

St Margaret's Academy

Hands-Face-Space- Fresh Air- Act as if you've got it

Dear Parents,

Another chapter in the big adventure draws to a conclusion as we end another week. It has been a jam-packed week, full of entertainment with never a dull moment. I hope you and your families are staying well.

Hearing Support Centre (HSC) News

I'm sure you know that here at St Margaret's we hold the provision for deaf children in Torbay and our staff do outreach to support teachers in other schools. Our Teacher of the Deaf, Jo Saunders, who leads this provision has just been recognised for her work on a national level when she chaired the annual conference for teachers of the deaf last week. You can find out more about this as well as see other news about the work of the HSC on our website in the HSC Blog; quick link [here](#).

Maths News

On Tuesday after school, teaching staff had a maths training session led by our joint Maths leads, Mrs Rice and Miss Lynds. It was really good to get stuck into our core job without any covid distraction. We've been exploring how to best ensure your children are fluent in Maths which is all about the essential skills such as times tables, place value and number bonds.

Mrs Rice and Miss Lynds have updated our policies for Maths calculations so they align with teaching in school and follow the *White Rose* scheme. These are on the website for your information and use at home, under 'Curriculum Information' – 'HOME LEARNING' – 'Maths at Home' or click this [quick link](#). You will find the policy for Addition & Subtraction and the policy for Multiplication and Division with lots of examples to help you at home. They are really useful and I recommend them highly.

This week you should have received a letter from Tim Jay at Loughborough University inviting you to take part in a survey about how children use money. Thank you for getting involved and I hope you also found it informative.



**This week's
class attendance star
goes
to
Cherry Class with
92.9%
Well done!**

Despite all the absence, we are somehow managing to keep our overall school attendance above recent benchmark national data. Thank you for supporting us with this.

Computing News

Have a look in the [Computing Blog](#) to see how Year 4 have been learning to programme forever loops. There's a lovely video which will give you a nice idea of what Year 4 are expected to do.

Reading News

As I'm sure you know, we have joined with the *Open University* this year to develop reading for pleasure so there are always various improvements and exciting new ideas being implemented.

You may have noticed the lovely new reading display in the school foyer that our reading lead, Mrs Turner, has organised. If you find yourself waiting around here or would just like to pop in to have a look, please do so. Books on display come with recommendations from teachers.

Miss Pilkiewicz, Year 6 Teacher and part of the school change team for reading, has set up a St Margaret's book wish list on Amazon. The books on the list are recommended by teachers in school that we would love to have more of in our library or for you to buy for home. If you click on the below link, you can either choose to buy one for school or for home if you would like to.

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

Next week is national *Storytelling Week*. Teachers will be using this opportunity to further raise the profile of reading across the school. For example, this week Year 5 have been investigating traditional stories from around the world, identifying what it means to be a good story teller in preparation for rehearsing and performing these next week. Look out on the Reading Blog next week and a mention here to see the videos of this in action.

On our website under 'Curriculum Information' – 'HOME LEARNING', you can find a very useful page titled '[Reading at Home](#)'. Here you will find a range of useful guides and information designed for parents to help you support at home with all ages and abilities. New this week from Mrs Turner are the following two guides which are linked to our *Accelerated Reader* programme:

- How to find age-related books for your child to read
- How to find a book quiz

This week, trustees from the Educational Standards Committee met to plan visits for later this term to see how all the wonderful reading ideas and teaching in action. Thank you to them as always for the giving of their time.

Safer Internet Day– 8th February 2022 - Parent Support

As we approach this international day, please find some trusted links that you might find useful in helping support your child at home:

- Worried about sexual abuse?
<https://stopabusettogether.campaign.gov.uk/>



Upcoming PTA Events

2's Day – 02/02/22

Bring in money with a '2' in its denomination – the class that raises the most money will win a prize!

Valentines Cake Sale 14/02/22

After School cake sale
(Cash Only)



**Don't Forget
School Photos are
being taken on the 17th
February**

- Visit the Children Commissioner's website for a [parents' guide](#) to online sexual harassment
- Here are some trusted games for 8-10 year olds all about online safety:
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/

Covid Update

We have seen a further increase in cases this week in both staff and children although the rate has slowed compared to the rapid rise last week. There are now cases across the school in every class except Y2 Apple and Y4 Cherry: 57 people in total are currently isolating. All of the classes, except Y5 Willow has had an outbreak (10%+ cases) since January. All classes that have had an outbreak have seen their numbers peak and then decline so far e.g. Y3 Rowan rose to 11 cases and is now down to 2.

Sadly, and as a very last measure, and most reluctantly, we had to close both Reception classes yesterday and today for face to face learning. I am really sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused parents.

Thankfully we haven't heard of anybody being seriously ill. It does appear to be affecting children and staff mildly at the moment. This has meant staff have been mostly able to keep working from home to support colleagues in school with planning and organising home learning.

Please be reassured that we are doing as much as possible to keep everybody safe as described in previous newsletters. In addition, all classes with an outbreak are having further enhanced cleaning.

We have seen lots of children return to school, and next week expect to see more staff return too.

Once again, I would like to thank our amazing staff for stepping up and supporting colleagues to help cover absence. This is an especial big thank you to our teaching assistants who have been absolutely brilliant!

Wishing you a healthy and awesome weekend.



Tim Hughes

(Head teacher)



Beech	Thomas has joined in amazingly with our writing lessons this week and has come up with some fantastic vocabulary. His handwriting has improved and his letters are sitting much more neatly on the lines. Mrs Price also wanted to say how amazing your PE was this week. Well done Thomas!
Pine	Amira - So aspirational in her maths this week, always putting her hand up to have a go at the answer, It has been great to watch your confidence grow Amira, Well done!
Oak	Roman- for returning to school with a great attitude to his learning. You have really cheered us up with your funny and positive attitude Roman.
Apple	Arabella - For aspiration in maths and being recognised by her peers for imaginative dancing in PE!
Birch	Isaac is our star of the week for showing kindness at home as well as in school! Well done Isaac - keep it up!
Rowan	Lilli S is our star of the week for showing kindness towards others in the class. Lilli always offers to do jobs and help other tables tidy up as well as her own. Well done Lilli for being so kind!
Cherry	Ollie D is our star for his amazing work in maths. He has shown fabulous concentration and effort in lessons. Well done Ollie.
Hazel	For your fantastic effort in reading at home this week. You have been very motivated and I hope that it continues every week! Keep it up!
Willow	Benji is our star in Willow this week for making amazing progress in his handwriting, independent learning and for being such a great member of the class. Well done Benji!
Holly	Isaac- we have been really impressed with his attitude to work across the subjects. He is showing more maturity and responsibility for his learning. Well done Isaac
Maple	Bali is our star of the week this week due to his incredibly positive attitude in class! He has also shown aspiration in all areas of his learning, especially maths. Well done Bali, keep up the good work.
Hawthorn	Oscar - For super concentration in class this week, as well as such great progress with his writing. His latest piece has shown a variety of well-structured sentences and terrific vocabulary.