



St Margaret's Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Summer Newsletter #1
25th April 2025

Mrs O'Dwyer's Welcome Message

Dear Families,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of St Margaret's Academy, I am incredibly honoured to lead this wonderful school and work alongside you, the staff, and the pupils to continue to build a thriving community. I would like to thank Mr Hughes for his dedicated service to our school community during his tenure and for the time he gave to ensure a smooth transition between us. At St Margaret's, we have a hugely committed and talented staff team, and wonderful children, which is a great place for any Headteacher to join. It was a privilege to welcome all the children back into school this week after the Easter break and to introduce myself to so many of you on the gate.

I have been a teacher, senior leader and headteacher across a range of primary school settings over the past 19 years. Being a mum of two boys Jack and Ben, I am very much aware of the responsibility that my staff and I have in ensuring that the highest standard of pastoral care and of teaching and learning is achieved. My goal is to ensure all children who attend St Margaret's are happy, safe and are provided with all the necessary opportunities to be the best they can be both socially and academically.

I am committed to the success of the school and will strive to ensure all pupils receive the outstanding education they deserve. I am determined that the school will build on its excellent reputation and continue to flourish and maintain its position at the heart of our community whilst further developing relationships and collaboration with you all.

My approach to leadership is centred on fairness, open communication, and creating a positive learning environment where all pupils feel valued. I believe in fostering a strong partnership between the school, parents, and the wider community, and I encourage your active involvement in your child's education and the life of our school.

We will be focusing on ensuring every child is on track to meet their potential through a dynamic and engaging curriculum, whilst also fostering a positive and supportive school environment that builds on strong, trusted relationships. Your feedback is invaluable, and I welcome the opportunity to connect with you to discuss how we can work together to strengthen St Margaret's further.

ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



The needs of our children are always paramount in the life and decision making within a school. I strongly believe in providing our children with exciting, creative and meaningful learning experiences, which build their enthusiasm for learning and help them to grow and develop positively in a variety of ways. I think it is crucial to involve our children and their families as partners in their education. I am also keen on building a whole school community which thrives on mutual respect and values positive relationships. I know how vital working in partnership with parents really is in order for children to find school a positive and rewarding experience. As key educator in your children's lives, I feel that it is important that you have a voice and that as a school we are approachable and allocate time to listen to your concerns, worries or thoughts about our school. I will be sending out a parent's questionnaire before the May half term and would appreciate your honest feedback to help us build our vision for the future.

Please do come up and introduce yourselves outside school – I will be on either the front or back gate before and after school each day. I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming weeks.

News and Events for Parents and Carers

Marching on with Hendrix is dedicated to supporting families who are grieving the loss of a child. They are hosting their annual HendrixFest, a family-friendly mini-festival, on Saturday, 17th May, and this is open to the full school community and friends and family. For more information, please check out the poster below:



Volunteer Readers

Mrs Turner and myself would love to welcome any willing future volunteers to pop into school for a cuppa and catch up on how you can get involved in school life and offer support to our pupils whilst promoting a love of books, being creative and boosting wellbeing. Please can you contact the school office and they will book you in on one of the sessions we have available.



Mrs Rice and her family

Before the Easter break, we shared the very sad news that Mrs Rice and her husband tragically lost their little one Eddie Jo Rice. In memory of Eddie and to offer support to Mrs Rice, the family have agreed that a just giving page for the Torbay and South Devon NHS charity would be lovely way to honour the memory of Eddie and also offer support to babies born into special care at Torbay Hospital. If you can and would like to, please visit the dedicated [Just Giving page](#) or drop off your cash donation to the office and we can pass it on for you. Thank you.



Please check out the [link](#) for more information on making friends online and keeping safe.

Pupil Safety

Just a gentle reminder that gates will continue to close promptly at 8.55am and any late arrivals will need to register their child/ren attendance via the school office. This is to ensure we have an accurate record of people in school at all times. Also, as new to the school I was concerned to witness that number of vehicles stopping and dropping off outside school in prohibited areas (yellow zigzags) as this exhibit's welfare and safety risks to our school community. If you are able to offer 15 minutes before or after school on any day to assist school in raising awareness for pupil safety, please see either myself or Mrs Turner to discuss.

Our Beloved Guinea-Pig Roald

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing of our school guinea pig, Roald. He was a cherished part of our school community, bringing joy and learning to so many pupils. We will remember his gentle nature, playful antics and the lessons he taught us about kindness and caring for animals. We encourage you to remember him through shared memories, and to carry their spirit of compassion forward.



A thought for the day "Be kind to yourself and others, for kindness is a powerful force."

I hope you have a wonderful weekend, take care all.

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer

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Diary Dates

5th May 2025	Bank Holiday
22nd May 2025	Year 1 Music and History Show
W/C 26th May 2025	Half Term
Tuesday 3rd June 2025	First day back for children
16th June 2025	09.30—12.00 KS1 Sports Day
16th June 2025	13.25—15.00 EYFS Sports Day
19th June 2025	09.30—12.00 KS2 Sports Day
24th July 2025	Final day for the children



Beech	This week, Jenson demonstrated an incredible willingness to learn! He consistently shows respect to others through kind words, active listening, and a polite attitude. Your respectful behaviour sets a great example for everyone.
Pine	Callie is our STAR this week. Callie has come so far this year. She works SO hard in class and has become a wonderful, reliable member of our forest school. Well done Callie.
Oak	Ella-Mai is Oak classes star of the week! She has been trying really hard all week to join in and contribute to all lessons. She has shown that she is consistently respectful to everyone.
Apple	Addison is our star for having a wonderful first week back. She has worked hard at all of her jobs and joined in brilliantly with our class discussions. Adults have also commented on how polite you have been to them - well done Addi keep it up!
Holly	Iris consistently strives to be aspirational and resilient in all of her learning. She knows that joining her handwriting is a target for her and her hard work is paying off. Iris displays active learning all the time and is also a great part of the Holly team. Well done Iris, superstar!
Willow	Liam is the star of the week in Willow Class because he has demonstrated great active thinking and motivation. He has been putting his hand up to answer questions, working with others to complete paired and group tasks and has continued to work hard on his reading. Well done Liam.
Cherry	Cherries star of the week is Arya F. She has shown some fantastic motivation to complete all of her learning, she has been focused and has always given her best. What a fantastic start to the Summer term Arya, well done!
Hazel	Henry is our star in Hazel this week. We have been incredibly impressed with Henry's aspiration in his Writing and we really enjoyed reading it! He used very ambitious vocabulary and showed excellent skill in engaging his reader. Well done, Henry! Keep up the good work!
Birch	Lola is our star this week. She has been motivating herself in all aspects of her learning and contributing in class discussions and sharing ideas with the class. Well done!
Rowan	Jack is this week's star for his wonderful motivation towards his learning. It has been so lovely to see him share his incredible ideas in class as well as an incredibly positive attitude towards all areas of his learning. Keep up the amazing work!
Maple	Lilli-Mai is our star this week for her aspiration in Maths; she has been trying really hard and joining in with our class discussions about angles. Lilli-Mai has also shown great kindness to her peers this week when they have needed a friend. Keep it up Lilli-Mai!
Hawthorn	Alfie T is our star this week - he has put a huge amount of effort into his writing this week and has shown resilience in other areas of his learning.

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