyhub.org.uk). You can find all sorts of advice and support here for all children of all ages, including for parents of children with SEND.

Cary Park Sporting Facilities

Check out these amazing sporting facilities right on our door step. What a fantastic opportunity. [\(20+\) Video | Facebook](#)

Considering a Career in Teaching?

Watch this short animation to learn more about the rewards of training to become a teacher. Train locally with the South West Institute for Teaching (SWIFT) and gain experience through placements and training across our local area. Further details here: <https://www.swiftteachertraining.org.uk/>

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>

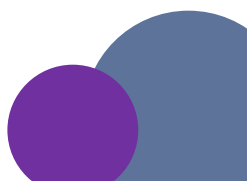
Happy September weekend.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



18 th September 2024	Y6 Parents Meeting After School
4 th October 2024	PTA Meeting to plan the Christmas Events
25 th October 2024	Creative Curriculum Celebration Event
6 th July 2024	Y6 Show 2pm & 6pm showing
W/C 28 th October 2024	Half Term



Beech	Beech's first Star of the Week is Bella. She has shown all of our school values every day and been particularly aspirational in her adult led tasks and in her busy time. She has started back at school with such a hard working attitude and a desire to learn. Well done Bella!
Pine	Jedi for being so respectful and for always being ready to learn.
Oak	Ayla is our first star as she has shown great responsibility and aspiration in every aspect of the learning this week. She is also incredibly polite and helpful. Super start to year 2 Ayla, well done!
Apple	Jude is our star of the week in Apple. He has started year 2 with a wonderfully motivated attitude to his learning and impressed us with his excellent listening skills. A real superstar this week - keep it up Jude!
Holly	Our first star of the week in Holly is awarded to the amazing Joshua! He has been an absolute star by helping everyone, being so aspirational and has been ready to learn at every opportunity. Greta start to Year 3 Joshua, well done.
Willow	Bobby is the star of the week in Willow Class. He has shown great participation in all lessons. He has experimented enthusiastically in science, contributed to class discussions and used practical equipment to show his learning in maths. Well done Bobby -Great active learning.
Cherry	Olivia H is the star of the week in Cherry class. She has been aspirational in all of her learning, has shown great listening skills, and has contributed to class discussions and reading out loud in class. I know I can count on Olivia to be responsible in class. Well done Olivia!
Hazel	Our star of the week is Noah. He has had an incredible start to Year 4 showing real resilience in all the tasks set before him and showing great respect at all times. Well done!
Birch	Birch's first star of the week is Hayden! He has shown great maturity and been a really responsible learner. I have been particularly impressed by how keen he has been to get started on independent tasks and has worked hard to make his work the best it can be. Well done!
Rowan	Rowan's first star of the week is Olivia! She has shown such aspiration in her learning as well as always doing the right thing at the right time. Olivia has worked so hard this week and I'm blown away by how responsible she is - well done!
Maple	Maple's first star of the week goes to Harry! Harry has already been embracing Year 6 this week, showing maturity and lots of motivation to do well. Harry has especially enjoyed getting involved in our science learning about evolution and inheritance. Fantastic work, Harry - keep it up!
Hawthorn	Hawthorn's first star of the week is Oliver! He has impressed us with his motivation to get involved in class discussions, sharing his thoughts and ideas - especially in science ! He has also impressed us with his brilliant variety of balances in gymnastics!