



ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

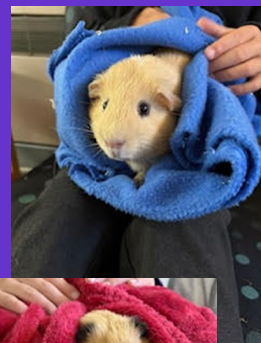
Autumn Newsletter #1

Dear Families

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back for the new term. The children have settled into their new classrooms, routines, and teaching teams with impressive confidence. Around the school, there's a calm, focused atmosphere and a real buzz of positive learning behaviours — not to mention the delightful sound of Dojo points dinging in celebration of fabulous learning and our school values in action!

A special well done to our new children and families who have joined us this week. It's a pleasure to welcome you to St Margaret's Academy, and we hope your first days have been a joyful start to your educational journey with us.

Also, it's been great to welcome Biff and Chip back after their summer holidays, we have all missed you both.



Reminders and Updates

Gate Opening and Collection Times

- Morning gates open at 8:40am and close promptly at 8:50am, ensuring all children are registered and ready to learn by 9:00am.
- Afternoon gates open at 3:15pm and close at 3:30pm.

If your child is feeling a little wobbly or reluctant to come in, please call ahead and we can meet you at the front office from 9:00am. For Reception children, the Sunshine Room (between the two classrooms) is available to help settle and reassure your little one before they enter the classroom.

If you have any concerns about your child's transition into school, please contact your class teacher or the school office. A member of the team will be in touch to offer support.

Breakfast and Afterschool Club

Please use the bell on the gate to alert staff when dropping off or collecting your child. Children should be dropped off and picked up from the Woodland Den entrance (inside cloakroom area). This helps staff ensure children are safely signed in/out and supported with their belongings before handing over for collection. This will also support children who are remaining in the session to engage and play without interruption. Thank you for your cooperation, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to make contact with me.

ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION

School Calendar

In addition to our weekly newsletter, we've added a wealth of key dates to the school [website calendar](#), which will be updated regularly. Please check it often to stay informed about upcoming events.

Snack-tember Success

Thank you for your enthusiasm and support during our first week of Snack-tember! The initiative aims to improve children's knowledge, skills, confidence, and motivation to choose healthier, more sustainable snacks — especially those they can select themselves.



Survey Feedback

Thank you to all families who completed our annual survey in July. We've carefully reviewed your feedback and made plans to improve based on your suggestions. Please see our "You Said... We Did" [summary](#) to learn more about the changes we're making this year.

Planning and Class News

Our [school website](#) has been updated with current year group news and details about the learning taking place this autumn term. It's a great way to spark conversations with your child about what they're learning. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your class teacher — either via email or in person.

Have a lovely weekend, everyone!

This week, we've been focusing on our school value of Kindness — exploring how we can show it both at home and at school. Thank you all for your continued support; it's been a fantastic week and we're excited for what's ahead. Enjoy some well-deserved rest, fun, and family time.

"Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give."

Kind regards,

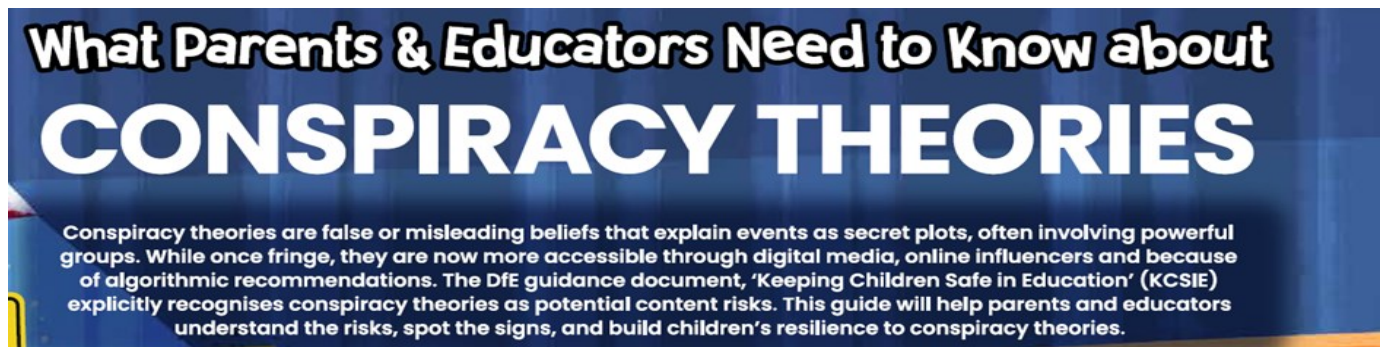
Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer

Headteacher



Online Safety

Click on the [link](#) to access the full posters and find out more



Applying for a Secondary School Place

Children born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 will start Secondary School in September 2026.

Apply online from 1 September 2025 for September 2026 admissions. You must apply by 31 October 2025. If you apply after 31 October your application will be considered late and may be at a disadvantage.

Before you apply

It is best to take some time to think about which school would be best for your child. Please take a look at the following [Torbay Admissions Website](#) for more information

Application deadlines

Apply by 31 October 2025. If you apply by this date, you will get your offer on 2 March 2026.





Free Activities at Torbay Velopark Open Day—Saturday 13th September

As part of Torbay Leisure Centre's Open Day on Saturday 13 September, Torbay Velopark will be FREE to use from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm. Torbay Council & Cycle Torbay CIC will be providing the following activities.

Torbay Velopark Big FREE Ride

The Big Free Ride is back.

Come and join us for this family-friendly mass participation ride at Torbay Velopark's Open Day from 2.00 until 3.30 pm.

You can ride as few or as many laps as you like on this wonderful traffic-free circuit. Open to all kinds of cycles, scooters, balance bikes and bikes with stabilisers. Certificates for the children to show how many laps they've completed. Please register your interest to give us an idea of how many certificates to bring.

Bike and helmet hire may be available, but this can't be guaranteed so it's better to bring your own if you can.

[Big Free Bike Ride Registration](#)

FREE Cycle Repairs for Children

Is your child going to be doing Bikeability at their school this year? Does their bike need attention? Cycle Torbay CIC will be on the Velopark from 10.30 am until 12.30 pm to do free minor repairs, so why not pop down with your bikes and take advantage of this. No need to book.

FREE Cycle Skills Taster Session

We will be running a Bikeability Cycle Skills Taster session 12.30 – 1.30 pm This will consist of fun games, which help with bike handling and is open to children from Year 2 to Year 5, who can ride a bike without stabilisers. Certificates awarded to all participants. Children will need their own bike and helmet. Bike and helmet hire may be available on the day, but this can't be guaranteed. Places are limited so booking is essential. Please use the link below. [Cycle Skills Booking Link](#)

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Open Evening

For Year 6 children
with their parents/carers

Thursday 18 September 2025, 5 - 8 pm

by appointment only



Click on the link or scan the QR code below to book your appointment for a tour, including the opportunity to find out more about the college by meeting staff and students.

<https://forms.gle/TECjrJEDYKjXvwlWA>

The Spires College
Westlands Lane, Torquay TQ1 3PE
01803 400660
www.thespirescollege.com



Torbay School Nursing Team

0 to 19
TORBAY
for you

School Nursing Service Parent and Carer Drop in

A member of the school nurse team will be attending your child's school on:

Date: Tuesday 30th September 2025

Time: 2pm - 3pm

We will be able to offer support and advice for:

- Bowel and bladder
- Diet and nutrition
- Sleep
- Emotional wellbeing
- Behaviour (if there is an associated health need)

**No booking needed,
just turn up!**

Contact Us

T: 0300 333 5352 (Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm)

E: tsdft.0to19torbay@nhs.net

A: 0 to 19 Torbay, St. Edmunds, Victoria Park Rd, Torquay TQ1 3QH

W: torbayfamilyhub.org.uk

Chat via the Torbay Family Hub App



NHS

Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

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MOTIVATION



You can be active

You can be creative!

Come and join Brownies

Girls age 7-10

Do you want to learn new skills?

Do you want to have lots of fun?

You can make friends and have adventures

Your nearest Brownie unit is

11th Torquay Brownies
Need You to join in new adventures and have fun
Mondays 6pm / 7-15pm
contact barsutts@msa.com

Register your interest by visiting
www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus
or you can ring
Girlguiding on 0800 169 5901

Diary Dates

15th September 2025	Y6 Hawthorn Swim Session
20th September 2025	11+ Registration on school websites
22nd September 2025	Y6 Hawthorn Swim Session
29th September 2025	Y6 Hawthorn Swim Session
30th September 2025	School Nursing Service Parent & Carer Drop In
6th October 2025	Y6 Hawthorn Swim Session
13th October 2025	Y6 Hawthorn Swim Session
20th October 2025	Y6 Maple Swim Session
24th October 2025	Last Day of School Term
27th October—2nd November 2025	Half Term Holiday
31st October 2025	Deadline for Y6 applications for secondary school
3rd November 2025	First Day Back for Children for back Y6 Maple Swim Session

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Pine	Alfie	Alfie has settled into our class (and school) incredibly! He listens so well and is always ready to learn with a big smile on his face.
Beech	Elsie. E	Elsie E has been chosen as our Star of the Week for coming in so beautifully every day with a positive attitude. She has worked really hard and put fantastic effort into everything she has done. We are so proud of her determination and enthusiasm. Keep this up for the rest of the year, Elsie E.
Apple	Amelia	Amelia has settled so well into Year 2, showing all of our school values. She was particularly aspirational with her writing this week and has approached learning with such enthusiasm. Keep it up Amelia!
Oak	Ruby-Rose	Ruby-Rose has had a really positive first full week back into school, her motivation to learn has been fantastic and her writing has been so aspirational. Well done Ruby
Willow	Olivia	Olivia is Willow's star of the week. She has been a wonderful role model for all of her peers - showing respect and responsibility for her choices. Well done Olivia!
Holly	Effie	Effie is Holly classes first star of the week for the year! She has shown a real passion for learning and has been engaging in every aspect of the day. She has been trying her hardest with some new and sometimes tricky learning areas. Well done Effie - what a great start to year 3!
Cherry	Archie	Archie for setting a high example of behaviour and motivation in learning all week. You have shown all 4 values , especially respect! Keep being a fantastic role model to your friends!
Hazel	Esmail	Esmail has settled in to year 4 absolutely perfectly. She is extremely aspirational and wants to challenge herself in all of her work. She is also a fantastic role model to the other children, being respectful to all adults in the classroom. Well done, Esmail. We are so thrilled to have you in Hazel class!
Rowan	Micah	Micah is the star of the week in Rowan class because he has shown great responsibility for his learning by actively participating in lessons offering suggestions and answering questions. He has also demonstrated our kindness value by offering to help others in class who he can see need some support. Well done Micah.
Birch	Olivia H	Olivia is our star for having such a fantastic start to Year 5. Liv is always ready for her learning, listens well and shows maturity and kindness to those around her. Keep up the excellent attitude Liv!
Hawthorn	April	April is Hawthorn's Star of the Week for her mature approach to learning in class, her super independent studying at home and her excellent poem about tigers. Well done, April - what a wonderful start to Year 6!
Maple	Bella	Our star of the week is someone who has approached our first week of Year 6 with great maturity. They have shown responsibility for their learning and set a great example to their peers. Well done Bella - keep up the good work!

