

St Margaret's Academy

HANDS-FACE--SPACE-- FRESH AIR -ACT AS IF YOU'VE GOT IT

Dear Parents,

I hope you found parents evenings useful this week. Certainly the feedback I've had from teachers across the school has been very positive. It sounds like your children are happy and making good progress, which is the picture we see in school. I've done several new parent tours recently, including one today in the fresh air round the school site, and it's always lovely to be able to stand back a bit and see the engagement and enjoyment of the children.

Reading for Pleasure

We continue to work on this exciting project with the Open University. We have two main strands that we are prioritising this year. One is to improve staff's knowledge of children's authors and the other is to develop a social reading environment. I've been expanding my knowledge this week, reading *Little Glow* by Katie Sahota and Harry Woodgate to Year 2, and *Wolf Brother* by Michelle Paver to some of our Year 5 boys. Maybe you could try at home to find some more books you might not know. For example, if you like reading David Walliams to your children, why not try some that are similar but by a different author:

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/branching-out-david-walliams>

Curriculum in Action

Have a look in the [Sports Blog](#) to see how St Margaret's got on in our first inter-school sporting competition in over 20 months! A special well done to Year 6 for their excellent sporting attitudes and behaviour which were noted by others.



Whole School Attendance

This week's class attendance star goes to

BIRCH CLASS

97.9%

Well done!



Thank you to everybody for your contributions to Children in Need last Friday. We raised £265 in total.

In the [Eco Blog](#) you can find a fabulous mosaic created by the WWF-UK from all the climate promises sent in by schools, including St Margaret's, to COP-26.

In the [Science Blog](#) you can see Year 1 Pine Class exploring different materials. In the [PSHE Blog](#) you can see a lovely example of our kindness calendars that children created as part of Anti-bullying Week. Thank you to Sophia in Year 4.

Covid/Illness Update

Unfortunately it has been a week of illness in school, for children and staff which has put quiet a strain on our staffing cover. We have had a few cases of Covid in the older children only and some staff; nothing serious so far thankfully. There are no cases in children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. There is only 1 case in Year 3, two in Year 4, two in Year 5 and two in Year 6. Although most of these cases are approaching the end of their isolation period, we do expect to see a slight increase in cases on Monday, hopefully followed by a decline.

Most illness however has been non-covid. Bugs are circulating as they tend to do at this time of year anyway, maybe made worse by us not being used to mixing so much until recently. We are taking extra precautions in school just in case. Staff are wearing masks in communal areas, we are limiting visitors, limiting mixing of staff and pupils and we have enhanced further our cleaning and hygiene. **On the advice of Public Health we would like to ask that all parents/carers wear a face covering when onsite, while we have positive cases in the school. We hope by doing this that we will avoid the need to return to staggered start/end times and one way systems.**

Please also read the 'warn & inform' letter (sent separately) for further information to support you.

I'm sure you are aware of the high case rates in our local area which are impacting on schools across the Bay but I thought I'd share a little good news I came across for our area. The high case levels are not translating into a significant increase in coronavirus-related hospitalisations, or deaths. People developing the virus may tend to feel unwell, but are not requiring the medical attention that was once required, and they're getting better. The BBC has also reported that Devon has a better than national testing rate.

Stay safe and 'act as if you've got it' - a useful mantra to help us all.

STAY SAFE ONLINE

Just a reminder that you can find useful help in our 'Online Safety Information for Parents (Nov 2021)' under 'Information for Parents' – 'E-safety', [quick link here](#). All the below features are included in this one document but can also be found individually:

Sharing Information, Pictures and Videos – found in the newsletter, dated 12.11.21

Watching Videos – found in the newsletter, dated 5.11.21

Chatting, Being Kind and Making Friends Online - found in the newsletter, dated 22.10.21

On-line Gaming – found in the newsletter, dated 15.10.21

Winterfest in St Marychurch

On Saturday 4th December, there is a Christmas festival being held in the precinct in St Marychurch from 12.00-4.00pm with a special visitor arriving from the North Pole at 2.30pm and the Christmas lights turning on at 4.00pm

Super Helpful Good Parenting Website

Check out this really useful website: <https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/>

Keep reading and stay safe



Tim Hughes (Head Teacher)



Beech	Clayton has worked so hard with his letter formation over the last few weeks. He has now moved on to using his busy time to practice his numbers AND number sentences. What a star!
Pine	Shahriyar is a really kind member of the class, if someone is hurt or upset he is always the first one to ask if they are ok. Shahriyar is helpful and a great friend to everyone.
Oak	Joshua- for being aspirational in both writing and maths over the past couple of weeks. He has put great effort into explaining his calculations and he has also made a conscious effort to use the skills and vocabulary taught in his own writing. Well done Joshua!
Apple	Harry - for trying hard with his work both in school and at home and for being a whizz with technology as our digital leader and helping ensure the chromebooks are logged on and being accessed by anyone who wants to use them in busy time
Birch	Genevieve - for trying hard all week to show all of our core values. Your sitting, listening and looking has been fantastic and we are so proud of you! Keep it up!
Rowan	Paige is our star of the week for always showing kindness to other children and adults. Paige works so well when we do partner work and always wants to help others around her. Keep it up Paige!
Cherry	Emilia has been a real example of how to learn and behave in school. She has shown all the values in everything she has done. Well done!
Hazel	
Willow	Noah is our star this week for his incredible resilience and aspiration shown with his writing this week. Keep it up, Noah!
Holly	Isla is a super friend and a hard-working pupil. She tried her best in every subject and she's a fantastic artist too. She really impressed us with her work in History about the journey of an evacuee in WW2
Maple	Natalia - for always showing the school values and being an excellent role model. Natalia has shown kindness this week, working with different partners and has shown aspiration in her writing this week. Well done and keep up the hard work Natalia!
Hawthorn	Corey - I have noticed that you are trying so hard with your learning this week, you have improved your pace and are completing more tasks showing great resilience!

