

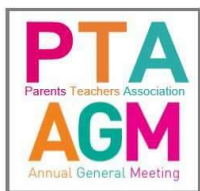
# St Margarets Academy



Early on this week, we welcomed Emily from the Dogs Trust to deliver a whole school assembly on how to interact safely with dogs when out and about in the community. Emily also ran workshops for our Year 2s and Year 6s.

## Literacy News

If you haven't seen it, on Wednesday this week, The Herald Express ran a lovely article on our library opening event. Literacy is always a priority for us in school. On Monday, local children's author, Clare Helen Welsh, will be visiting us again, reading stories and running some exciting writing workshops with the children. You can find out more about Clare here: [www.clarehelenwelsh.com](http://www.clarehelenwelsh.com).



## PTA Annual General Meeting

It would be fantastic if you could spare some time to join the PTA for their AGM on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November immediately after school in Year 5 Rowan Class, opposite the sloped gate. If you have a little one, we are running a creche in Year 5 Birch Class to help you out.

The PTA help to provide financial support to the school by bringing the school community together through fun events. They can only flourish with your help and support. If you would like to join the amazing team or would like to find out more about what they do then please join them after school on Monday 6th November.

As part of their constitution, all current committee members will be required to be re-elected or a new committee member elected in their place. If you are interested in nominating yourself for the position of PTA Chair, Co-chair, treasurer or secretary, please send a message to either Felicity or Laura in advance of this meeting.

## Waterproof Coats and Overalls Appeal

As we move into the wet season, we're looking to source spare waterproofs and overalls so we can make sure children are outside and using the orchard in all weathers; character building! Any donations would be gratefully received.

## Save Plainmoor Pool (Y4, Y5 and Y6)

Your local swimming pool needs you! Plainmoor Pool is aiming to raise £10,000. Bethany and friends in Year 5 have planned a fundraising event. They have booked out the pool on Saturday 4.11.23 and are selling tickets for £1 for a fun swim session: Year 4 2.00pm, Year 5 2.40pm and Year 6 at 3.20pm. You can also buy a raffle ticket for 50p which if successful will win you a golden ticket which will entitle you to attend all 3 sessions. Bethany and her friends will be selling tickets after school on Mondays and Fridays in the gazebo by the sloped gate. *Please note: this event is not organised by school and parents will be responsible for their own children.*

## School Emergency Protocols

In school we have emergency protocols in the event of a fire, adverse weather, a localised problem such as a gas leak, a bomb threat or if we have an intruder. We run a fire drill once per term so children and staff are very familiar with what to do in the event of a real fire. If there is adverse weather, a localised problem or a bomb threat we have policies in place to manage each of these without the need for a drill.

In recent times, schools have now added lockdown protocols in the event of an intruder. This week we ran a drill to test our systems in case of the highly unlikely chance of this ever happening. We absolutely do not want to terrify the children and therefore explained that this drill was in case a wild dog or crazy fox had somehow got into the school grounds – which in theory could happen and would require the same procedure i.e. to lockdown. This has a different sounding alarm. Once it sounds, children and staff hide in their classroom, lock doors, close windows, draw blinds, remain silent and endure until a senior leader announces the end of the drill. This is the main principle but staff know more details of what to do and how to act in different scenarios but we haven't shared all of this to avoid adding unnecessary angst on the children. If you are interested in knowing more details, I am very happy to share our emergency lockdown procedure with you so please just ask.

## Parents Protect

There is lots of advice for parents on this website on how to best keep your child safe from any sexual abuse or exploitation. You can find help with online safety, what to do if your child gets in trouble, how to create a family safety plan, anonymous help and warning signs. [Parents Protect](#)

## VACANCY FOR A TRUSTEE

We currently have a vacancy for a new trustee. If you, or somebody you know, might be interested in helping with the governance of the school, please do let me know. It's a great opportunity as a parent (or grandparent) to help shape the direction of the school, take a look behind the scenes, get into classes and to see your child in action. We have a great group of trustees who would welcome you in. You don't need a back ground in education; in fact, it is useful to have a range of skills and backgrounds. If you are interested, we can start with an informal chat for you to find out more, and just take it from there.



## Youth Website

Devon & Cornwall Police now have a youth website, aimed towards young people aged between 10-19 with advice and support on a variety of subjects. There is a page for 6–11 year-olds covering: crime and the law, feeling safe, digital safety and road safety. [Youth - Dorset Police and Devon and Cornwall Police working in Partnership \(devon-cornwall.police.uk\)](#)

## Useful Resources for Parents

The information above plus lots more useful guidance can all be found for future reference on our website under 'Parents' – 'Useful Resources for Parents'

## 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>

Enjoy your weekend.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Beech	Lily is our star for being a true role model for the rest of Beech Class. She demonstrates all of our school values every single day and is a pleasure to have in the class - thank you Lily
Pine	Harry is our star because he has really grown in confidence this week and has come into school with a smile on his face. Well done Harry!
Oak	Freddie is our star in Oak Class for being a super scientist this week. He shared his knowledge about healthy foods and has been aspirational in all his learning.
Apple	Our star this week has been an amazing Apple! He has shown aspiration in his writing with beautiful presentation and word choices and is always ready to learn. He has also been very kind in helping others in class. Thank you Corey for being a superstar!
Holly	Our star this week is Olivia. She has shown that she is responsible by quickly following instructions and is respectful when others are speaking. Most impressively, she has been practising the new French vocabulary we have learned in class whilst at home and brought it in to show us! Well done, Liv!
Willow	Kai is the star of the week in Willow Class. He demonstrates all of the school values every day from the moment he enters the class at the beginning of the day until the time he leaves at the end. This week he has especially impressed us with his kindness when another child in Willow class was upset. You are such a lovely friend and great role model for our class. Well done Kai.
Cherry	Poppy for being all round amazing. Great listening, great work attitude and a wonderful member of Cherry class. Keep it up Poppy - what a great start to year 4!
Hazel	Fletcher is the star of the week in Hazel class for your fantastic enthusiasm for learning! You are so motivated in every subject and you have even done extra research at home this week. Well done Fletcher.
Birch	Myles is our star in Birch class this week. Myles is a model pupil in Birch class. He shows all of the school values all of the time, particularly kindness and responsibility! We are always so impressed with his work, too. Keep up the good work, Myles!
Rowan	Max is this week's star in Rowan class. He shows aspiration in all areas of his learning through his beautiful presentation and by being always ready to share his ideas. He is also incredibly kind in offering to help those around him. Well done, we're so proud of you!
Maple	Lilly-Ella is our star of the week for her kindness, determination and lovely smile. Lilly-Ella has impressed us all this week with her effort in class and on our Dartmoor trip where she was so enthusiastic. Well Done Lilly-Ella!
Hawthorn	Toby is our star of the week for his fantastic enthusiasm for all of his learning since the start of year 6, he is a great role model as he always demonstrates all our school values, especially respect!



Tuesday 10th October	World Mental Health Day - Wear Yellow
23rd-27th October	October Half Term
31st October	Flu Vaccinations (more information to come)
2nd November	PTA Halloween Disco
13th November	Parents evening week
20th November	Individual Photos