

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter #9
8th March 2024

I hope everybody is keeping well and enjoying the lighter days.

World Book Day

We all enjoyed a fun day on Thursday dressed as different book characters – all good in helping raise the awareness and generate enjoyment of reading. We were also joined by local author, Clare Brown, who shared her wonderful books and inspired the children to be writers themselves with her thoughts about what it is like to be a real author. If you would like to find out more and maybe order a book, you can find the Wonderweeds on Amazon.

"The Wonderweeds" are an original and fun collection of poems with a powerful message; "Wonderweeds are friends we need". Bridging both fact and fiction, The Wonderweeds are ten weeds whose characters tell the story of their plant lives in a way that helps children to identify them and understand their characteristics better. The latter pages take the reader into educational material that is equally useful in the home or school. It has been written with the national curriculum in mind, but also for plant and insect lovers alike. One area goes into the Dandelion Food web which has been written with the support of John Walters, a local entomologist who has recorded work for the BBC Wild Britain and Autumn Watch.

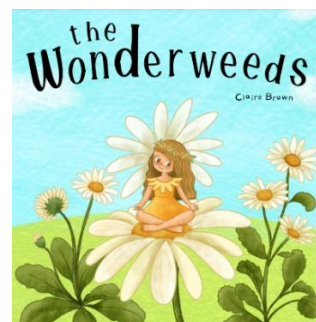
Trustee Visit

This week, we were also joined by trustees from our Educational Standards Committee who joined us with our review of the progress we are making in the use of digital technology in computing and to help all children better access their learning in all curriculum subjects. This is our main improvement area this year. It was a very worthwhile day helping us understand what's working well and where we need to go next.

Curriculum News

Have a look in the Religion Blog to see the lovely Jewish Mezuzah prayer boxes created by [Year 1](#) and [Year 5](#). Revisiting learning is a key part of our curriculum to help children retain new knowledge and skills.

If your child hasn't had a chance to complete the diversity celebration homework, there is still some time because our friends from Dunboyne postponed their visit until Wednesday next week. It's a very worthwhile project.



Recent Reminders

- Increasing levels of measles, rise in respiratory infections, whooping cough, scarlet fever and chickenpox predicted this term. MMR info can be found on this [link](#). The [e-bug website](#) provides useful resources and ideas for how to help keep your child well.
- If you would like to donate to [Children with Cancer UK](#) in support of Miss Blackburn and Mrs Cosh's marathon fund raiser, you can do so via this [link](#).
- Riviera Life Church Food and Baby Bank – [link here](#). We can make a referral for you or phone 07486 402493
- World Book Day is 7th March – dress as a favourite book character
- Healthy snacks: [Healthier snacks - Food facts - Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Pile in the Tesco Blue Tokens at Tesco: Barton Torquay, Torquay Fleet Street, Torquay Express (garage on Teignmouth Road), Paignton Victoria, Paignton Torquay Road, Torquay Lymington Road, Brixham Express and Torquay Babbacombe Road
- Dunboyne Diversity Competition deadline is 6th March
- Our Amazon Book Wish List: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/FO D16NCSLQOX?ref=wl_share

Train to be a Teacher- Locally

For further details on the SWIFT Initial Teacher Training, look on our [website](#) under 'Parents' and / or the provider site:

<https://www.swiftteachertraining.org.uk/>

Help with Rising Costs – Reminders

- **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>

Have a lovely weekend



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Diary Dates

12 th March 2024	Year 5 Climbing and Orienteering @ Parkfield/Whitehill
15 th March 2024	Red Nose Day- wear something red- any donations gratefully received
18 th March 2024	Year 1 trip to St Mary's Church
21 st March 2024	Rock Steady Performance
22 nd March 2024	Non-uniform day - Easter egg donation
26 th March-28 th March 2024	Year 6 Skern Lodge
26 th March 2024	PTA Easter Bingo
29 th March – 14 th April 2024	Easter Holidays
W/C 22 nd April 2024	Parents Evenings all week
17 th June 2024	Year 1 & 2 Sports Day 9.30-11.30
20 th June 2024	Year 3-6 Sports Day 9.30-11.30
21 st June 2024	Reception Sports Day 9.30-11.30
22 nd July 2024	Last day of term for Pupils



Beech	Asiya is our star of the week for making fantastic improvements in her writing this week. She has written super sentences about our trip to the woods with much better handwriting - well done!
Pine	Oliver is our STAR! He is coming on in leaps and bounds with his phonics because he is working so hard. We also noticed him putting in a tremendous amount of effort in our music lesson this week. Well done Oliver!
Oak	Jonathan is our star as he has returned to our school with a great attitude to his learning. He has settled in extremely well, rebuilt friendships with many children in the class and shown aspiration in his learning. Super effort Jonathan, we are so glad to have you back. Well done!
Apple	Our star this week is Iris, just because she is always amazing. Every class needs an 'Iris' however we are so happy and grateful she is with us!!
Holly	Esmae is our star of the week. She ALWAYS puts 100% effort into all of her learning and is one of the first to follow instructions quickly and efficiently. She's a good friend to lots of children in the class and shows wonderful kindness and consideration to both adults and children every single day. Well done, Esmae!
Willow	Emma is the star of the week in Willow class. She works hard in all of her lessons and shows responsibility for her learning. This week we have been really impressed with her measuring in maths and the care she has taken over this work. Well done Emma.
Cherry	Cherry's Star of the Week is Kaiden who is aspirational and always tries his hardest with his learning. He also shows the school values of respect and responsibility towards adults and his classmates. Well done Kaiden!
Hazel	Our star of the week this week is Penny! Penny has shown fantastic aspiration this week, particularly in her writing. Penny is always incredibly enthusiastic about her learning and can always be relied upon to try her best and produce incredible pieces of work. Well done Penny!
Birch	Frankie is our star this week. During our archery and climbing, Frankie showed excellent resilience and aspiration, striving to improve his skills each time. It was also lovely to see Frankie encouraging his friends really nicely and imparting his new found knowledge to support them. Well done, Frankie. You represented the school brilliantly and we are so proud of you!
Rowan	Rowan's star this week is Genevieve. She has really grown in confidence over the last few weeks. She is now contributing in lesson inputs more frequently and this has transformed her maths learning. The aspiration she has shown in this subject is incredible - keep up the great work!
Maple	Maple's star of the week is Wictor! Wictor always shows all four of our core values. This week, I have particularly noticed his aspiration and responsibility. Wictor always takes such time and care over his work and will keep going until he is sure he has done his best! Well done Wictor
Hawthorn	Hawthorn's Star of the Week is Jalika, who has really impressed us with the improvement she has shown with two of our school values. She has put lots of effort into showing respect to adults and other children as well as taking responsibility for her actions and her learning. You have made some great contributions to our lessons this week, Jalika. Well done - keep this up!