



St Margaret's Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Summer Newsletter #35 17th July 2026

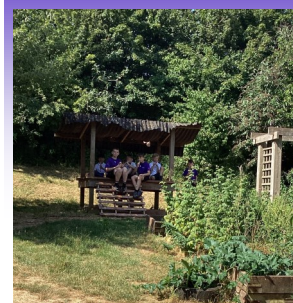
Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another remarkable academic year at St Margaret's Academy, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many achievements, successes and special moments that have made this year so memorable. Following the sharing of pupils' end-of-year reports, I hope families have enjoyed celebrating the progress and growth their children have made. Our young people have worked incredibly hard, shown resilience and determination, and embraced every opportunity available to them. Every child should feel immensely proud of their achievements.

This week, we have also celebrated pupils who consistently demonstrate our school values of Respect, Responsibility, Kindness and Aspiration, alongside recognising excellent attendance across the academy. We were especially proud to acknowledge nine pupils who achieved 100% attendance, earning a special certificate and gold badge, and joining me for a celebratory Headteacher's Party alongside pupils recognised for their reading achievements. Thank you to all families for your continued support in helping children attend school regularly and make the most of every learning opportunity.

As we look ahead to the summer break, I would like to wish our wonderful Year 6 pupils every success as they begin their secondary school journey. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during their time at St Margaret's. I would also like to thank those families who are moving on from our community and wish them every happiness in their next chapter. At the same time, we are excited to welcome many new families and Reception children in September.

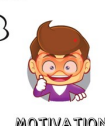
Thank you for your continued support throughout this busy and successful year. I hope you enjoy this final newsletter of the academic year and wish you all a happy, safe and restful summer holiday.



ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION

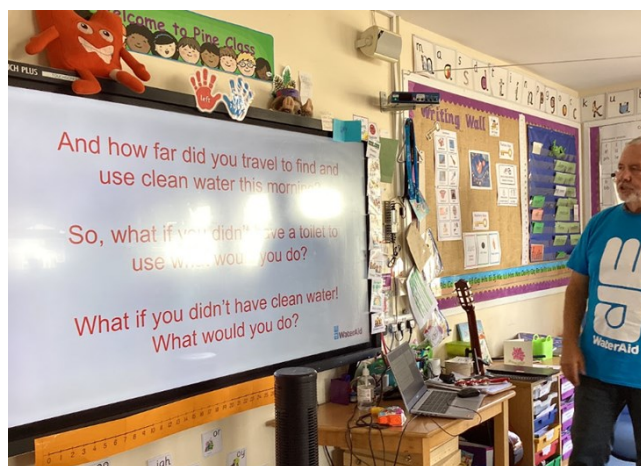
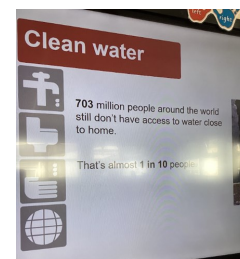


Year 1 Learn About Caring for Others with WaterAid

Year 1 had a special visit from Derek, who works with the charity **WaterAid**, as part of their RE learning about caring for others.

The children discovered how WaterAid helps communities around the world gain access to clean water and safe toilets. They were surprised to learn that many people do not have clean water to drink and that some children, particularly girls, spend hours each day collecting water instead of attending school.

The visit encouraged thoughtful discussions about kindness, fairness and how we can support those in need. Year 1 showed great curiosity and compassion as they learned about the challenges faced by others and the important work charities do to make a difference.



The Big Strum Event

Our KS1 children represented the school brilliantly at a recent ukulele showcase hosted by St Cuthbert Mayne in collaboration with the Devon Music Education Hub.

The children demonstrated fantastic determination and enthusiasm throughout the performance and were, by far, the most enthusiastic group taking part. Even more impressively, they were also the youngest performers at the event!

A huge well done to all the children involved. We are incredibly proud of the confidence, commitment and energy they showed on the day. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped on the day, we really appreciate it.



ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



A Fantastic Celebration of Sport at St Margaret's Academy

Wow – what an amazing Key Stage 2 Sports Day on Thursday.

We were fortunate to enjoy lovely weather as our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils took part in the fantastic programme of events organised by Mr Mayling and students from St Cuthbert Mayne. It was a wonderful celebration of sport, bringing together children, parents, carers and members of our wider community to recognise and celebrate the children's achievements. Throughout the day, it was fantastic to see everyone encouraging one another, demonstrating excellent sportsmanship and helping to raise the profile of sport across our school.

We were also delighted to be joined by our PTA, who once again did an incredible job providing refreshments, including some delicious bacon rolls to keep everyone energised and ready for the day ahead. Thank you for your continued support.

This afternoon, our Year 3 and Year 4 Sports Day was equally successful, with parents, carers and community members joining us to watch the children participate in a wide range of exciting activities. The afternoon was topped off with a hugely entertaining parents' race!

Can I say a massive well done to all the parents and carers who got involved, dressed up and took part. It was absolutely brilliant, and the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you for embracing the fun and helping to make the day so memorable.



Once again, the PTA were on hand with a fantastic selection of refreshments, cakes, biscuits and both hot and cold drinks for spectators. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Events like these are incredibly special. They bring our community together, celebrate our children's achievements and showcase the outstanding sporting provision at St Margaret's Academy. As a Platinum Sports Mark school, we are immensely proud of the opportunities available to our pupils. Mr Mayling works tirelessly to provide a wide range of sporting experiences, from competitive events to activities that help children develop their fitness, confidence and skills.

Although temperatures were much warmer this afternoon, the children performed brilliantly throughout. The ice pops provided by the school were certainly a welcome treat and went down very well with everyone!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making today such a success. Lots of photographs will follow, and as we approach the end of the academic year, Mr Mayling will also share his annual sporting review, including highlights of our achievements and recognition of personal bests across the school.

Thank you once again for your continued support. What a fantastic day!

KS2 Sports Day

On Thursday 16th July we were able to complete the KS2 Sports Day and it was another hot one! We tried something different this year and split lower and upper KS2. This was to help the children move more and achieve less sitting and waiting around time.

Sports Day is a fantastic opportunity to get outside of the classroom, try something new and work as a team. There were some great individual and team performances. Well done to the Blue team who won this year with 1461 points, the Red team came second with 1416 points, the Yellow team were third with 1248 points and the Green team came fourth with 1168 points.

A huge thank you to all the parents, carers, friends and family members that came along to support the children again, we always appreciate the support you show the children and our school. And many thanks to the staff and children helpers and especially to Miss Truscott (PE Teacher, STCM) and her amazing team of Sports Leaders for helping to organise the Y5/6 event.



Great British Summer Savings—Help for Families This Summer

We would like to share information about the Government's Great British Summer Savings scheme, designed to help families make the most of the summer holidays while managing household costs.

From 25th June to 1st September 2026, families can benefit from a temporary reduction in VAT from 20% to 5% on:

- Children's meals in participating restaurants
- Children's and family tickets to cinemas
- Theatre performances
- Concerts and exhibitions
- Admission to a wide range of attractions and family destinations

In addition, children aged 5–15 can travel free on buses throughout England during August, helping families access activities and attractions at a lower cost.

These savings provide an excellent opportunity for children and young people to enjoy enriching cultural, educational and recreational experiences throughout the summer break.

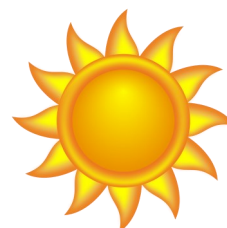
To help families find participating venues and attractions nearby, the Government has launched an Attraction Finder website. Simply enter your postcode to discover local offers and discounts:

<https://summersavings.gov.uk>

We encourage parents and carers to explore the offers available and make the most of the opportunities on offer this summer.

Further information:

Attraction Finder: <https://summersavings.gov.uk>



We hope you and your family enjoy a fun, affordable and memorable summer.

Summer Reading Book Swap

Don't forget that our Summer Reading Book Swap will be taking place on Monday after school in the school hall.

Children are invited to bring along a children's book that they have enjoyed and are happy to swap for another age-appropriate book. It's a wonderful opportunity to discover a new story and enjoy a fantastic summer of reading.

The book swap will begin straight after home-time collection. We know that some families will also be attending our Meet the Teacher sessions, so the school hall will remain open until 3:45pm to give everyone the opportunity to come along and choose a new book.

We would love to see as many children as possible taking part and heading into the summer holidays with an exciting new book to enjoy.

Happy reading!



Thank You, PTA!

As we come to the end of another incredibly busy and successful year at St Margaret's Academy, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to our PTA for everything they have achieved.



The PTA has worked tirelessly throughout the year, led by a dedicated core team of Laura as Chair, Felicity as Secretary and Chloe as Treasurer, with wonderful support from family, friends and staff across our school community. Together, they have organised a fantastic range of events, with the Summer Fayre being undoubtedly one of the highlights of the year for our children, particularly our Year 6 pupils, who embrace the Enterprise Scheme and challenge themselves to raise as much money as possible. While fundraising is an important part of the PTA's work, it is equally about creating joy, excitement and memorable experiences for our children. Those opportunities for enrichment and community connection are invaluable, and the PTA plays a huge role in making them possible.

Growing and sustaining a PTA is not always easy. Everyone leads busy lives, and the commitment shown by Laura and Felicity over the past five years has been exceptional. They have been instrumental in driving the PTA forward and ensuring its continued success.

As we look ahead, there will be some changes. Laura will be relocating and will therefore be stepping down from her role following the AGM in the autumn term, with further details to be announced in due course. In addition, Chloe's youngest child will be moving on to secondary school, meaning we will also be looking to welcome new members into the PTA.

This presents an exciting opportunity for parents, carers and staff to come together to build on the excellent work already established, further raise the profile of the PTA, and continue providing enriching experiences and valuable fundraising support for our school.

So, as we celebrate everything the PTA has achieved this year, I encourage everyone to think about how they might get involved in the future. More information about the AGM and opportunities to join the PTA will be shared in September.

Finally, I would like to offer my personal thanks to Laura, Felicity and Chloe. On behalf of everyone at St Margaret's Academy, thank you for your dedication, hard work and unwavering support. You have been truly amazing, and we are incredibly grateful for everything you have done for our children and our school community. Thank you.





After 5 Incredible Years...

IT'S TIME TO STAND DOWN

FIVE YEARS. COUNTLESS MEMORIES. SO MUCH ACHIEVED.

After five years as part of the PTA alongside Felicity, I have made the decision to step down as Chair.

Together, with the support of our amazing volunteers, families and local community, we've been proud to help provide:



- ✓ School discos
- ✓ Sports Day refreshments
- ✓ A new school library
- ✓ Outdoor library
- ✓ Playground markings
- ✓ Year 2 outdoor play area
- ✓ New kitchen in the Tree House
- ✓ Mini First Aid for every child each year
- ✓ Year 6 common area
- ✓ Annual cinema trips for the whole school
- ✓ Santa's Grotto with gifts for every child
- ✓ Woodland Den artwork
- ✓ New school sign
- ✓ Reception starter bags each year
- ✓ Ice creams for all children
- ✓ Easter eggs for all children
- ✓ Easter Bingo
- ✓ Classroom bean bags
- ✓ Reading areas in Year 2
- ✓ Help towards school trips
- ✓ Funded Read Write Inc
- ✓ New sports equipment
- ✓ Provided football kits
- ✓ Guinea pigs and hutches
- ✓ Run competitions for the children
- ✓ Organised panto tickets
- ✓ Helped with Christmas dinners
- ✓ Year 6 leavers' BBQ & leavers' books
- ✓ Fought the council to save the Hearing Unit
- ✓ Commissioned the timeline mural
- ✓ Run cake sales, lolly sales and pre-loved uniform sales
- ✓ Received countless donations

THANK YOU

to everyone who has supported the PTA and helped make these achievements possible.

THE PTA NOW NEEDS NEW MEMBERS.

To continue supporting our wonderful school and help Felicity move the PTA forward, we need more volunteers to get involved.



IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE PTA OR FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT ANY OF THE AVAILABLE ROLES, PLEASE SPEAK TO **ME OR FELICITY.**

♥ EVERY LITTLE BIT OF HELP MAKES A DIFFERENCE. ♥



ST MARGARET'S ACADEMY PTA

SUMMER FAYRE

HELD ON

Saturday 4th July

WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE
THAT WE RAISED AN AMAZING

£3500

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO

DONATED

VOLUNTEERED

SUPPORTED

AND JOINED US

YOU MADE IT
POSSIBLE!

Together, we can do amazing things
for our school community!



Have your Say—Annual Parent & Carer Survey

This is a valuable opportunity to share your thoughts, ideas and feedback to help shape the future direction of our school in the year ahead. Your voice matters, and your views play an important role in helping us improve and grow as a school community.

We encourage all parents and carers to take a few minutes to complete the survey and tell us what is working well, as well as where we can do better. Please submit your responses by **Monday 20th July 2026**. Please Click on the link below <https://forms.gle/98hnoec6VZ8R4QXz7>

As we come to the end of another wonderful week, I would like to wish all of our families a fantastic weekend. We hope you enjoy the warm weather and have the opportunity to relax and spend time together.

A quick reminder that, with the warm temperatures set to continue into next week, children should continue to come to school in their PE clothing to help keep cool. Please ensure they bring a water bottle, wear sunscreen before school where appropriate, and bring a sun hat for outdoor activities.

Most importantly, please ensure that children are wearing appropriate footwear. School trainers are absolutely fine; however, Crocs, sliders, and other open footwear are not suitable for school and can present a safety risk. We would be grateful for your support in ensuring that children attend on Monday and Tuesday wearing trainers or other appropriate school footwear.

Thank you for your continued support, and have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer

Headteacher



Diary Dates

Tuesday 21st July 2026	Last day for Pupils 09.30—10.15 Leavers Assembly 15.00—15.15 Leavers Tunnel
Wednesday 22nd July 2026	CLOSED FOR INSET DAY
23rd July 2026	Start of the Summer Holidays



ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE





Ash	Everyone in Ash!	This week, the Star of the Week is... everyone in Ash Class! Every one of you has been inspirational this year, and I am so proud of all you have achieved. Your resilience and will to succeed has shone through. I can't wait to hear about your adventures next year. Fly high, Ash Class, and well done!
Elm	All of Elm Class	Elm Class has been wonderful this week. The have shown great resilience with the transition afternoons and we wish you all the best for Year 1.
Beech	Grace. M	This week's Star of the Week goes to you for showing amazing responsibility. You have listened carefully, been ready to learn every morning, and shown a fantastic attitude all week.
Pine	Violet	Violet is our star for her kindness and generosity in donating her hair to The Little Princess Trust. We are so proud of her for helping others and making a difference.
Apple	Bella	Bella has shone in both our writing and art work this week. She always listens responsibly to instructions so she can then produce work that includes all of our learning goals and she sits and gets on with her tasks so maturely and independently. Bella you are an excellent example of someone who is ready for Year 3 in September. Well done - you are a true star!
Oak	Hattie	Hattie, you have shone this year! You are a fantastic learner and you always try your best. You treat everyone with respect and kindness and you should feel really proud of your hard work. Well done, you are a star!
Willow	All of Willow Class	Willow star goes to all the wonderful willows, the aspiration and responsibility you have all shown this half term has blown Mrs west and Mrs Harvey away. You should be all so proud. Best of luck in Year 4
Holly	All of Holly Class	As we reach the end of the year, the adults in Holly Class couldn't pick just one star so we have chosen to give our star to everyone! We are so proud of the amazing progress you have all made this year - it has been a pleasure to teach you! Keep it up and good luck to you all for Year 4!
Cherry	All of Cherry Class	Well done to all of Cherry Class for being wonderful this week. We look forward to our last few days with you in Cherry. We wish you all the best for your move to Year 5.
Hazel	All of Hazel	Everyone in Hazel has been outstanding this week. We are so proud of the progress you have all made. Well done and Good Luck in Year 5.
Rowan	All of Rowan	Well done to the whole class for a wonderful week in Rowan. You all have been superstars so we could not choose one person. Good Luck to you all in Year 6
Birch	Everyone	You have all been incredible and a real pleasure to teach. You have grown into a responsible bunch of superstars!! Good luck in Year 6.
Hawthorn	All of Hawthorn	Well done Hawthorn for an amazing last full week with us at St Margaret's Academy. You have done so well in your SATs and earned some amazing results. You have shown our four values with all your effort in sports day, the Y6 show and helping to set up for both events. Well done everyone!!!
Maple	All of Maple	Well done Maple for an amazing last full week of primary school! You shone in the Y6 show, showed great team work, sportsmanship and determination on sports day, and received some wonderful SATs results. I'm unbelievably proud of you all!