



# St Margaret's Academy

## ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Summer Newsletter #7  
13th June 2025

Dear Families

We're super excited to welcome two very special new members to our school family — **Biff** and **Chip**, our adorable guinea pigs!

These furry friends are already bringing smiles to our faces with their curious noses and happy squeaks. They'll be living in our library, helping us learn about responsibility, kindness, and how to care for animals. Congratulations to Mila for winning the lucky dip to get first cuddles with the lovely pair.

Make sure to stop by and say hello to Biff and Chip — they love gentle voices, fresh veggies, and lots of love!

Let's give them the warmest welcome and make them feel right at home!

**Welcome to the family, Biff and Chip!**

### Sports Days

As we gear up for National Sports Week, we look forward to welcoming you to join us for the annual Sports Days.

KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 9.30 – 12.00

Reception – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> 1.25 – 3.00

KS2 (Years 3 - 6) Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 9.30 – 12.00

Please feel free to bring along a camping chair or picnic blanket to relax and enjoy the events. We are very grateful to the PTA, who will be arranging refreshments for spectators to purchase and enjoy during the morning events. Please note these are only for spectators and not the for the pupils that are taking part in the events as they will be working up an appetite for their own lunch. All funds raised through the refreshments will go back towards supporting the pupils with curriculum and pastoral enrichment, so please support as you can.

Just a couple of safety reminders:

You are welcome to take photographs of your child around others, but we request that you do not post on social media. School will be able to take approved photographs that we will share on the school media pages that you can signpost friends and family to. Please refrain from using your mobiles (calls, email and social media) whilst on site and enjoy the time celebrating the children's effort and sportsmanship. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

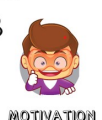
Mr Mayling has also advised me that if we have time there may be the opportunity for a couple of adult races, so please wear appropriate clothing and acknowledge that taking part is at your own choice and any associated risks.



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MOTIVATION



## Sun Protection

Please do remember to apply sun cream to your children in the morning and send them in with plenty of water to drink as the weather next week is warming up.



## Message from Mrs Wills

*Having spent an incredible fifteen years at St Margaret's academy, nine of those years on the Purple Bus. It is now time to hang up my driver's hat. The next stop for me is retirement and some new adventures on a different journey.*

*I will be leaving St Margaret's Academy and the purple bus at the end of the summer term with so many amazing memories of my time here and the absolute privilege of working with a great team of people so committed to caring for you all.*

*Of course, I shall miss you and I promise to wave if I see you.*

*Thank you all for your support. Best wishes for your future. Lorraine Wills.*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Wills for her care and support for all the pupils and families she has worked with over the past 15 years. We hope you enjoy your well-earned retirement. At this point I would like to reassure pupils and their families that we will continue to ensure pastoral support continues and we look forward to updating you on plans in the coming weeks.

## Summer Fair

We're gearing up for our annual Summer Fair on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 11am – 2pm! It's a great opportunity for our school community to come together, have fun, and raise money for school enrichment that benefits our pupils.

We need your help! We're looking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks, including setting up, running a stall or help clearing afterwards. If you can help in any way, please click on the link <https://volunteersignup.org/QJQH9>

We truly appreciate your time and dedication to making our Summer Fair a memorable and successful event by being there and joining in the fun! Let's work together to make it a fantastic day for our children and community.



# Summer Fair

## Volunteers Needed

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MOTIVATION

## Bikeability — Level 2

This week it was lovely to see so many bikes parked in our bike storage and the return of Bikeability in school.



Pupils from Y5 and Y6 have been awarded the nationally recognised and certificated qualification – Bikeability Level 2. This was an 8-hour course spread over 4 days and it was quite intensive. Level two taught the children to cycle planned routes on minor roads near the school - offering real cycling experience.

The course involved 4 comprehensive sessions, where National Standards Instructors taught the children bike handling skills, developed their confidence and helped them get prepared for riding their bikes on today's roads. Congratulations to all the children who passed the course.



**TORBAY**  
COUNCIL

**NHS**

## Torbay Locality Primary Pilot: SLCN

Our school has volunteered to be part of a trial which will focus on supporting children with speech, language and communication needs. Over the course of the next six months, we will be working with our partners and other primary schools to improve the help available. You can find out more about this pilot here: <https://torbayfamilyhub.org.uk/topic/torbay-locality-model/>

### Mission to improve children's oral health (Message from Marychurch Practice)

Due to previous demand, **every other Saturday from 28<sup>th</sup> June until the end of August**, we will be holding our "Kids Club" sessions for children to come and have a free one-off NHS checkup appointment with our lovely dentist Parsa Mosaddad.

We would love for you to forward this information to the parents and guardians of the children at your school so they can take us up on this opportunity - at present we are only working with select local schools and spaces will be limited.

To book an appointment for their child/children they just need to call 01803 328113 or pop into our St Marychurch practice and one of our reception team will be more than happy to help!

This won't register the child with the practice but should enable them to have an NHS dental check-up and 1 course of treatment.

Please note, if any parents are unable to attend on a Saturday for various reasons, then we may have other availability if they contact the reception team.

If you have any questions about this scheme, please do not hesitate to contact the team, who will be more than happy to help.

To find us we are based at

1170 Saint Marychurch Rd, Units 2-3 St Marychurch Court, Torquay, TQ1 4TY



## Community Information

### Year 4 & Year 5 Torquay Academy Open Days

Please contact Torquay Academy to arrange a visit on one of the proposed visits taking place over the coming weeks and into September. Pupils will have brought home a postcard this week with details, but feel free to contact the office if you missed this or contact TA direct to find out more.

## Family Support

Families in **Torbay** have access to a wide range of support services and resources. Here are some key options available in 2025:

### 1. Household Support Fund (Torbay Council)

- **Purpose:** Helps households in financial hardship with essentials like food, fuel, and water.
- **Support Includes:**
  - £100 grants (paused until September 2025 due to high demand)
  - Support for foodbanks and social supermarkets
  - Council Tax Support for eligible households
  - Crisis support including fuel vouchers and white goods

**Contact:** [Torbay Council Household Support](#) | Torbay Community Helpline: 01803 446022

### 2. Early Help – Torbay Family Hub

- **Services:**
  - Parenting advice and support
  - Youth homelessness prevention
  - Family Group Conferences (self-referral available)
  - Independent living skills courses
  - Mental health and wellbeing resources
  - Relationship and co-parenting support

**Access:** [Torbay Family Hub – Early Help](#)

### 3. Family Action Welfare Grants

- **Grants Available:** Up to £300 (or £600 for holidays for women)
- **Purpose:** To help with essential household and personal needs for families on low incomes or benefits.

**More Info:** [Torbay Communities – Welfare Grants](#)



I hope you have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to welcoming you  
back for a sun-filled sports themed week on Monday.

Best Wishes

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer

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# Diary Dates

W/C 16th June 2025	National Schools Sports Week
W/C 16th June 2025	Hazel Class Start Swimming
16th June 2025	09.30—12.00—KS1 Sports Day
16th June 2025	13.25—15.00—EYFS Sports Day
18th June 2025	National 'Thank a Teacher' Day
19th June 2025	09.30—12.00 KS2 Sports Day
26th June 2025	PTA Summer Disco
27th June 2025	Y6 Additional Transition Day @ Torquay Academy
30th June & 1st July 2025	Parents Evening @ Torquay Academy
4th July 2025	Year 6 Transition Day @ Torquay Academy
W/C 7th July 2025	Reports out to Parents this week
8th July 2025	Y4 Water Confidence
9th July 2025	Dress Down Day—Donations of a bottle for the PTA Tombola for the Summer Fair
10th July 2025	Y6 Rounders Competition
12th July 2025	11.00—14.00 PTA Summer Fair
15th July 2025	17.45—18.30 Y6 Production
16th July 2025	17.45—18.30 Y6 Production

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Beech	The star of the week in Beech is Skyla for coming into school ready to learn. While in school, she has impressed the teachers she has worked with by putting in her best effort in all the booklets we've completed. Well done!
Pine	We have been so impressed with Stanley this week. He has been sitting on the carpet and actively engaged in our lessons. He has listened and followed instructions too. Great job Stanley!
Oak	Nellie is our star of the week! She spent a long time drawing her mosque and it was beautiful. She has also been trying her absolute hardest with her phonics all week and it shows, keep up the hard work Nellie!
Apple	Joey is our star of the week for having such an amazing first couple of weeks in Apple Class. You have fitted in so well and it feels like you have always been here. A pleasure to have at St Margaret's - thank you.
Holly	Issa has been making good choices this week and hopefully he can continue this positivity going forward. In our learning he has really stood out for his active learning in our Romans topic by predicting and sharing thoughtful ideas. Well done Issa, keep it up
Willow	Keegan is the star of the week in Willow class.. He has demonstrated great active thinking this week by putting his hand up to answer questions and make contributions to class discussions. He has also been incredibly resilient trying his hardest with all of his learning even when he has found it tricky. Well done Keegan!
Cherry	Quinn is cherries star of the week. He has shown fantastic motivation towards all of his learning. He has been engaged in all class discussions and has tried his best even if he isn't always sure. Well done Quinn.
Hazel	Harriet is our Star in Hazel this week. Harriet has been incredibly aspirational in her writing learning, producing excellent, descriptive pieces of writing. She even challenged herself to include metaphors as well as personification! Well done, Harriet.
Birch	The star in Birch is Poppy. She has shown real motivation this week to produce an amazing piece of writing based on 'The Zoo'. She has really shown her understanding of the year 5 skills and worked extremely hard. Well Done!
Rowan	This week's star is the whole class! It is the last time I get to choose the star in Rowan and they have all been superstars this week which have made making a decision impossible. Keep being amazing Rowan class!
Maple	Jemima is our star this week for her excellent attitude towards our play rehearsals! Jemima has given everything a go, has learnt her lines and has read them really clearly on stage! Well done Jemima, keep it up!
Hawthorn	Lita is our star this week because she has made such a super effort in lessons, showing motivation to answer questions and to try her best to complete pieces of work to the best of her ability! Well Done Lita!

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RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION