

St Margarets Academy

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



Dear Parents,

Today we finished this unusual and challenging academic year with a whole school assembly celebration. The children and families in isolation joined us too to hear about the success in each class.

It all seems so long ago now the start of this academic year when we arrived in September ready for 'normal' education bubble-style, following the first lockdown in the summer before. Our priority then was to help children reintegrate and introduce them to our new curriculum while keeping everybody safe. It was a really successful autumn term and we were all ready to take this further into the spring term when we were suddenly shunted back into another lockdown with 12 hours' notice. Teaching staff worked hard in this term to provide remote learning and learning in school simultaneously; quite an achievement and we were able to improve our remote offer with Mrs Turner leading this in FS and KS1, and Mr Marchant in KS2. Then on 8th March we were back once again to 'normal' education ready for a summer term of further catch up and gap closing, while keeping everybody safe.

Despite such a disruptive year, we saw your children make great progress from the start of the year to the end in their subject learning and in their wellbeing. (This has given us an excellent foundation to build on from September 2021.) We had the joint highest attendance in the Bay this year which showed us (along with the big morning smiles) that we have happy children here who still enjoyed coming to school despite all the challenges.

With a brilliant backroom group of staff, we managed to keep school functioning smoothly, and kept everybody safe and covid free for nearly the whole year until we sadly had to send home some children last week to isolate. Our cleaners have been fantastic throughout this year working to help keep us all safe.

If you would like to read more and see more about the 2020-2021 adventure, I recommend our *Curriculum in Action* page where you can find all the subject blogs from the year.

Have a look in our Eco Blog to see the amazing photos of the [summer fruit harvest](#) from the Shorts Farm Gardening Club last week. Check out the PSHE

Blog to see [Seren's big smile](#) when she was awarded a Blue Peter badge. You can also see how Year 4 enjoyed spending time in their [new classes with an ice cream](#) in the PSHE Blog. Thank you very much to Mrs Baker for making this happen.



More Important News

Good Bye and Good Luck to Mr Marchant

In our assembly today we said farewell to Mr Marchant who has secured a promotion to Deputy Head Teacher at Teignmouth Community Primary School. Mr Marchant has worked at St Margaret's as one of our Assistant Head Teachers since 2016. He has at various times led on writing, assessment and been leading KS2, supporting and developing colleagues and subject leaders in their roles. I'm sure many of you came into contact with him during the spring term when he led on improving our remote learning offer during the second lockdown. If your children have been lucky enough to be taught by him, you will know him as an excellent teacher who helped ensure each child achieved their full potential in their time in Year 6. We wish him all the very best!

Another Special Mention

Here is a special mention from Jake in Year 4. Jake came to see me today to ask if I could put a special mention in today's newsletter for his friend, Theo. I said yes and here we are, "let's do it", as Jake says:

"At the start of Summer Term 2, I had no one to play with and Theo stood up and made me laugh. Thank you."

Arrangements for September

We are currently planning for a full non-covid / non-bubble / non-staggered return in September. In case you can't remember that far back like most of us, here's the clarification:

- No one-way system, access to and from school by front and back gates
- Breakfast Club (in the Woodland Studio) 8.00-8.45 – bookings open 1.9.21
- 8.45am gates open, 8.55am lessons start
- 2.55pm gates open, school finishes at 3.05pm
- After School Club (in the Woodland Studio) until 5.15pm – bookings open 1.9.21

However, if the government changes its plans in August, we will revert to the current staggered bubble system. I will email confirmation either way at the beginning of September.

In the meantime, I wish you all a safe and restful summer break.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)