



# St Margaret's Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Autumn Newsletter #3

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful week it has been at St Margaret's Academy! Our classrooms have been buzzing with curiosity, creativity, and collaboration as pupils embraced a wide range of exciting learning opportunities. From hands-on science investigations to expressive writing, musical performances, and outdoor adventures, it's been a joy to witness the enthusiasm and growth across all year groups.

We are incredibly proud of the effort, resilience, and imagination our children have shown—and we thank our dedicated staff and visitors for making these moments possible.

Looking ahead, we have a fantastic line-up of events and experiences waiting in the wings! From themed enrichment days and educational visits to community celebrations and pupil-led initiatives, there's so much to look forward to. We can't wait to share these moments with you and continue building a vibrant, inclusive learning community together.



## Year 2 Maths Stars!

A huge well done to our brilliant Year 2 pupils who have been working incredibly hard in Maths this week! Your focus, determination, and enthusiasm have really shone through—keep up the fantastic work, we're so proud of you!



ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



## Snack-tember Fun at St Margaret's!

This September, our school joined in the delicious excitement of **Snack-tember 2025**, a month-long celebration of healthy and sustainable snacking, led by the British Nutrition Foundation which also forms part of our Technology curriculum.

Throughout the month, pupils have explored their snacking habits and got hands-on in the kitchen, creating a variety of tasty, nutritious treats. From fruity skewers and veggie dips to homemade energy bites, the creativity and enthusiasm were truly inspiring! Check out KS1 treats below:



Snack-tember is all about helping children and young people make better snack choices and our pupils learned about the benefits of healthy ingredients, tried new flavours, and even shared their own snack recipes with friends.

It's been a joyful, educational, and flavour-filled month, and we're so proud of how our pupils embraced the challenge. Here's to making every snack a smart one! We hope they keep on exploring new flavours and nutritious treats in the kitchen at home. Feel free to send in photos and recipes that you try at home with your favourite recommendations – maybe we could create our own St. Margaret's recipe blog to share with everyone.

**#Snacktember2025 #HealthyEating #StMargaretsAcademy**

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## Year 3 Rock Stars! Taleblazers "Rock and Fossils" Workshop

On Wednesday, our Year 3 pupils took a journey through time with the **Taleblazers "Rocks and Fossils" workshop**, part of the exciting **Bedrock Project** — a fully funded initiative bringing free geology sessions to Torbay primary schools.

Led by local teacher and geologist **Rich Blagden**, the workshop was packed with hands-on learning and fun! Pupils met a real geologist and discovered the tools of the trade (including the fascinating geological hammer), explored rock, mineral and fossil samples from Torbay and beyond, and unravelled the mysteries of the **Toilet Roll of Time** — a brilliant visual timeline showing 400 million years of geological history!

The session was themed around the **English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark**, helping children understand the incredible story beneath their feet. Rich's enthusiasm and expertise made the experience unforgettable, sparking curiosity and excitement in every child.

We're thrilled to be part of this initiative and grateful for the opportunity to bring such enriching learning to our pupils. A huge thank you to Taleblazers for inspiring our budding geologists!

Liam shared "I loved touching them they felt very rough and bumpy and the rocks were all colourful, but some weren't"



Olivia told me that "I was really interested in the obsidian rock because it was nice and sharp and I also liked the fossils, as I have never seen a really big fossil before. Great hands-on experience and the Geologist was nice too".



## Year 6 Dive into Adventure with Reach Outdoors

At St Margaret's, we take pride in offering an enriching curriculum that makes the most of our stunning local surroundings. This week, our Year 6 pupils enjoyed an unforgettable day on the waves with Reach Outdoors, learning to bodyboard while gaining vital water safety skills to build confidence and enjoyment in open water.

William shared, "The instructors took us out chest-deep into the water to help us ride the large waves and understand the techniques that help us stay balanced and not fall off."

Jacob added, "I'm really looking forward to the Coasteering next week. I'm a bit nervous, but I know the trip will be great and the bus journey fun – I'm just not looking forward to getting salty water in my face!"



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## Mini First Aid Workshops– A Life-Saving Learning Opportunity!

We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to the incredible generosity of our amazing PTA, our Year 3 and Year 6 pupils will be taking part in [Mini First Aid workshops](#) this term!

This life-saving initiative will give children the chance to learn essential first aid skills in a fun, age-appropriate way—empowering them with knowledge that could make a real difference in an emergency.

- **Year 3 Workshop** – *Friday 17th October*

**Year 6 Workshop** – *Friday 24th October*

We are so grateful to the PTA for funding this brilliant opportunity and helping us bring such valuable learning into our school.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to catch me at drop-off or pick-up—I'd be happy to chat!

## St Margaret's Supports #HelloYellow—Friday 10th October

We're proud to be supporting **Young Minds' #HelloYellow** on **Friday 10th October**, a national event to raise awareness of children and young people's mental health.

At St Margaret's, we believe in the importance of emotional wellbeing and want to show our pupils that they're never alone with their mental health. By wearing something yellow — whether it's a bright scarf, a yellow T-shirt, or even a golden accessory — we'll be joining thousands of schools across the country in a powerful message of hope and support. During the day in class and throughout the school we will be focusing on the importance of mental health and what we can do to promote healthy bodies and healthy minds.

We kindly ask all pupils, parents and carers to get involved by:

- **Wearing a yellow** item on the day – School uniform to be worn please.
- **Donating** if you're able — all funds raised will go directly to **Young Minds**, helping them continue their vital work supporting young people's mental health.

We will have donation buckets on the gates in the morning or if preferred feel free to make a donation direct on our [designated fundraising page](#).

Let's come together to make a difference and show that mental health matters.

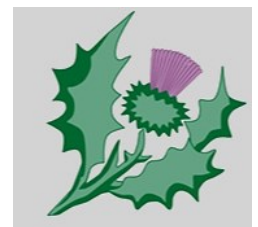
**#HelloYellow #YoungMinds #MentalHealthMatters**



## Join Our Team!

We're excited to share that there are several fantastic opportunities to join the team here at St Margaret's Academy! If you're passionate about making a difference and being part of a vibrant, supportive school community, we'd love to hear from you.

Please visit the [Vacancies page](#) on our school website for more information about current roles and how to apply.



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## Could you Be a School Trustee & Member?

We're currently looking for passionate, community-minded individuals to join our school as Trustees. This is a fantastic opportunity to play a key role in shaping the strategic direction of St Margaret's Academy and ensuring the very best outcomes for our pupils.

Trustees provide oversight, support, and challenge to help the school thrive. It's a rewarding role where you can make a real impact—bringing your skills, experience, and perspective to help guide our vision and values.

If you're interested in finding out more, please contact the school on 01803327090 or [admin@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk) We'd love to hear from you!

As we wrap up another inspiring week at St Margaret's Academy, we want to thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. It's been a joy to celebrate our pupils' achievements and share exciting opportunities with you.

We hope you all enjoy a restful, joyful weekend with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday, ready for another week of learning, laughter, and growth.

Kind regards,

*Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer*

*Headteacher*

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St Margaret's  
Academy

# OPEN DAYS

## What to Expect:

- A warm welcome from our Headteacher and the Team
- Guided tour with our newly appointed School Council
- Refreshments and a chance to ask any questions
- Discover our values-led approach and nurturing environment and great facilities.

MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER  
9.30-10.30AM

THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER  
9.30-10.30AM

FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER  
9.30-10.30AM

Please register your interest and book via the link or QR Code

<https://forms.gle/1Q4VYrWVgSvjMSLd9>

Website: <https://www.stmargaretstorbay.org.uk/web/>



## Language That Cares: We're Listening—Have Your Say

At St Margaret's, we believe that the words we use matter. That's why we're proud to support the **Language That Cares** campaign — a Torbay-wide initiative focused on making our language more **caring, inclusive, and trauma-informed**.

We're inviting families, young people, and professionals to take part in a short survey to help shape how services across Torbay communicate. Your voice will help ensure that everyone — especially children and young people — feels **safe, respected, and empowered** when accessing support.

### Your feedback will help:

Promote trauma-informed, child-first communication  
Reduce stigmatising language  
Co-produce resources with children, families, and professionals  
Build a culture of belonging across Torbay  
Co-create training that reflects real experiences and needs

### Complete the survey that's right for you:



Young People & Individuals with Lived Experience: <https://forms.office.com/e/gmVjcSMAs1>



Professionals: <https://forms.office.com/e/KSHJtfczy6>



Parent Carers: <https://forms.office.com/e/z4j3AHjDXc>

### Deadline for responses: Monday 27th October

# Diary Dates

29th September 2025	Y6 Hawthorn Swim Session
30th September 2025	School Nursing Service Parent & Carer Drop In
6th October 2025	Y6 Hawthorn Swim Session
13th October 2025	Y6 Hawthorn Swim Session
20th October 2025	Y6 Maple Swim Session
24th October 2025	Last Day of School Term
27th October—2nd November 2025	Half Term Holiday
31st October 2025	Deadline for Y6 applications for secondary school
3rd November 2025	First Day Back for Children for back Y6 Maple Swim Session
10th November 2025	Y6 Maple Swim Session
17th November 2025	Y6 Maple Swim Session
24th November 2025	Y6 Maple Swim Session

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Pine	Sienna	Sienna is our star this week for setting such a great example to everyone. She is polite, kind, thoughtful and respectful at all times.
Beech	Adelaide	Adelaide has made such a big step up into Year 1 and has settled in so beautifully this week. She comes into class with a smile, ready to learn, and always brings her happy and excited attitude to everything she does. Adelaide's enthusiasm for her learning shines through, and we are so proud of the way she has started the year.
Apple	Olivia	Olivia is always so responsible in everything she does. She takes responsibility for her learning by listening carefully and always doing her best. She is also responsible around the classroom, tidying up sensibly and is just a great role model. Well done Olivia.
Oak	Florence	Florence has been noticed by several adults for always showing all of the school values. She has a fantastic attitude to learning and she is motivated to always be the best she can be. An amazing start to year 2 Florence- well done!
Willow	Rory	Rory is Willow's star of the week. I have been so impressed by his determination and aspiration towards all of his learning. He has consistently given his best and challenged himself to always keep learning. Well done Rory!
Holly	Lottie	Lottie is our star of the week this week, she has taken real responsibility for her learning and also for her own belongings. She has shown time and time again that she is respectful and kind to others. Keep it up Lottie you are smashing it!
Cherry	Natalia	Natalia has impressed all the adults in Cherry over the last couple of weeks with her aspirational writing and maths learning. She has really pushed on with her place value knowledge and super sentences. Well done Natalia!
Hazel	Melanie	Melanie has settled beautifully into Hazel class - you'd think she'd been part of our class forever! Melanie always shows all of the school values - especially respect and aspiration. We are so pleased to have you, Melanie! Keep up the good work.
Rowan	Elaine	Elaine is the star of the week in Rowan class for her aspirational attitude to learning across all subjects. She demonstrates super concentration and listening skills. Her work is always beautifully presented and completed with maximum effort. Well done Elaine.
Birch	Bailey	This week, our star has worked so hard and been an incredible help around the classroom, showing kindness and respect to the adults around him. Bailey listens well in lessons and is always keen to share his ideas. Keep up the excellent attitude Bailey!
Hawthorn	Oscar	Oscar has amazed us today with his writing about Vultures! His determination to do his best at all times is aspirational. This week he showed us his awesome surfing skills - well done Oscar!
Maple	Arabella	Our star of the week is someone who has wowed the adults in Maple class with their aspiration and responsibility. They are always ready to learn, setting a wonderful example, and always complete tasks to their absolute best. Well done, Arabella, you have worked so hard during these first few weeks of term - keep up the amazing work.