

# St Margaret's Academy

We started the week with our assembly on Monday, looking back at the autumn term and giving thanks for all that we have. As part of our *celebrating differences* theme, we recalled the Queen's death, October's Black History Month, Anti-bullying Week, filling each other's buckets with kindness and how we F.A.I.L (first attempt in learning) to help us master something. We finished assembly by noting how different religions all have a central message of giving thanks and we spent some time reflecting on how we can personally give thanks.

This month's composer is the Austrian, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791). In assembly we listened to *Eine Kleine Nackt Musik*. November's composer was the Italian, Antonio Lucio Vivaldi (1678-1741). We listened to his autumn and winter parts of *Four Seasons* in our assemblies.



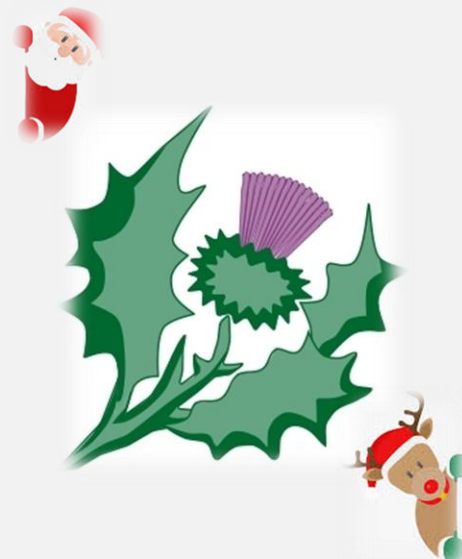
## A Festival of Festive Fun

Wow, what a festive week it has been! It has been an extravaganza of fun for the children thanks to our amazing PTA and school staff. Each day, a different year group has had a Christmas Dinner Day with Christmas jumpers and afternoon party games. A special thank you to our kitchen staff and volunteers from Tesco. Having the volunteers that were arranged by the PTA meant that staff were also able to enjoy a lunch with the children. On Wednesday, we were also joined by some of our friends from Dunboyne Court who had lunch with the children and staff, and then joined in with the Year 3 and 4 games afterwards.



On Tuesday, thanks to the PTA, two very naughty elves arrived in the afternoon direct from the North Pole. They visited each class with some early Christmas presents and mischief. They also managed to tie me to my chair but I was luckily rescued by Elijah and Mrs Copeland. In the evening, the children loved the PTA discos.

On Wednesday it was the PTA cinema trip for Years 2 to 6 while Reception and Year 1 enjoyed a film in the hall.



**This week's Attendance Star goes to**

**Birch  
99%  
Incredible!**



Today we held the Rudolph run on the school running track to raise money for Rowcroft. The sponsorship money has been counted with a staggering and humbling amount raised:

**£2680**

Thank you to so many who gave so generously. This is clearly something close to everyone's hearts.

**The highlight of the week** was the KS1 Nativity performance at Babbacombe Theatre with every seat taken. This was the first time these children have been able to perform the Nativity in person. It was clearly a very special occasion for them, performing on stage to such a big audience of extended family members; so many smiles and much laughter. Thank you so much to the incredible staff who brought this magic together.

We had the PTA 'Design a Christmas Tree' competition with entries judged by our friends at Dunboyne Court. The winners have been chosen and will be revealed on Monday.

We've also had a staff competition to design the best Christmas-decorated doors. The judging is still in progress. If you're in school, do have a look for these.

## Curriculum News

Check out Year 1s' [100 year old toys](#), helping them understand chronology in their history learning. You can also see how Year 1 role-played the Christian [ceremony of baptism](#) in the Religion Blog. Look in the Writing Blog to see our Year 6 [writing group's article](#) in the latest edition of the St Marychurch Chronicle; they have reported on our work in school on *celebrating differences*. In the Sports Blog you can read how the [Lionesses](#) roared to another league victory against St Marychurch on Tuesday and find out about the [Year 6 Quicksticks](#) Festival that took place a couple of weeks ago.

A big well done to Bella in Year 5 whose Christmas card design was selected by local MP Kevin Foster who presented it to the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak. The card will be used across Torbay, Parliament and in Number 10. See our [SMSC Blog](#) for the full press release a photo.

## Food for Thought

Each school holiday, the charity 'Feed a Child Torbay' provides food for children when they lack free school meals and might otherwise be hungry. Non-perishable meal kits are provided for the families. These are designed to feed a family of four and can be prepared on the hob or in a microwave following the simple instruction sheet provided. Meal kits typically have meat, some vegetables, a starch (potatoes, pasta or rice) and a pudding, often tinned fruit.

*Feed a Child* also provides nut-free breakfast bars and juice packs to the school, so that we can give a quick snack to any child struggling to attend class due to hunger.

This Christmas, we have been gifted vouchers for Farm Foods and the butchers which we have been able to add to some of the food packs going home. The donors request to remain anonymous but on behalf of everybody, thank you to them, very much!

If you feel you may benefit from receiving one of these meal kits during the school holiday in February please contact the school office so we can see what we can do.

## Scarlet Fever (Strep A)

This feels a bit like déjà vu.

Public Health has advised us that there are a range of bugs and viruses circulating at the moment, including a rise in scarlet fever/Strep A. Schools across the Bay are reporting increased infections. We have a potential outbreak of scarlet fever/Strep A in Year 2 Oak Class and we also have several



children absent across the school with a sore throat. While the sore throat may not be scarlet fever/Strep A, we have taken the precaution to send a letter to all parents today advising that we may have an outbreak and what you should do. With children mixing, it may not just be in Year 2. **Please do read the letter. The main points to note:**

- **Anyone diagnosed needs to stay away from school for 24 hours after starting antibiotics**
- **If your child has chicken pox or flu, there could be serious complications if they come into contact with someone with scarlet fever/Strep A so be aware**

If you are unsure whether your child should stay at home, I have added a document to the 'Useful Resources for Parents' tab under 'Parents' on the website which [lists all different illnesses](#) and what you should do.

### **Help with Rising Costs – UPDATED and Reminders**

- **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/>
- 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>

Have a fandabby weekend.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



13th December	Foundation Stage Christmas Craft afternoon 1.30-3pm
13th December	KS2 Carol Concert St Cuthbert Mayne
15th December	Foundation Stage Christmas Show 1.30-3pm
17th December - 3rd January 2023	Christmas Holidays
4th January 2023	Pupils return to school



Beech	Freddie for his wonderful enthusiasm for learning each and every day. You were an amazing Shepherd and knew the dance routine better than me! Thank you, Freddie.
Pine	Isabelle- For her resilience in the Christmas nativity yesterday. She got a bit nervous but got herself up on that stage and danced her little socks off!
Oak	Louie- for his amazing effort with learning his lines for the Nativity and for saying them loud and clear. He also sang beautifully every time we did the play and knew exactly what he had to do due to listening so well. Well done Louie!
Apple	Evie is our star this week although she could quite easily be chosen every week! During our nativity, we had a last-minute absence, fortunately Evie stepped in and saved the day by taking on another part. Thank you, Evie.
Birch	Vincent for putting your hands up in class lots, scoring full marks in your French test and making excellent progress in reading this term!
Rowan	Abigail for her consistent kindness and thoughtfulness towards others and her responsible attitude towards her learning. This week she has demonstrated an excellent understanding of the Maths work we have completed this term. Super skills Abigail.
Cherry	Lita is the start of the week in Cherry class. She is amazingly hard working and shows aspiration in all she does. She listens well and acts on advice. She is also very kind. Well done Lita you are truly a star.
Hazel	River - For you fantastic listening and respect this week. You have followed instructions really well and worked extremely hard in every subject. You have also demonstrated your fantastic computing skills this week - WOW! Well done River keep it up!
Willow	Willow's star this week is Ollie. Ollie is an incredibly polite child and consistently shows our school value of Respect. This week in particular, several visitors to Willow class - including the naughty elves - commented about how polite he was. Ollie has also had a more positive approach to his work this week, completing it with 100% effort! Ollie, you have worked your socks off this week - we are so proud of you! Keep it up!
Holly	Joe is our star this week, he is always showing the school values but he has displayed such resilience in his maths this week. He has found it tricky at times but has never given up. We are so proud of you Joe - well done!
Maple	Maisie is our star of the week for being such a kind and conscientious member of Maple class. Maisie is so thoughtful and is always looking out for her friends. What a great role model! Keep it up Maisie.
Hawthorn	Alfie is our star for his hard work in our grammar and history lessons this week. He listened carefully and worked really well with his partner to give some great reasoning and explain his ideas. Well done Alfie!