



St Margaret's
Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Autumn Newsletter #14
20th December 2024

Dear Parents,

Whoosh! One third of the 24/25 academic year has whizzed by and we've all grown a little older. Thank you to those of you who provided us with feedback as to how we've been doing. It's very useful in helping ensure we continue to do the best job possible for your children in the new year. Remember that the first day back for the children is Tuesday 7th January 2025

Christmas News

It has been a festive past three weeks at St Margaret's with the children and staff enjoying all sorts of Christmas fun. We have had the beautiful KS2 carol service at St Mary's Church thanks to Father Nick. KS1 enjoyed a wonderful nativity show on the stage thanks to Babbacombe Theatre and Reception put on their little bit of Christmas show magic in the school hall yesterday.

Mrs Posey's [choir](#) performed in the precinct at St Marychurch and took their show on the road to Lorna House and our friends at Dunboyne Court. Have a look in the Music Blog to see some pictures and short videos. It was very magical and as always, the children's manners and high levels of respect were commented on by our friends from Dunboyne.

Children enjoyed their Christmas dinners with their Christmas jumpers. A big thanks to our amazing kitchen staff for putting on all this festive yumminess. Have a look in the [PSHE Blog](#) to see some of the cool photos from the Y5 and Y6 day.

Christmas Kindness

Our friends from Dunboyne Court had a collection and raised money for 4 of our families to have a special gift of vouchers for Farm Foods. They also joined us to judge the Christmas tree decoration competition.

Thank you to Tesco who sent in their staff to help with our Christmas dinners.

As always, a huge thank you to our spectacular PTA who accessed their contacts with the North Pole to get the big man himself to fly down to make a special appearance at the special PTA grotto. It was super kind of Mr Clause to come and give his time to St Margaret's at his busiest time of year. Thanks also to our amazing PTA for funding the special Christmas cinema treat.

Thank you to Rev Comps who donated vouchers for toys and food for some of our families.



Staying Happy and Safe over Christmas

While Christmas is a very special time of year, it can also come with challenges. Look on our website under 'Useful Resources for Parents' for some top tips to care for ourselves and our children.

For staying [safe and happy](#), there are ten top useful tips covering monitoring digital activity, fire safety, beware of allergies, prevent the spread of illness, set boundaries for gifts, stress and fatigue, safe travel plans, vigilance on the road, safe decorations and drink responsibly.



Free Christmas Holiday Activities

There are several free Christmas holiday activities available for families who are entitled to Free School Meals. Click on the link to find out more and how to book on: [Holiday Activity and Food Programme - Torbay Council](#)

Staffing News

Congratulations to Mrs Rice who will be a mum for the first time in April next year. Mrs Rice has told Oak Class today her lovely news that she is pregnant. For parents in Oak Class, we will update you closer to the time for the teaching arrangements for the summer term. Mrs Rice will still be with us in the spring term.

Congratulations to Mrs Moore who became a mum earlier this week when she gave birth to a little boy last Saturday. We all wish them happiness and lots of sleep.

Good luck and best wishes to Mrs Truscott who leaves us today for adventures new. She has been a fantastic support in helping children over the years and we wish her all the best.

On Monday and Tuesday this week, we interviewed three candidates to take over from me as the new Head Teacher in the summer term. In the [Student Council](#) Blog you can see how they got involved in this big decision. I will write with more news about the appointment early in January.



Hearing Support Centre News

You might have seen that St Margaret's featured on the BBC again this week as we continue our efforts to ensure we keep our Hearing Support Centre open and operational for all of our deaf and hearing-impaired children. It has been a part of the school since St Margaret's opened in 1964. Thanks to the determination of our PTA, it looks like there will be over 1000 signatures in the petition which will mean the council will have to debate the LA's decision to close our provision. There is a huge amount of work continuing behind the scenes so fingers crossed for a New Year's wish to come true.

Curriculum News

I hope you enjoyed yesterday's year group curriculum celebrations and had a chance to look at your child's work. As we did in the first half of term, the celebrations help give a real purpose to the learning and are the culmination of several weeks of creative learning in class. Earlier in the day, each year group had hosted a show of their work in the Woodland Studio for all the other year groups to visit. This time, it was a history theme and it was fantastic to see how much the children had learned and were able to use this new knowledge to educate others.

We had old-style toys made by Year 1. There was collage and writing about The Great Fire of London from Year 2. Year 3 had created all sorts of models and writing about the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. Year 4 showed their in-depth knowledge of all things Ancient Egyptian. Year 5 smashed out their learning of the Mayans with their masks, maize Gods and ancient quirky ball game. Year 6 showed us their fantastic puppet stories to tell us all about the Ancient Greeks. It was all great fun and super learning.

ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



Foundation Stage News

The latest edition of the [Foundation Stage](#) newsletter can now be found on the website. Find out all about their upcoming party morning, crafts afternoon and the big show. You can see the lovely books they have shared in school and how to best support at home with reading, handwriting and maths. Get your

Train to be a Teacher

Are you interested in becoming a teacher and training locally? If so, check out this link for more information: [Events - SWIFT Teacher Training](#)

Piano and Singing Lessons

If you are interested in your child having private lessons for piano or singing, check out the offer from Blossoms. More info on our Parent Resources page: click [here](#).

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>

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas break. The first day back for the children is Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE





Diary Dates

W/C 23rd December 2024	Christmas Holidays
7th January 2025	First day back for children
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