



ST MARGARETS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER # 8 3rd November 2023

What a windy and wet start to the first week back! Apologies if the school closure on Thursday caused you problems with child care and work. It was a very difficult decision but, in the end, we couldn't ignore the warnings from the Met Office, especially after the last storm when part of our roof was blown off and found on the other side of the school site. If we'd stayed open and somebody had been injured, I would never have forgiven myself. Hopefully Storm Ciaran is our only adverse weather we'll experience and we can get on with life as normal.

Halloween II – Disco Fever



PTA Annual General Meeting

It would be fantastic if you could spare some time to join the PTA for their AGM on Monday 6th November immediately after school in Year 5 Rowan Class, opposite the sloped gate. If you have a little one, we are running a creche in Year 5 Birch Class to help you out.

Celebrating Differences

Our Personal, Social, Health and Education theme for this half term is *Celebrating Differences*. We started the week with our assembly on this, thinking about the bigger picture of our home being *Planet Earth* and how celebrating differences can help us all to have better, more wholesome relationships. Hopefully we are doing our small bit at St Margaret's to help future generations reduce conflict and learn to live more happily together with our fellow humans.

Congratulations

Huge Congratulations to Miss Pilkiewicz who got married over the half term and is now Mrs Madej.

Mud, Puddles and Slides

Enjoy some more photos of [Year 1](#) enjoying a wet Forest School just before half term.



Let's Talk Primary

The South Devon Community team is hosting two sessions aimed at parents and carers of children aged 5-9 to hear about the challenges young people face in this ever-changing world and to hear about the tools and techniques you can use to support your children. The topics covered will be as follows:

Session 1 - Tuesday 14th November (click this [link](#) to sign up):

- Development
- Anxiety Landscape
- Family life
- Ever changing risks and world
- The online world

Session 2 - Tuesday 21st November (click this [link](#) to sign up):

- Relationships
- Gender stereotypes
- Positive body image
- Mental health

School Review

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we welcomed three school leaders (a previous Head Teacher and inspector, a serving Head Teacher and a current Deputy Head Teacher) who joined us to review the education we provide for your children. It was a really valuable visit, helping us identify and celebrate our practice as well as helping us look at what and how we can improve further. We particularly looked in detail at our provision for writing and the learning behaviours of the children. While we always know we will have things to improve, it is also nice to get the recognition for the work we do. The reviewers saw that this is a great school with a great offer provided for your children. Onwards and upwards.

Train to be a teacher- Locally

Would you like to train to be a teacher? Or do you know someone who would like to? If so, read on. We are partnering with SWIFT (South West Institute for Teaching) Teacher Training to help train the next generation of teachers. St Margaret's is part of SWIFT Teacher Training's Torbay Campus. This means you can train close to home and St Margaret's can be one of your placement schools. SWIFT Teacher Training courses have been designed by expert teachers from across the area and backed by the University of Nottingham. Adults will be able to train close to home to help work around other commitments like childcare. To find out more please visit www.swiftteachertraining.org.uk or email Nicky or Abby via info@swiftteachertraining.org.uk. You can also read more detail on [our website](#) under 'Useful Resources for Parents'.

Vacancy for a Trustee

We currently have a vacancy for a new trustee. If you, or somebody you know, might be interested in helping with the governance of the school, please do let me know. It's a great opportunity as a parent (or grandparent) to help shape the direction of the school, take a look behind the scenes, get into classes and to see your child in action. We have a great group of trustees who would welcome you in. You don't need a background in education; in fact, it is useful to have a range of skills and backgrounds. If you are interested, we can start with an informal chat for you to find out more, and just take it from there.

Help with Rising Costs

- **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>

Happy November!



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Stars of the Week

Beech	Maddison has been a true superstar this week. She has tried her hardest and got stuck in with everything. Her writing has been wonderful, she is the most amazing tidier upper and the best pumpkin scooper ever! Well done Maddison a fantastic week in Beech!
Pine	Rory for his super ARTWORK this week. Well done Rory, you worked so hard.
Oak	Yasmin has shone this week, showing all of the school values. She has welcomed others into our class with kindness, used her manners when speaking to others and tried her best in all of the learning tasks. Super effort this week Yasmin, well done!
Apple	Archie is our star this week. He could quite easily achieve this award every week as he consistently shows our school values, especially kindness. Archie is always willing to help others in a supportive and responsible way. Thank you Archie!
Holly	Lydia is the star of the week in Holly class. She's impressed everyone with her clear, concise speaking to the whole class during her show and tell this week. She's also produced some excellent writing about our Stone Age boy story with lovely ideas. Bravo, Lydia!
Willow	Lexi is the star of the week in Willow class. She is an aspirational learner especially in her maths lessons. She works with focus and determination to complete tasks set and is always keen for the next challenge. Well done Lexi.
Cherry	Mariella is Cherry class star of the week for brilliant art work this week and also for always showing our school value - responsibility!
Hazel	Ella is our star of the week in Hazel for your fantastic, aspirational writing. You impressed the whole class when you wrote your own 'Chocoplot' story. Well done!
Birch	Birch's star this week goes to Finley W. Finley has shown great resilience and aspiration this week and we are very proud of him. This has been particularly noticeable in his Maths learning where he has aimed to work independently all week! We are very proud of you, Finley. Keep up the good work!
Rowan	Elyce is this week's star due to her aspirational attitude towards all areas of her learning. She's put her hand up so many times, especially in maths where the amount of effort she has put in has been outstanding. Keep up the amazing work Elyce!
Maple	Joe is our star of the week for his aspirational attitude. Joe has amazed us all this week with his resilience in maths. We have been trying to tackle long division in Year 6 and, while Joe has not found it easy, he has not once given up. What an amazing role model! Well done Joe!
Hawthorn	Darcey is our Star of the Week, for the terrific effort she has been putting into her maths work and in particular, her writing. We have been really pleased to see her regularly contributing her ideas during our writing lessons. Well done, Darcey!



DATE	EVENT
6 th November	PTA AGM after school Y5 Rowan class
9 th November	PTA Halloween Disco
13 th November	Parents evening week
14 th November	Year 3 Kents Cavern Trip
17 th November	Children In Need
20 th November	Individual Photos
29 th November	Dunboyne Court Writing competition deadline
1 st December	KS1 Christmas Nativity
4 th December	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Dinner
5 th December	Year 3 & 4 Christmas Dinner
6 th December	Reception Christmas Dinner
6 th December	PTA Cinema Trip Y2-Y6
7 th December	Year 1 & 2 Christmas Dinner
7 th December	Rocksteady performance
8 th December	Special Visitor in school (PTA event)
8 th December	PTA after school sale of hot chocolate and cookies

poster design
by Bella
and Sofia

Dunboyne Writing Homework!

faithful friend
is a
rainy shelter
he who finds one



As I walk through the autumnal
leaves, I'm greeted with the fresh
smell of crushed flowers. Their
bright colors glisten in the sunlight.
Crunching leaves supports some
animals in the day or the trees
will soon be bare.

The more I walk, the more I see
leaves against my face as I walk
along the freshly groomed path.
Finally, the refreshing air breaks on
my tongue, filling me with
happiness.

hand in by 29th
November 2023

Let your imagination
go wild!

- A speech
- Calligraphy
- Descriptive writing



by entering, earn a paint for your house!



The Fox and the Grapes

One afternoon a fox was walking through the forest and spotted a bunch of grapes hanging from over a high branch. "Just the thing for me!" said the fox. "I'll get them!"

Trying a few steps back, the fox jumped and just missed. He tried again and again, but he could not reach the grapes.

Finally, giving up, the fox turned and said, "They're probably not anyway" and proceeded to walk away.

MEANING: IT'S EASIER TO DENY WHAT YOU CAN'T HAVE.

A short story,
illustrated - so
many different genre types

Dunboyne Writing Homework Competition

Wednesday 29th November 2023

A comic strip