

Spring Term Newsletter No.4 (31.1.20)

School vision: *We want ourselves and the children in our care to be successful, resilient and inquisitive learners who are happy and well-equipped to participate positively in the community and wider society.*

We started this week by marking *Holocaust Memorial Day* with sensitive reflections in a Key Stage 2 assembly. Children and staff were separated in the hall according to whether they had dark hair or light hair. Those with darker hair were given pretend additional privileges to their great happiness while those with lighter hair were not and had their playtimes pretend-taken away to their deep disappointment and disquiet. We explored the connection between Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, Rosa Parks, Emily Pankhurst, Florence Nightingale and Barak Obama. We reflected on our British value of *tolerance* and our school value, *kindness*. As adults we recognise the responsibility we hold for educating the children in our care to grow up ready to take their place in a multi-cultural, multi-faith society and we hope to encourage them to respect and celebrate the differences between us all. Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage looked at the story of the Lion and the Mouse to see how everybody has something special and important to offer, and how differences are something to be celebrated.

Year 5 and 6 are currently studying World War 2 and were able to take our assembly theme further, back in class. Read the [History Blog](#) and [Reading Blog](#) to see how enthused they've been with their topic at school and at home. The topic has also helped to generate some amazing pieces of diary writing from our young authors.

Thank you to the Year 2 teachers and TAs (Mrs Turner, Mrs Rice and Mrs Farmer) who put on collaborative [child-parent maths workshops](#) this week. Have a look at the photos and read more on the Maths Blog. A huge well done to some of our younger children this week who tried the matchstick puzzles in the Maths Blog. Look under '[Home Activities January 2020](#)' to find more of this type of problem to solve at home for our aspiring mathematicians! Take your solutions to Miss Wooldridge for some Maths celebration. Also check out the Maths Blog to see the [Star Wars percentages](#) that took place in Year 6 this week.

Look in the [Design Technology Blog](#) to find out how Year 1 and 2 got involved with *Recycle Devon* this week to support their learning about technology. Despite the wet and windy weather, [Forest School](#) has been busy again along with the [Eco Warriors](#). Read the respective blogs to find out more.

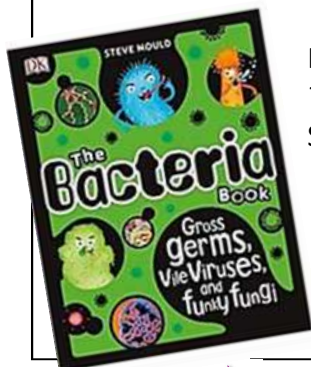
We are continuing to develop our school curriculum to make it as engaging and meaningful as possible. As part of this, teachers collaborated with colleagues from Torre, St Marychurch, Babbacombe and Priory this week to share good practice and plan for a 'Curriculum Fair' in the summer term when staff will visit colleagues' subject stalls to get top tips. We still have work to do on our curriculum provision but we're proud of the opportunities we're providing. Our school governors are also helping ensure we go in the right direction with their oversight and visits to work with staff.

As I'm sure you already know, St Margaret's Academy places a big emphasis on supporting emotional well-being for children, families and staff. While every single member of staff plays a key role in this, we also have a very strong pastoral team, headed up by Mrs Pike and supported by other specialists including Mrs Essam, Miss Davies and Mrs Wills. Recently Mrs Essam completed her [Nurture Training](#) (in addition to her specialism in attachment) which you can read more about under our 'Well-being in Action' tab. Huge congratulations to her! You can also read here more detail about our recently achieved [Silver Mental Health in Schools Award](#) thanks to the leadership of Mrs Pike. Look in the [PSHE Blog](#) to see how Year 1 have been stretching their goals this week.

Parking and Driving Challenges at Drop-off and Pick Up—Polite Prompt Again Please

Due to the continued challenges faced by neighbours and parents (as well as the dangers to children) I have requested the support of PCSOs. I'm also receiving reports of fast **and dangerous** driving which is clearly an accident just waiting to happen. Please look out for the PCSOs in the near future as they will be out and about, helping to keep us all safe at busy times of the school day.

Miss Palfrey and the Reading Ambassadors' Weekly Book Choices



For our older readers:
The Bacteria Book by
Steve Mould

For our younger readers:
Chocolate Cake by
Michael Rosen



Weekly Attendance Award



Congratulations to
Oak Class for
winning the School
Attendance Award with 98%
attendance. School target: 96%
The whole school achieved
94.5% last week

Stars of the Week

Beech	Kaja - for showing determination and enthusiasm in all of our maths lessons this week. You have worked so hard and engaged wonderfully during carpet time sessions. Well done Kaja!
Pine	Jack has been working hard on his writing over the past few weeks and has produced some lovely descriptive sentences. Well done Jack you should feel very proud of yourself for the tremendous effort you are putting into your learning.
Oak	Oliver C for amazing effort and growing independence in his writing. He is using his knowledge of sounds from RWI to help write the words he wants to use.
Apple	Alice for super sounding out and use of her phonics when writing sentences. She has also been working hard to make sure they have spaces between words and are clearly punctuated. Well done!
Birch	Naomi – For producing a fantastic 'still life' drawing this week and doing incredibly well with everything she does in class! We really enjoy having you in Birch class.
Rowan	Ella - for being the very first person to be on all four of our value stars in the same week!
Cherry	Maddison - WOW! You really impressed us with your Science learning this week - an aspirational role model. Well done!
Maple	Harriet - for fantastic 'still life' drawings this week and for always working incredibly hard. She also has a brilliant sense of humour which brightens up everyone's day. Well done Harriet!
Willow	Millie has worked so hard on her maths learning this week! She has persevered all week and should be very proud of the progress she has made! Well done!
Holly	Edward - for being such a fantastic role model of our respect core value. He has lovely manners and is always considerate towards others, during both learning time and play time.
Hazel	Nathan - for showing determination and resilience with his writing this week. You have worked so hard, listening to advice and making improvements to your diary of an evacuee and produced an excellent final text. Well done Nathan!
Hawthorn	Jude- for his superb effort and enthusiasm in all aspects of learning. His attitude has been marvellous and it is wonderful to see the improvements in his focus and concentration.

Diary Dates

Wed 5.2.20	3.00pm—Phonics workshops for parents in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Wk beg 2.3.20	Year 6 Residential / Activity Week
Wed 4.3.20—Mon 9.3.20	Book fair in the library after school
Thur 5.3.20	World Book Day—further details to follow about a theme
Wk beg 9.3.20	Advance notice: parents evenings will be held this week Science and Engineering Week—lots of whizzing and popping coming up
Wed 11.3.10	Science homework fair supported by our friends from Dunboyne Court. Click this link for more info.

KINDNESS

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

ASPIRATION