



# St Margaret's Academy

## ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Autumn Newsletter #12  
6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents,

From out of nowhere, Christmas festivities are upon us. It's been a fun-packed day today with a special visitor all the way from the North Pole. Plus, we've had Christmas tree decoration judged by our friends from Dunboyne Court and special PTA biscuit decorating. And all of this is thanks to our amazing PTA.

### Hearing Support Unit

As I'm sure you're aware, our Hearing Support Centre (HSC) continues to be in the spotlight following the Local Authority's decision to close the unit. While the LA has guaranteed the funding for children with an Educational Health Care Plan, we know this is not enough because it doesn't take account of the additional 14 children who have hearing loss, who attend St Margaret's and don't come with funding.

We have had visits from ex-pupils with hearing impairments who attended St Margaret's in the late 1960s and 1970s. We've also had the LA SEND team, an LA councillor and the local MP, Steve Darling, visit to see our HSC in action. It has been great to show them how it is such an integral part of St Margaret's and our community, benefiting the full range of children with a hearing impairment who attend here as well as our hearing children who learn to sign and take part in an inclusive community.

Thank you to those of you who have signed the online Torbay petition. The current number of signatures stands at 600. If we can get it to 1000, the council will have to review the decision. The petition can be found [here](#) and can be completed by anybody who lives in Torbay. Thank you to the PTA for their support with this. On Wednesday this week, the BBC joined us as part of a feature they hope to show on Spotlight in the near future (possible Wednesday 11.12.24 at 6.30pm).

We are gaining momentum with the publicity and we hope this will help the LA fully understand what our Hearing Support Centre truly offers. The LA is in a bit of a funding crisis when it comes to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. We do understand the challenges they are facing and we really hope we can work together with them to keep our HSC open so we can continue to provide the same offer we currently do.



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## Top Tips for Apps and Devices

In our 'Useful Resources for Parents' under the 'Parents' tab on our website you can find three very useful new pages: one with [9 top tips](#) about children devices, one on how to [safely set up apps](#), games and software and one that provides advice about wellbeing and [mental health apps](#). You might find these especially useful over the Christmas period.



## Curriculum News

In our History Blog you can see clever [Year 4s](#) having fun translating hieroglyphics to BSL and vice versa. In the Arts Blog, you can see how [Year 2](#) have been using collage for their Great Fire of London. In the Creative Learning Blog you can see [Year 3](#) enjoying making Bronze Age cookies.

## Free Christmas Holiday Activities

There are several free Christmas holiday activities available for families who are entitled to Free School Meals. Click on the link to find out more and how to book on: [Holiday Activity and Food Programme - Torbay Council](#)

## Train to be a Teacher

Are you interested in becoming a teacher and training locally? If so, check out this link for more information: [Events - SWIFT Teacher Training](#)

## Traditional Festivities

If you're looking for some traditional festivities over Christmas, Torbay United Church with the Reverend Nathan Kiyaga are offering the following:

- Wednesday 18th December – Afternoon and Evening Carol Concerts at the Riviera Centre, Torquay 3:00–5:00 pm and again at 7:00–9:00 pm
- Thursday 19th December – Worship Night at Christ Church, Paignton, 7.00-9.00pm

## Our Amazon Book Wish List

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref_=wl_share)



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## Help with Rising Costs - Reminders

Riviera Life Church Food and Baby Bank – [link here](#). We can make a referral for you or phone 07486 402493

**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/](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 Advent,



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



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# Diary Dates

9th December 2024	Reception Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
10th December 2024	Y1/2 Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
10th December 2024	13.45—15.00 Reception Christmas Craft for Parents
10th December 2024	14.30—15.15 KS2 Carol Concert at St Mary the Virgin in St Marychurch
11th December 2024	Y3/4 Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
12th December 2024	Y5/6 Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
13th December 2024	KS1 Nativity at Babbacombe Theatre (Doors open at 14.00)
18th December 2024	13.15—13.45 School Choir performing at St Marychurch Precinct
19th December 2024	13.30—15.00 Reception Christmas show for Parents
19th December 2024	Book look for parents after school—Open Class
19th December 2024	Curriculum Event for Parents (During day—Times TBC)
W/C 23rd December 2024	Christmas Holidays
7th January 2025	First day back for children
W/C 17th February	Half Term
24th February 2025	First day back for children
W/C 7th April 2025	Easter Holidays
22nd April 2025	First day back for children
5th May 2025	Bank Holiday
W/C 26th May 2025	Half Term
3rd June 2025	First Day back for children





Beech	This week's star is someone who has demonstrated a lot of motivation to tackle challenges and try new things during lesson time and throughout the day. Well done, Logan! You have had a fantastic first week with me.
Pine	Eliza is such an active learner. She participates with such enthusiasm throughout all our lessons. She has also been an absolute superstar whilst we have been learning our dance for the Christmas Nativity. She smiles, listens, and dances with absolute passion. Well done Eliza!
Oak	Ella-Mai is our star as she shows great resilience and motivation to participate in any learning or activities that she may have missed. She has also shown responsibility whilst practising the nativity, reminding others of when to come onto the stage. Super effort Ella-Mai, you are a star!
Apple	Harper is our star this week for showing amazing resilience in her maths work and also producing the most amazingly detailed picture of St Paul's Cathedral! Well done Harper.
Holly	Our star this week could easily be chosen every week however a lovely act of kindness towards one of his peers definitely topped it off. He always gives 100% in his learning and has become a very active learner since the start of Year 3. Well done AJ, you are such an asset to our class.
Willow	Leah is the star of the week in Willow class. She is such a wonderfully motivated student who tries her best in all lessons. She even brings in additional learning completed at home and will readily help others with their work too. Well done Leah - you are certainly a star learner!
Cherry	Jack W for being motivated with his learning all week. He has made some wonderful choices and has worked really hard to be his best and make positive learning choices. I
Hazel	The star in Hazel class this week is Flo. She has been incredibly motivated, especially in her writing. She has created some lovely narrative writing. Well done young lady!
Birch	Joshua is our star this week. He has shown brilliant motivation in his writing. I have been really impressed by how well he has listened during lessons and used the skills we have been learning. Well done, Josh!
Rowan	Mariella has shown incredible resilience in maths this week! She has been finding maths tricky but has never given up. We're so proud of your incredible attitude and all that you have achieved in maths recently, well done!
Maple	Ruby is our star this week because of her <b>motivation</b> to always do the right thing. Ruby is always ready for her learning. She works away quietly and presents her work beautifully. Keep up the excellent attitude Ruby!
Hawthorn	Giovanna is our star for her super resilience with some tricky tests during this assessment week and always trying her best. She has also used her active thinking when constructing a super xmas decoration - Well done Giovanna!

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