

St Margaret's Academy

Dear Parents,

It has been another busy half term at St Margaret's Academy. It's hard to believe we're five terms through this academic year. It was lovely to finish with our Jubilee celebrations which occurred in class, picnic on the field and assembly on the field. Lots of news today so maybe get a cup of tea and enjoy our celebrations and information below.



The 1952 Quiz - Answers

How did you get on with the quiz? Here are the answers...

1. To the nearest whole million, what was the population of the UK? **50,000,000**
2. What percentage of families owned a telephone? **10-14%**
3. What did a new TV cost, bearing in mind this was a luxury item and only 1% of families owned one at the start of the year? **£80**
4. Children played outdoors more. What was one of the most popular hobbies they enjoyed when playing outside? **Hula-hoops**
5. Name a popular indoor hobby children and adults enjoyed. **Stamp Collecting**

Reading Success

I'm sure you are aware that we are putting a lot of work into ensuring we provide high quality teaching in reading.

This year we are in the middle of a *reading for pleasure* project with the Open University, led by our change team (Mrs Turner, Mrs Tandy, Miss Pilkiewicz and the reading guinea pigs, *Roald* and *Dahl*). This is work that all children across the school are involved in and is a project that will continue in the future to embed practice. If you haven't had a chance to complete our survey about this, here's the link again:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/N3MWGQ3>

For the last two years we have been involved in project to improve early reading from Reception to Year 2 with the introduction of the *Read Write Inc* (RWI) scheme. We also use catch-up decoding programmes for our older pupils. In this we partnered with the local English Hub, the lead of which commented yesterday, "Thank for so much for an amazing day! I am so proud of how far you and your team have come since I first started working with you, and you can clearly see the amount of progress the children have made."



Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June
Half Term

Monday 6th June
School Closed to mark Queens 70th year as monarch

Monday 20th June

KS1 Sports Day

Wednesday 22nd June
Geography homework competition deadline

Thursday 23rd June
Class Photos

Friday 24th June
KS2 Sports Day



This year we have also launched a new programme for developing comprehension in older children which they move on to after reaching this right standard in the RWI scheme. A huge thanks to staff for getting stuck in with all the changes and a special thanks to Mrs Turner for her relentless enthusiasm and skills in making all this positive change.

If you would like to help support us with stocking our library, here's our Amazon wish list again:
https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref=wl_share

Other Curriculum News

Our approach to learning in school is to try to find ways for your children to access the curriculum in ways that engage them. There are some really good examples of this our blogs below.

Look in our [Religion Blog](#) this week to see how Hazel Class learnt about the Christian Pentacost through art.

In the [History Blog](#) you can see how Year 4 enquired into why pharaohs were so important to the Ancient Egyptians and how the children can show their learning in innovative ways.

Check out the Pupil Voice Blog page to see how the [Digital Leaders](#) have been enjoying learning to program robots during lunchtimes.



Thank you to The Outdoor Guide Foundation for their donation of wet weather gear that arrived last week and was promptly used by our Year 1s to take full advantage of the orchard during rainy May. Look in the [Eco Blog](#) to see more.



Look in the [PSHE Blog](#) to see Reception children learning about water safety with the RNLI this week.

In our Sports Blog you read how the Year 2s' success at their [multi-skills success](#) with other schools. You can also catch up with the latest news from the [girls' football](#) and the [boys' football](#) in their league and cup adventures.



In the [Geography Blog](#) you can see the how Year 3 got on with their intriguing field work out in the locality. Really worth a look!

Look in the [Science Blog](#) to see amazing photos of some animal encounters that happened in Reception this week. Check out Facebook too to see 'The Little Armoured One'.

There are some super pictures and designs in the Design Technology Blog from work done this half term. Have a look at the [Year 6 chocolate boxes](#) and the [Year 2 finger puppets](#).



Helping you help at Home with the Curriculum

We always want to work as closely in partnership with you as possible. In terms of the curriculum we do this by sharing the learning for the term with a termly overview and the collectables. Both of these are found under Curriculum Information. Also, the Curriculum in Action page shows all the various blogs. We are also experimenting with sharing *learning prompts*. These are short videos that exemplify a particular area of learning so you can teach at home in the same way we do in school. The Reception teachers are leading the way on this. If you have a younger child in school, do have a look at the [Reception Learning Prompts](#) blog under Curriculum in Action where you can find 12 different videos, covering reading, maths, science, writing and good hygiene.

Transition for new Reception

On Tuesday evening this week, we held our information evening for September's new children and parents. It was lovely to see so many... and in person, in the school hall. I have added the information slides to our website which you can access via this [quick link](#) or navigating from the home page. If you are not a new parent

reading this, you may still like to have a look at the slides as they provide a lot of information about the school in general.

Our Reception teachers are busy on home visits this week and after half term. One of our new parents commented how grateful they were for our amazing transition offer to help their little ones settle and get to know the school before starting for real. Thank you to the Reception team for being so great with this.

We also have some staffing news if you didn't know already: Mrs Leanna Russell will soon be going on maternity leave and in her absence we are delighted to welcome Miss Camilla Drennan. Miss Drennan has fit straight into the team with just the same values and skills for which we are really grateful and we look forward to working with her on our staff team.

Let's Talk Teenagers

If you have a teenager at home, you might find the following sessions useful to join. They cover substance misuse, exploitation, healthy relationships, safety online and social risks. Sessions are running on consecutive Wednesdays at 7.00pm on the 15th, 22nd and 29th June. They are designed to empower parents and carers to support their teenagers through the challenges they are faced with daily. Click the link to find out more: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/further-chance-to-join-highly-successful-online-event-for-parents/>. For further information, you can contact safetyandresilienceconsultancy@gmail.com.

Updated Various Support for Parents and Families

In our 'Wellbeing for Families' page of the website there are two useful pages: '[Support for Families](#)' and '[Resources for Parents](#)'. In the latter you can find all sorts of information to help you do the tricky job of being a parent. In the former you can find all sorts of family activities that take place. Recently added:

- Information about the **Dark Web** to help parents and professionals can be found here: <https://mailchi.mp/eb90d76e5ebc/dark-web-explained?e=e43e6fee94>
- **Free yoga** on Torre Abbey Meadow every Sunday 9.30-10.30am right through until 11th September.
- In Cockington, you can join free mindfulness and **nature walks** every Wednesday from 1.00-2.00pm, running until 15th June.
- Worried about your **finances**? talktous@st-matthias-church.org or phone 01803 214175 – 7.00pm on 7th, 14th or 21st June at St Matthias Church Hall. The free help is for everyone regardless of age, gender, faith or background. For more about the course see <https://capuk.org/i-want-help/cap-money-course/introduction>

Wishing you an awesome half term break.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)

