



ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter #7
23rd February 2024

Welcome back to part 2 of the spring term. I hope everybody has settled in well after the half term break. It has certainly felt very calm in school with everybody looking happy to be back.

This half term's theme is fittingly *Healthy Me*. Winter bugs are still rife and predicted to increase further across the rest of February, March and into April. We are focussing on having real care around personal hygiene in school to help mitigate the spread of bugs and also talking about all the other ways we can each look to stay fit and healthy e.g. by being active and eating a healthy balanced diet.

Curriculum News

Enjoy some magic in the DT Blog where you can see a super video and some photos of [Year 1](#) enjoying making their aprons this week.

Look in the Writing Blog to see some photos and find out how [Year 1](#) enjoyed their walk in the rain on Wednesday to the local woodlands to help their writing, geography and science learning in class. Thank you to parents and students from South Devon College for helping.

On Wednesday we were joined by students from South Devon College who were planning on running sporting and team activities across the school in all our varied outdoor areas. Unfortunately, heavy rain all day meant this had to be adapted to the students helping in class. This was however, really successful both for our children and the students. Sally Squires, the student lead from South Devon commented,

"The students loved the experience, recognising the value of the day and learning so much from the inspirational practice of the teaching and support teams in reception to KS1. Every staff member was so incredibly supportive and made the students feel so welcome, empowering them to get involved with all aspects of the daily routine. We will use this experience in all aspects of our teaching with these students as we reflect on the sessions they took part in, for some time to come."

Congratulations to Mrs Scaife's Lionesses who have been promoted to Division 1 following a 2-1 victory over Babbacombe on Monday this week. Read more in the [Sports Blog](#).

Winter Infections Circulating - reminder

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) – South West has warned of a rise in respiratory infections (colds, covid, flu) and whooping cough, scarlet fever and chickenpox up to and including the Easter break.

Increasing levels of measles are also being predicted. The UKHSA is advising to make sure you get your child vaccinated with the MMR if you haven't yet done so. It's never too late they say. More info can be found on this [link](#).

If you think your child has measles, please contact your GP asap and inform school asap. If they are diagnosed, they must stay off school for a minimum of 4 days from the onset of the rash until they are well enough to return.

The [e-bug website](#) provides useful resources and ideas for how to help keep your child well.

Recent Reminders

- 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/FOD16NCSLQOX?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>

Happy Weekend



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Date	Event
4 th March 2024	Year 6 SATs information meeting for Maple class
5 th March 2024	Year 6 SATs information meeting for Hawthorn class
5 th March 2024	Year 5 Climbing and Orienteering @ Parkfield/Whitehill
6 th March 2024	Deadline for Dunboyne Diversity homework project
7 th March 2024	World Book Day- dress as your favourite book character
12 th March 2024	Year 5 Climbing and Orienteering @ Parkfield/Whitehill
15 th March 2024	Red Nose Day
18 th March 2024	Year 1 trip to St Mary's Church
21 st March 2024	Rock Steady Performance
26 th March-28 th March 2024	Year 6 Skern Lodge
26 th March 2024	Non-uniform day - Easter egg donation
26 th March 2024	PTA Easter Bingo
29 th March – 14 th April 2024	Easter Holidays



Beech	Isabella is our star of the week for being SO busy all week. She has been joining in, putting her hand up and sharing all her wonderful knowledge every day. Keep it up Isabella you have had a great week!
Pine	Ivy is our star of the week for her fabulous creativity this week when making her mermaid bed pictures. Well Done Ivy!
Oak	Andre is our star this week as he has shown more independence when writing. He has also put great effort into presenting his work clearly and neatly. Well done for a super aspirational week Andre, you are a star!
Apple	Emerson is a super role model to all of his peers. He consistently shows our school values and is an absolute pleasure to have in the class. He has particularly stood out this week for his aspirational effort in his narrative writing. Well done Emerson!
Holly	Alanna is our star of the week. She impressed us all with her fabulous science conclusion this week, where she showcased lots of writerly techniques. She has also been incredibly kind and thoughtful, as she always is, offering concern and comfort when others are upset. We're lucky to have you, Alanna!
Willow	Archie is the star of the week in Willow Class as he has been working really hard to complete his learning tasks. He has shown good concentration and determination this week. Well done Archie.
Cherry	Star of the week goes to Ellis who has shown responsibility, respect and aspiration this week. He has been trying really hard with his learning, and with listening carefully during lessons.
Hazel	Michael G is our star of the week this week in Hazel. Michael always shows great aspiration with his learning, is always eager to challenge himself, explore new ideas and has a particular talent for helping others with their maths, supporting them to enhance their learning. Well done Michael, we're very proud of you!
Birch	Willow is our star this week for her kindness and responsibility. This has been evident when in our Maths lesson, she is always first to give her answer, always working very hard helping her friends and she has made Mrs Wright feel very welcomed in the classroom. Well done, Willow!
Rowan	Ollie is this week's star of the week as he has shown such aspiration in his learning as his hand has been constantly up. He has also shown kindness to others and is always eager to help his friends. Keep up the amazing work!
Maple	Maple's star of the week is Jacob for his fantastic night-light design in Design & Technology. Jacob showed resilience when changing his idea and kept going until he was happy with his product. Well done Jacob!
Hawthorn	Kaylee is our star this week for the effort she has been putting into her writing. Her diary entry based upon 'The Highwayman' was fantastic - full of drama and emotion! Well done for showing such aspiration Kaylee.