

St Margaret's Academy

Dear Parents,

I would like to start by saying a big thank you to our amazing staff, in all departments. It has been a super busy week and they have all gone above and beyond for your children.

We started on Monday with an assembly to mark [Anti-bullying Week](#) on the theme of 'Reach Out'. Then across the week, children took part in various activities in class. Look in the PSHE Blog to see poems, stories and decorated odd socks.

Monday's assembly was a double whammy because this week is National Parliament Week. We reminded the children about our wonderful British Values: *democracy, rule of law, liberty, respect and tolerance*. Over the week, children in KS2 took an active part in democracy using class ballot boxes to vote on the timings for lunchtimes. Today, we finished the week with a visit by the local MP, Kevin Foster who spoke about his role in parliament and fielded questions from the children that they had developed in class discussions.

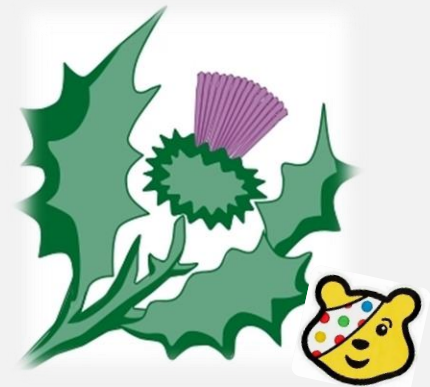
Parents Evenings and Questionnaires

I hope you found this week's parents evenings useful. Along with the book looks this week and before half term, I hope you've been able to get a good understanding of how well your child is doing.

Thank you for those of you who have so far returned your questionnaires. They are really helpful feedback and are overwhelmingly very positive so far. If you haven't had a chance to return it yet, you can do so via the office or your class teacher up until Friday 25th November.

Trustee Visit and Maths Exploration

On Thursday this week, some of our trustees joined senior leaders and our Maths Leaders (Mrs Rice and Miss Lynds) for a day to explore Maths learning across the school. We visited lessons, chatted to teaching staff and children, and looked in books to see what's working well and where we need to go next. Thank you to our trustees for their time and expertise as always.



Children in Need

Thank you for your donations today for Children in Need. We will let you know how much we have raised next week.



This week's Attendance Star goes to HOLLY CLASS with 98.7% Well Done!



The PTA have organised some fantastic treats for the children see page 2 for more information

Curriculum News

On Wednesday we were delighted to welcome our friends from Dunboyne Court to judge and celebrate the entries for this term's homework competition which was based on Computing. Have a look in the [Computing Blog](#) so see how they got on and read Phil Smith's lovely comments about our pupils. A super big thanks to everyone who got involved.

In the History Blog you can see another lovely inter-generational story when the Year 1 grandparents came into school this week to share their [childhood toys](#). This helped support children's understanding of chronology. You can also see how Year 3 Rowan got on with a [Stone Age artefact enquiry](#). Enjoy.

Have a look in the [Eco Blog](#) to see some photos from the parent and child gardening hour that took place on Friday 4th November. Thanks to those who were able to help.

In the Sports Blog you can see how some of our Year 5 and 6 got on at the ['A' Games](#) Alternative Sports, held at Cuthbert Mayne with other schools; the children loved it. Read and see photos from workshops for [gifted sports](#) people that took place at Cuthbert Mayne this week. Well done to the Y5/6 boys footballers who beat Barton 5-1 in a league match last Friday. See their [celebration photo](#) in the Sports Blog. You can also read how the [girls' lionesses](#) got on when they competed in the Bay this week.

PTA Christmas Excitement

You might have seen on the PTA Facebook page their plans to provide a range of free Christmas fun activities for the children. You can now also see these [advertised on the PTA page](#) on our school website under 'Parents'. There's such a lot for the children to look forwards to: disco, cinema trip for Y2-6, film in school for Reception and Year 1, colouring competition and a visit from the elves. See the key dates section below for all the dates and timings which are also on the website calendar. Many thanks to our wonderful team of PTA members.

If your child has an allergy and is in Y2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and is going to the cinema, please be reassured that the popcorn is vegan based and is suitable for all.

Help for Getting a Good Sleep

Have a look on our website under 'Parents' – 'Useful Resources for Parents' to find out how to help your child or you [get a good night's sleep](#). Well worth a look with sleep being the principle factor in determining our overall health.



On Monday we will be showing England's opening game in the World Cup in the school hall for any children and adults who want to watch. Other children will be able to enjoy a more relaxed afternoon in the class. Please note though that school uniform must still be worn as it is school photo day.



PTA Cake Sale Monday 21st November after school. £1 each cash or card. Stalls will be outside the Year 3 classrooms and outside Foundation Stage.



School Photos Monday 21st November. Please ensure all children are in full uniform.

Workshop

Children and Young People's Autism Strategy

Bringing professionals and parent carers together to

- review the latest draft strategy
- share experiences of services - what's working and what's not
- discuss priorities and improvements
- identify any gaps in service
- how to fill them

Free to attend
Booking essential

Thursday 24th November 2022
10:00 am - 2:00 pm (lunch provided)
The Acorn Centre, Torquay, TQ2 8ET
To book: <https://www.familyvoicetorbay.org/event>

One Devon Parent Carer Forum
Devon

Help with Rising Costs – Reminders

- 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>

Have a lovely weekend

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Beech	Millie - for super maths work this week and also trying really hard with your handwriting. Well done Millie and keep it up!
Pine	Zane- For being an all-round superstar, he is so creative and follows all of our school values. Well done Zane!
Oak	Olivia- for always showing the school values and treating others with respect and kindness. She has also impressed us with her fantastic writing about The Great Fire of London this week. Super effort- well done Olivia!
Apple	Jazzy is our star this week as she consistently shows all the school values and is a delight to have in our team. It has also been commented on by another adult that she is being so responsible in her extra maths booster lessons after school - well done Jazzy!
Birch	Evelyn for having such a fantastic work ethic and trying so hard in all you do. You are an amazing role model for others in our class to aspire to. Well done!
Rowan	Farah for her amazing effort and aspirational attitude during our Stone Age Boy writing. She willingly shared her vocabulary choices and sentence ideas with the rest of the class. Super star learner.
Cherry	Gabriella is our star of the week for the amazing effort she puts into all her learning. She listens well, makes wonderful contributions in class and is aspirational when completing learning tasks. Well done Gabriella you are a star!
Hazel	Bethany - For always putting 100% effort into everything you do. You are aspirational in every subject and a role model to all of your peers. We are very lucky to have you in Hazel class!
Willow	Willow's star this week is Toby. Toby is always showing aspiration and trying his hardest, but this week in particular Miss Davies and I have noticed just how hard he is working with his Maths. Toby actively seeks out challenges and always puts in 100% effort. He also has been known to help the other children! We are so impressed, Toby. Keep it up!
Holly	Ava is our star this week as she has shown aspiration in so many ways. Her attitude has been fantastic, always doing her best especially in writing. She has been adventurous with her vocabulary choices and has shown such maturity in the classroom - keep up the great work!
Maple	Holly is our star of the week for showing such aspiration in maths and I have loved watching her confidence grow since starting in Year 6. Holly always presents her work to such a high standard and will show her working out clearly. Keep it up Holly!
Hawthorn	Maya is our star of the week for consistently demonstrating all of our school values. She always behaves responsibly, does her best in her learning, is polite and treats everyone with kindness. What a fabulous role model you are, Maya! Well done!



Diary Dates

21 st November	School Photos (individual and sibling)
21 st November	PTA World Cup Football Cake Sale
5 th December	Foundation Stage Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day (Only packed lunch option available to all other year groups)
5 th December	PTA design a Christmas tree competition (in school activity)
6 th December	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day (Only packed lunch option available to all other year groups)
6 th December	PTA Elves visiting the school
6 th December	PTA fully funded Christmas Disco
7 th December	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day (Only packed lunch option available to all other year groups)
7 th December	PTA fully funded Cinema trip Years 2,3,4,5 & 6 Recp & Year 1 Film in the school hall
8 th December	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day (Only packed lunch option available to all other year groups)
8 th December	KS1 Nativity at Babbacombe theatre
9 th December	Rudolf Charity Run for Rowcroft
13 th December	KS2 Carol Concert venue to be confirmed
17 th December - 3rd January 2023	Christmas Holidays
4 th January 2023	Pupils return to school