



St Margaret's
Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter #2
17th January 2025

Dear Parents,

I hope you've all settled in well over these first two weeks of January. It's been a lovely start to 2025.

After School Club

You might be aware that sadly, after many long years of service our wonderful lead for After School Club, Lin Yandall, is leaving at the end of this month. Her final day is Friday 31.1.25 and we are advertising for a replacement. If you are interested in the position, there is still time to apply and you can find details under [vacancies](#), on our website.

Free Online Learning for Pupils entitled to Free School Meals in Key Stage 2

If you have a child who is in receipt of free school meals in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 or Year 6, you should have received a letter this week from Torquay Girls Grammar School inviting you to sign up to *Atom Learning*. This is a free resource being provided to all these children for either catch-up KS2 learning or help with preparing for the 11+. After completing the online form, we will receive a notification to verify that your child is in receipt of free school meals. It's well worth looking into. As well as the letter, more information can be found by clicking [here](#).

Useful Resources for Parents

This useful resources page on our website, found under the 'Parents' tab has been updated with the following:

- *JusTalk Kids* is a popular social networking platform for children up to aged 13. You can find all the [advice](#) you need to know as a parent, including a review of all the risks.
- *TikTok* -all the [advice](#), information, tips and risks that educators and parents need to know
- Five ways to [regulate](#) your nervous system: breathing, humming, swinging, nature and sensory. It's a helpful read.

Foundation Stage (Acorns) News

You can find the latest Foundation Stage (Acorns) newsletter on the [website](#) with information about the learning that's coming up this term, books they've been sharing, reading diaries, songs they are singing, small world play, help with phonics at home and some photos and stories from all the Christmas fun. Enjoy.

ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION

Curriculum News

In the Science Blog you can see how [Year 5](#) have been making models of the Earth and Moon.

In the Maths Blog you can see the range of activities [Year 2](#) have been up to in class to help them learn about multiplication and division. In the Writing Blog you can see how [Year 2](#) have been exploring food to help with their writing.

This week the children put down their baseline times for the golden mile on our running track. They will be measuring their best times again over the rest of the year to see how they improve.

Term Dates for 2025 –2026

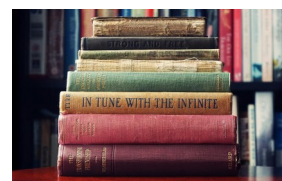
The dates for next academic year can now be found on our website home page. Quick link [here](#).

School Time Drop Off & Pick Up

During school drop off and pick up times please be mindful where you are parking or stopping. On the area marked with zig zags there should be no stopping, even for a short amount of time. This is to help ensure the safety of the children.

Our Amazon Book Wish List

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref=wl_share



Help with Rising Costs -Reminders

Riviera Life Church Food and Baby Bank – [link here](#). We can make a referral for you or phone 07486 402493

Household Support Fund – if you are on a welfare benefit / tax credit or have a disposable income of less than £50 per week:

[Household Support Fund - Torbay Council](#)

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 lovely weekend



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)

ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION





Diary Dates

31st January 2025	Aspirations Day—Children come dressed as someone they might want to be when they're older
W/C 17th February 2025	Half Term
24th February 2025	First day back for children
W/C 7th April 2025	Easter Holidays
22nd April 2025	First day back for children
5th May 2025	Bank Holiday
W/C 26th May 2025	Half Term
3rd June 2025	First day back for children
24th July 2025	Final day for the children



Beech	Kai is the Star of the Week in Beech class! This week, he has shown outstanding motivation in his learning, even when faced with challenges. Additionally, Kai has maintained a positive attitude each day, consistently being one of the first to sit down and prepare for lessons.
Pine	Jake is our star of the week. He has been trying SO hard to listen and follow instructions this week and I was blown away by his concentration when trying to put finger spaces into his writing. Well done Jake!
Oak	Luna is our star as she has shown great effort in the writing lessons and always listens and tries her best. She is also always willing to help others in the class. Well done Luna!
Apple	Cassidy is our star of the week for showing such determination to improve her writing. Your sentences are beautifully constructed and you have worked really hard to improve. Well done!
Holly	Tzuriel has shown so much resilience and aspiration in his reading. His positive attitude has now paid off as he is now a free reader! Brilliant stuff Tzuriel, you are making super progress, keep going.
Willow	Nessee is the star of the week in Willow class. She has been an amazing listener which has helped her with all of her learning tasks this week. Great active learning Nessee.
Cherry	Cherries star of the week this week is Arya B. She has shown incredible motivation and resilience in her learning. She has worked incredibly hard to manage her distractions and ensure that he is able to give her best to everything she has done. Well done Arya!
Hazel	The star in Hazel class is Lexy. This young lady has been so motivated this week and is always ready to learn and tries her best. She has particularly shone in Maths and shown real resilience. I'm so proud of you Lexy!
Birch	This week our star is Evelyn! We have been so impressed by Evelyn's motivation in Maths. She has worked incredibly hard to master a very tricky method and used excellent presentation skills within her book as well! Well done, Evelyn!
Rowan	This week's star is Emelia. She has shown such motivation in her Maths and Writing learning recently, working hard to understand new concepts and use ambitious vocabulary. Well done Emelia!
Maple	Our star of the week is Myles for his excellent active thinking in lessons. Myles will always refer back to his previous learning to help him when he is finding something tricky and is great at contributing to class discussions. Well done Myles!
Hawthorn	Ryan is our star for his increased motivation and active thinking this week. He has been contributing answers more frequently in lessons, especially maths and grammar lessons, and pushing himself to focus and complete tasks to a high standard, Well done Ryan!

ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION