



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you all enjoyed a relaxing summer holiday. We are well and truly back up and running in school and would like to welcome you to the Autumn term in Year 6. We are sure it is hard to believe that your children are in their final year of primary school! It will be a busy and exciting year and we have lots to look forward to, such as a residential trip and school performance.

Statutory Assessment Tests

The Year 6 Statutory Assessment tests will take place later in the year and we would ask you to ensure that **your children are in school during the week beginning Monday 11th May 2026** and that you have no holiday booked in this week or the weeks leading up to it.

Secondary School Place

You will need to apply online through Torbay Council or Devon Council (depending on your home address) for your child's **secondary school place before the deadline at midnight on 31st October 2025**. If you are planning to visit a secondary school this month to look around, please let the office know. The secondary schools have many open days to enable you to look around as a family and make the choice that is best for your child.

Skern Lodge Residential

Thank you to those of you who have signed up - this will be an exciting and memorable trip for your child. The date for this residential is **Tuesday 31st March - Thursday 2nd April 2026** and there will be a meeting arranged nearer the time to inform you all about it.

Hawthorn Staffing

Teacher - Mrs W Kennedy (Monday, Tuesday - Wednesday am)

Assistant Head Teacher - Mrs L Kerswell (Weds pm, Thursday, Friday)

Teaching Assistant - Mrs A Burke (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

Teaching Assistant - Mrs A Bushnell (Monday-Friday) Across Y6

Hearing Support Staff - Ms Down, Mrs Woolcott-Hawkins, Miss Thomas

Maple Staffing

Teacher - Mrs J Clinch-Othman (Monday - Friday)

Teaching Assistant - Mrs S Maddex (Monday - Friday) Across Y6.

| School Start Time | Break | Lunch | End of the day |
|---|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Gates open: 8:40am-8:50am Register taken: 8:50am | 10:50am - 11:15 am | 12:35pm-1:25pm | 3:20pm |

Reading books

Reading books will be sent out once children have been assessed. We will be monitoring reading diaries on Mondays and Fridays. We ask for your support in ensuring that children read for at least 15 minutes each day to build their reading stamina which is crucial at this stage, and that you sign their reading diary when they have read. Please also ensure that they have their reading diaries in their bags daily; this will prepare them for expectations at secondary school. Children will complete online quizzes at the end of each text, which will allow us to monitor their level of reading and their understanding of the texts much more closely. We will report this to you during parents' evenings.

P.E

Children will need to come to school in their PE kit on their allocated days for PE. Year 6 will be swimming during the Autumn term. Hawthorn will be swimming for the first 6 weeks and Maple will be starting in the week before half term.

Hawthorn: Monday- swimming (normal uniform) and Wednesday Outdoor PE (PE kit to be worn)

Maple: Monday outdoor P.E and Friday indoor P.E (PE kit to be worn).

Children will need to ensure that they wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions so may choose to wear plain black or grey leggings or plain black or grey tracksuit bottoms. They must wear their PE T-Shirt **and their school jumper**. Please note, if your child has an after-school sports club, they must bring their kit with them to change into at the end of the school day.

Planning and Topic information

A copy of our termly overview will accompany this letter to give you an idea of topics covered in school this term.

Homework

Children are expected to read every night. They will have one piece of maths homework to complete each week online on www.maths.co.uk. This will be set on a Wednesday and expected to be handed in on the following Tuesday. There will be a Wednesday breaktime homework club for those who need help or who have not completed their homework. In preparation for secondary school, children are expected to plan ahead if they know they have a busy weekend coming up.

School Values

We work closely with parents and value your support in modelling and reinforcing our school values. As a whole school policy, staff will be rewarding those children who exhibit our school values of kindness, respect, responsibility and aspiration by issuing Class Dojo points linked to these values. The points that your child earns will go towards their house team points. You will receive an invite to download and join this app so that you can encourage and celebrate your child's progress. **Please do not use this app for communication as it will not be monitored for messages. Please continue to use class email addresses for communication:**

Hawthorn@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk

Maple@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk

Reminders

- Can we please remind you that the correct uniform is expected and **all long hair must be tied up**.
- Your child needs to bring a sensible-sized water bottle to school. Bottles for the classroom must contain only water (squash is permitted at break times and lunchtimes).
- A healthy snack is permitted at playtime; please refer to the whole school letter about this which will be sent separately.
- If children cannot remove earrings for P.E., then they must be taped up **before** they come to school.
- Nail varnish, make-up and smart watches are not permitted.
- Please ensure that all jumpers, coats, water bottles and lunch boxes are labelled with your child's name.

Parental Consents

When your child starts at St Margaret's Academy we seek consent for:

- Use of images
- Marketing
- Trips
- ICT user
- Medical

Each year we will inform you of your consent preferences with the annual data collection. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time. If you would like to withdraw or change your consent, you must submit your request in writing to:

Adminteam@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk

Internet Safety/Mobile phones

We would like to flag up the importance of internet/computer/mobile phone safety. If you wish to find out more about this, these websites may be useful:

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

<http://ceop.police.uk/>

We also ask for your support in knowing which apps and facilities your child uses on their mobile phone (if relevant) and to remind them about making appropriate and safe comments via TiKToK / Messenger/ WhatsApp etc should they use these. Mobile phones will not be allowed in school except where children need them at the beginning and end of the school day to walk home. More information will follow about this.

It has been lovely to say hello to some of you at school pick-up. Please note that the end of the day is better for speaking to the Year 6 teachers with messages and catch-up chats, as the morning can be a busy time when we are settling the children.

We look forward to working with you and your children this year.

The Year 6 team