

# ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

## Autumn Newsletter #10

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this newsletter finds you well as we conclude the end of week 11 of the autumn term. As is common at this time of year, we have seen an increase in seasonal illnesses and a few cases of head lice. To help reduce the spread, we kindly ask for your support in encouraging the following:

- Frequent handwashing to maintain good hygiene
- **Wearing coats** during colder weather to keep warm and healthy.
- **Keeping hair tied back** to help prevent the spread of head lice.

If your child becomes unwell and visits a GP, and it is confirmed that they have a contagious illness, please inform the school. This will allow us to raise awareness and take appropriate steps to protect others. In such cases, we also ask that your child remains at home for the recommended period to recover and prevent further transmission.



Thank you for your cooperation and continued support in keeping our school community healthy

# **Clothing and Lost Property**

The weather is certainly changing, so please ensure your child/ren comes to school with a coat, hat and gloves. If you are missing any jumpers or cardigans please be aware that we will be making all lost property available for looking through on Thursday and Friday this week before and after school pick up. Any named items have been sorted through and returned back to class. In addition, please note that we have a wealth of donated uniform items, and if you require



anything, please feel free to contact the office and we can arrange for a bag to be made available for collection from the PTA donated store.

Please also take this as an opportunity to drop off any pre-loved coats that are clean and in good condition that we can up-cycle to other families as a 'help yourself', to help keep the costs down during this time of year. Please drop off any items to the school office and we will make these available to those interested.

#### Children in Need—Thank You!

A huge thank you to everyone for supporting Children in Need today on Friday 14th November, as a school we raised a grand total of £250.00.





## **Living Our School Values in Action!**

Across St Margaret's Academy, pupils are showing Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, and Aspirations in everything they do - and feeling proud of their achievements along the way!



Recently, Lexi S, Lexi U, and Mila in Year 5 represented the school at the Torbay Olympic Gymnastics competition, earning an impressive collection of medals and commendations for their fantastic performances in the floor, trampette, and beam routines.

In Year 6, Fletcher achieved silver overall and team gold for his outstanding rings routine- what an incredible accomplishment!

Our pupils' talents don't stop there:

- Olivia R (Year 4) is busy rehearsing for the upcoming Cinderella Panto, which opens on Tuesday, 2nd December, and has also been given the amazing opportunity to perform on stage at His Majesty's Theatre in London this January.
  - William (Year 6) has been rehearsing with G4, showcasing his musical talent at an exceptional level.

A huge thank you to all families for supporting and sharing these wonderful achievements. We are so proud of every pupil for living out our school values and striving for excellence!

#### **Forest School Fun**

The past two weeks our Reception Classes had lots of forestry fun exploring the field and outside areas. They also helped Pudsey find his spots which he had hidden within the hedgerows and mud! Don't forget to bring your wellies and waterproofs in if you haven't done so already as this week we definitely had some champion puddle jumpers. We are looking forward to more muddy filled adventures next week



### **Bringing History to Life in Year 2!**

To make our Great Fire of London learning truly memorable, Year 2 headed to the Orchard for a hands-on experience. The children created their own tinder pots and bundles of sticks -just like Thomas Farriner might have used to light his bakery fire in 1666!

This activity was a fantastic way to develop fine motor skills and perseverance as everyone worked hard to tie their bundles together. It was also a wonderful opportunity for teamwork and outdoor learning. The atmosphere was full of excitement, and we all had so much fun bringing history to life!













RESILIENCE

#### Safety Online—Gaming

This week on ITV news information was shared about some concerning content exposed on the gaming platform Roblox. We understand that Roblox are taking action by introducing age verification checks that will be coming into action in the coming months, but we wish to raise this concern with you, so that you can help support at home. I have included a link to the <a href="ITV news video">ITV news video</a> that you may wish to view, but please note that you may find some of the content distressing.

# **Message from Schools NHS**

As you will have heard, there have been flu outbreaks in schools around the county and flu is predicted to be particularly virulent this year. I am hoping you can help us by letting parents know that **Kernow Health will be running clinics at various locations across Devon from mid-December, by appointment only.** Is this something you could put in your newsletter perhaps, along with our **contact details 01392 342678 or email kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net for further information.** I am attaching our poster which I hope you will find helpful either for your newsletter/website or to send direct to parents.

We're hoping we can significantly increase uptake in Devon and therefore reduce the likelihood of further flu outbreaks, especially around Christmas.

Thank you again for all of your help and support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the team on 01392 342678







## **Family Infobytes**

The EP and training academy teams have created some parent 'infobyte' materials to support SLCN needs at home. The Locality Pilot have shared the following resources with schools to share with families:

Through our Locality Pilot project families asked us for some tools and resources to help them at home. Please find below a link to our NEW "SLCN Infobites" – resources specially designed to support families at home with speech, language and communication needs.

# **Thank You for Supporting Our October Wellbeing Survey**

A huge thank you to the 48 pupils who completed the October wellbeing survey and to the families who supported them. This survey was an important opportunity for us to understand:

- How our pupils are feeling
- The strategies they use to support their wellbeing
- Any areas they may find challenging

The feedback is incredibly valuable and has helped us focus on key areas for improvement. We have identified three priority areas that scored lowest and will be working on these straight away. Discussions have already begun with staff, pupils, and Trustees to include these in our action plan:

- 1. Feeling positive about coming to school
- 2. Knowing who to talk to if worried or upset

Feeling safe whilst at school

As the survey had a limited number of responses, when we repeat this in April, we will ensure every child has the opportunity to complete it in school so we can achieve a 100% feedback rate. To see the presentation of results that we shared with the pupils in assembly please click on **the link** which will take you to our website. Together, we can make a difference.

As we approach the final four weeks of the autumn term, please keep an eye out for important dates and details about upcoming events that I am sure you will love to be involved in. Your continued support means so much to us, and we want to remind you that our door is always open should you have any questions or need assistance. We truly appreciate your polite and positive interactions—they make a big difference.

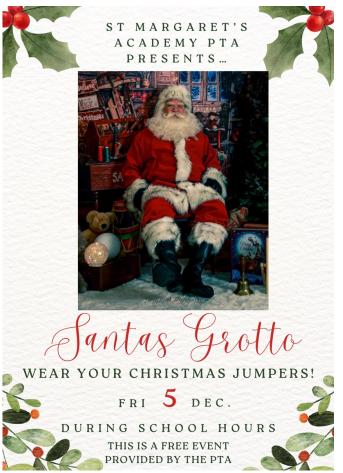
Have a wonderful week ahead, and keep warm!

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer Headteacher

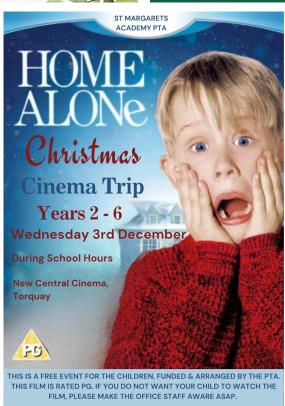


# **Seasonal Events—Courtesy of Our Fabulous PTA**

Please check out the poster below for all the exciting upcoming events that our amazing PTA has planned as we prepare for the season of joy, love, laughter, and Christmas! If any parents are available to support with walking to and from the cinema on Wednesday 3rd December, please can you let the school office know as we are just in the process of finalising details and risk assessments for the visit.







# Diary Dates

24th November 2025	Pupil Progress Meetings
	Y6 Maple Swim Session
26th November—28th November 2025	Pupil Progress Meetings
28th November 2025	Y3 Trip to Kent's Cavern
1st December 2025	Y6 Maple Swim Session
1st December—2nd December 2025	Pupil Progress Meetings
3rd December 2025	Year2—Year 6 PTA Cinema Trip
5th December 2025	PTA Santa's Grotto
8th December 2025	Y5 Birch Swim Session
	Y4 Trip to Torquay Museum
	Reception, Y1 & Y2 Christmas Dinner Day
9th December 2025	Y3 & Y4 Christmas Dinner Day
10th December 2025	Y5 & Y6 Christmas Dinner Day
11th December 2025	14.00—15.30 KS1 Christmas Nativity Play
	15.15—16.15 Y3/4 Football Vs Sherwell Valley (Away)
15th December 2025	Y5 Birch Swim Session (Cancelled)
	13.30—14.30 KS2 Carol Service at Church
19th December 2025	End of Term
20th December 2025— 5th January 2026	Last Day of Holiday
Tuesday 6th January 2026	First Day Back for Children

ACTIVE THINKING RESILIENCE



Ash	Louie Waller	For being a phonics superstar.
Elm	Maeve	For fantastic drawing club ideas and always being ready to learn.
Beech	Wyatt	Wyatt is our Star of the Week for showing great respect to all adults, listening carefully, and working very hard in his learning.
Pine	Rory	Rory is Pine's star of the week as he has been so aspirational in all of his learning this week. He has had his hand up endlessly during carpet input time and his written work and mathematical problem solving has inspired us all! Well done Rory!
Apple	Victor	In Apple, we are so impressed with how responsible Victor has been this week. He has made a great start with learning his lines for the Nativity, he listens well in class, taking responsibility for his learning and he reacts to others in appropriate ways on the playground. Well done Victor!
Oak	Elsie	Elsie is our Star as she is such a kind, thoughtful and helpful member of Oak class. She is always motivated to do her best in the lessons and this was also reflected in the assessment she completed recently. You are a super star Elsiewell done!
Willow	Ella-Mai	Willow's star of the week is Ella-Mai. She has impressed us so much with her aspiration in her assessments and always shows kindness and respect in the class-room. We are so proud of you, keep it up!
Holly	James	James is our star of the week in Holly! He has been trying really hard in his maths to crack down on his 3 times tables. He has been using the resources around the classroom to help him. Keep up the hard work James!
Cherry	Corey	For your kindness this week - You finished your pottery piece and then stayed in during your break time to help the other children with their work. Thank you for being such a great friend and role model
Hazel	Olivia R	Olivia has had a brilliant week. She has worked so hard on her Maths this week and has even been helping her friends! We are so proud of the responsibility and kindness you have shown. Well done, lovely girl!
Rowan	Emma	Emma is the star of the week in Rowan class. She has demonstrated great determination this week with her work on understanding fractions in maths. Emma works hard in all of the tasks given to her. and is a responsible learner. Well done Emma.
Birch	Jack P	Jack is our Star of the Week for his fantastic change in attitude. He has been listening well, making great choices during lessons, and engaging brilliantly in class discussions. Well done, Jack—keep it up!
Hawthorn	Evelyn	Evelyn we have been super impressed with your aspiration this week - you have demonstrated that you have been listening to all of the mastery key teaching and you have written some cleverly constructed sentences in your writing. Keep it up!
Maple	Jack	Jack is our star of the week. He has been very focussed in his learning this week - especially impressing us in History. Well done Jack, keep it up!