



# St Margarets Academy

What a fantastic week in school; a very rewarding experience to be working with you and your wonderful children. There has been so much going on, and so much fun and happiness around. From all my visits to the classrooms and being out and about, it's clear your little ones are happy to be back and enjoying their lessons and playtimes.

## New Library Opening Day



Look in our [Reading Blog](#) to see all the photos from our fantastic official opening day on Wednesday this week, fittingly on the day of Roald Dahl's birthday. It was so good to have so much fun, with everybody dressing up and the fab PTA-run activities in the hall after school. Willy Wonka's golden ticket and Bruce's enormous chocolate cake were massive hits, and we were delighted that local children's author, Claire Welsh, attended. We look forward to Claire returning later this term during our sponsored read. The Usborne book stall was also a good chance to buy a brand-new adventure for home.

A massive thank you to our PTA, led by Laura Kenyon and Felicity Morris, without whom, we would not have this magical library addition to our wonderful school. While Laura and Felicity master-minded and led this project, it would not have happened without many other people, foremost amongst them of course, the incredible artist, Neil Wilkinson Cave from Sacred Art Murals. We are looking forwards to Neil returning to help us extend the library into the outdoor covered area. You can find Neil on Facebook and we highly recommend him.



Thank you to the Morrisons Foundation for their phenomenal £9000 grant and to the Torbay Council Community fund for their £400 grant. Thank you to Tesco for so many generous donations of goods, for the actual day, and also kindly given across the year.

Thank you to our friends from Dunboyne Court who joined us on our special day. Thank you to Adam Mallandaine and Brian Drew for all their lifting, shifting and moving. Thank you to Aaron Gill, the 'secret' PTA member who is always on-hand providing support, including this time: the wrapping of 400 Wonka bars! Thank you to Alex Sansome for her exceptional baking skills to make Bruce's giant chocolate cake, which was fully devoured. Thank you to Nicole Turner and Susannah Tandy for constructing the brand-new guinea pig cage for Roald and Dahl who are full-time residents of the new library. Thank you to all the school staff who helped sort all the books on to the new shelves.

Look out for a local press release from our PTA celebrating our new library. It's so exciting to be able to tap into children's imagination and provide this wonderful modern, yet traditional, resource.

## Sports Games Platinum Award



This week we were notified that we have achieved the highest standard for sports that the government awards. Building on our previous Gold Award, we now have the top standard, the Platinum Mark Award for our sporting provision in 2022-2023. A big thank you to Mr Mayling who has led the school to this achievement. See our

[Sports Blog](#) for all the details.

## SEND Roadshow

Torbay Council, SEND Family Voice Torbay and the NHS will be running a SEND roadshow at St Margaret's next Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 3.00-4.00pm. This will take place in the school carpark. You will be able to find out about how the local area works to meet your child or young person's Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND). Learn more about our SEND Provision and Support toolkits:

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/graduated-response/> which help to get the *Right Support, in the Right Place at the Right Time*. You'll also get the chance to ask us your questions about SEND. We look forward to seeing you there!



## The Schools Support Team

You might have seen Jenna Bundy out about before school this week. As I mentioned last week, Jenna is a School Support Worker, helping to build happy communities. Jenna is part of the Schools Support Team which is made up of; parents, carers, experienced existing school staff, church leaders, youth workers and those passionate about schools. They have grown a Schools Support Network partnering with local charities, churches, the police, Torbay Council, and local organisations, to see pastoral care, safety and wellbeing increasing for schools across Torbay. Their desire is to see increased safety for all young people in Torbay. If you are interested in joining or just to find out more, you can contact them here: [sst@torbayunited.org.uk](mailto:sst@torbayunited.org.uk) or 07840 754 922.

## Devon Wildlife Trust Recognition

A huge thanks to Mrs Baker who made contact with the Devon Wildlife Trust to tell them all about our wonderful orchard which includes a range of plants, vegetables, flowers and wild life such as rhubarb, strawberries, raspberries, pumpkins, cauliflowers, pink fuchsia, chickens and a bug house. It's always a busy place with children helping as well as making dens and enjoying the slide. As a result, we have received a lovely plaque from the trust to recognise all that we do. You can find this on the gate to the orchard.

## Student Leaders

All of our student leaders have been nominated for the year ahead. It's so good to have their voice and skills helping make a positive difference to the school. We have Digital Leaders, Student Councillors, Short's Farm Guides (for the orchard), Reading Ambassadors, Sports Leaders and Play Makers. Brilliant.

## Starting to think about which secondary school to choose?

Mostly suitable for parents of children in Years 5 and 6, Torbay is hosting events to help parents better understand the provision in secondary schools, aiming to dispel myths and ease worries. The events for parents and carers of children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) are led by the Torbay SEND team. Definitely worth booking on, which you can do via the links here:

- [Dispelling the myths about mainstream secondary school Tickets, Wed 13 Sep 2023 at 16:30 | Eventbrite](#)
- [Dispelling the myths about mainstream primary school for SEND children Tickets, Mon 18 Sep 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- [Dispelling the myths about mainstream primary school for SEND children Tickets, Mon 18 Sep 2023 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

## 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)



Beech	Ryley is our star of the week for having the most AMAZING week. I think he has been on every star and has listened and followed instructions brilliantly. A fantastic first week! Well done.
Pine	Lottie is our star of the week for being so eager to learn and for being such a fabulous role model. She is always smiling and gets on well with everyone 😊
Oak	Cain is our first star of the week as he has shown kindness and responsibility by helping others and also around the classroom. He has also made a great start with his reading at home, completing 2 book quizzes already! Well done Cain.
Apple	Amelia has the honour of being our first star of the week. She is a delight to have in our team of apples, she always shows the school values, particularly kindness towards everyone! Thank you, Amelia, for being a super star.
Holly	Our first star of the week goes to Noah. He has shown wonderful listening skills, follows instructions readily and is a role model to others. Well done, Noah - what a fabulous start to Year 3!
Willow	Joshua is the first star of the week in Willow class this year. He has impressed us with the wonderful concentration he has demonstrated in his learning tasks. Well done Joshua - you have certainly shown our school value of aspiration.
Cherry	Zane is our star. He has adapted incredibly well to our school and has made lots of friends already. He has impressed every single adult in Y3 with his politeness, enthusiasm and positivity. Keep shining Zane!
Hazel	Star of the week in Hazel is Owen for starting off the school year fantastically and always showing our core values and being a model student to the rest of the class!
Birch	Birch's star this week is Evie B. Evie has been an absolute delight to teach - she is always so engaged in her learning, always offering her thoughts and opinions and always showing respect and maturity. She is an asset to Birch class. We are very proud of you, Evie! Keep being a star, please!
Rowan	Bella is this week's star in Rowan class. She joined us last week and has settled in very quickly! Bella has shown such responsibility with her learning and is incredibly respectful to both other children and adults alike - keep up the good work Bella.
Maple	Our first star of the week goes to Quinn! Quinn has been such a star this week, showing all four core values. I have been so impressed with how Quinn has participated in our class discussions and also already shown that he is a responsible member of year 6. Well done!
Hawthorn	Hawthorn's first Star of the Week is Amy. She has impressed us with her respectful attitude, for always being ready to learn at the start of each lesson and for putting lots of effort into each task this week. What a great start to Year 6 - well done Amy.



# Diary Dates

Thursday 21st September	Torbay SEND Roadshow Van 3-4pm in the car park
Friday 29th September	Year 6 Dartmoor Trip
Tuesday 10th October	World Mental Health Day - Wear Yellow
23rd-27th October	October Half Term
31st October	Flu Vaccinations (more information to come)
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	PTA Halloween Disco
13th November	Parents evening week
20th November	Individual Photos