

St Margaret's Academy

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

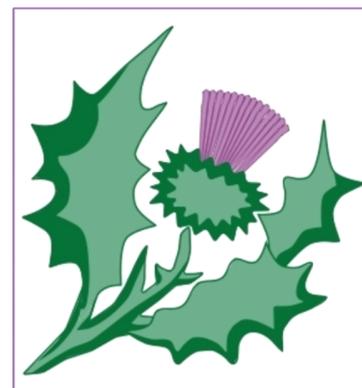
Dear Parents,

I hope you and your children have all settled back into the summer term, back-to-school routines.

We are getting back into the swing of normal education in school and teachers are working hard to address the gaps caused by lockdown. All those children who have fallen behind are having additional actions planned for them in class and / or take part in catch-up interventions. Our analysis of your children's progress is showing we are turning the tide and heading in the right direction back to where standards were before the first lockdown. Do have a look at the curriculum information on the website to see what's going on in your child's class. I highly recommend having a look at your year group's Collectables. As always, please do feel free to contact your child's teacher if you would like to know more. If your child is in Year 6 it looks like they will be offered summer school by their secondary school – either 1 week full time or 2 weeks part-time. So, keep an eye out for this.

I have been working with other Heads this week, looking at the impact of the pandemic across the Bay. As a group of Torquay Heads we are working together on a collaborative project to support those who are in most danger of being excluded. I attended a briefing from the Local Authority who shared information about new initiatives and funding coming to the Bay to support the most deprived and the younger children in particular who have been the most affected by the lockdowns. We are all facing similar challenges so the collaboration is especially helpful.

As you know, we are a Single Academy Trust (SAT) i.e. a one school academy, funded direct from the DfE rather than being part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) that has multiple schools in the same group or a school maintained by the Local Authority. We are a fairly rare breed SATs. This week I was involved in a start-up project to link SATs across the south west. As a SAT we often have different priorities to other schools so this is an exciting project that will help with sharing good practice and more bespoke support for each other.



From Monday we will be using our new Medical Tracker system within school. Every child's medical record will be accessible to staff online and parents will receive instant email notifications of any incidents recorded. Please keep a look out for these as we will be phasing out the "first aid slips"

Should your child be diagnosed with a new condition or a new medication please ensure the school is informed so we can keep our systems up to date.

Please remember if your child has an injury in which they have to come to school with a medical aid (such as a cast, crutches, sling etc.) to inform the office so we are able to carry out a risk assessment where necessary.

Orchard request from Mr. Thomas



We hope to make more use of the Orchard Greenhouse this summer, so would welcome any donations of your surplus plants such as tomatoes, cucumbers or peppers. Also, we have plenty of strawberry and raspberry plants but we lack any blackcurrants or blueberries which would make a nice addition. Hopefully we will get bumper crops later. Thank you.



Pandemic Update

Good news. There were only 9 cases on Friday 23.4.21 in the whole of Torbay. Rates of infection in Torbay are 6.6 / 100,000 which is half that of the south west and a quarter of the national figure. In April there have only been 2 cases in children aged 4-11, compared to 57 back in January. There is currently nobody in Torbay Hospital with Covid-19 and zero deaths in the last 2 weeks. There has been a strong take up of the vaccine with 97% of over 50s and 27% of under 50s currently done. All the campsites and caravan parks in Torbay are fully booked for the summer season and while hotels are not currently, it is expected they soon will be. This is great news for the local economy.

With the gradual easing of restrictions and the expected increase in people coming to Torbay, Public Health are asking me to strike a note of caution and request your support. They believe the above figures are likely to be the best it gets and need everybody to play a part in safety going forward. The council has employed lots of covid marshals for the summer period and is asking for everybody to please do Lateral Flow Device tests twice weekly at home to help track if any new variants arrive. You can collect these free from any pharmacy. In case of any new variants, surge testing is ready and in place to go just in case.

Summer Weather Approaching

Please remember to send your child in with sun cream, a hat and plenty of water to drink as we turn closer to the sun with every passing day.



Enjoy the long weekend and I look forward to seeing you for another week's adventure starting next Tuesday.

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Whole School Attendance

97.6%

This week's
class attendance star goes

to
Beech Class with

99.3%

Well done!



Mr Hughes lost 3-0 in an intense game of Jacks this lunchtime! Bragging rights go to Leighton!





Beech	Evelyn - for being such a kind, friendly, patient and considerate member of the class. You are a role model for not just our class but the whole school!
Pine	Riley and Hayden - for their immense effort and resilience when working together to enhance our class cafe with a microwave.
Oak	Jasmin- for having a fantastic attitude to all areas of her learning and for always showing respect and kindness to others. We love your enthusiasm in the classroom Jasmin! Well done.
Apple	Gabriella for showing responsibility and aspiration in her learning by completing some excellent shape work in COOL time.
Birch	Sofia - For adjusting back into school life fantastically well after lockdown and for your hard work and 100% effort in everything you do!
Rowan	Isaac - for having his best week yet! Fantastic listening, superb effort in all subjects and being a joy to teach!
Cherry	Maisie for her wonderful attitude towards her learning. She has an aspirational attitude and always tries her best. Maisie also recognises when she might need some support with her work and is confident about seeking out this help. You are a fabulous learner Maisie.
Hazel	Joshua who has really impressed this week for his fantastic effort with handwriting and presentation, well done. Hazel's handwriting hero!
Willow	Harry H - for his super progress since our return to school, especially in maths and also for consistently working hard and listening well - a true star!!!!
Holly	Jesse has been fantastic this term and shown such a positive attitude. He has worked really hard and consistently demonstrated every one of our core values. Well done - you should be very proud of yourself Jesse.
Maple	Leo - for his fantastic writing this week and increasing participation in class discussion. He also consistently shows all of the school values. Well done!
Hawthorn	Ben- for a fantastic effort this week particularly in his writing and maths! Well done!