

# St Margarets Academy

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

Dear Parents,

## PTA

At the AGM on Monday this week, the standing PTA Committee stepped down from their roles and handed over the baton to a new team. Many thanks once again to Ella Brennan and her team for all the events and fund-raising organised over the last few years.

Laura Kenyon is the new Chairperson, Adele Ross-Hamilton is the new Vice-chair, Felicity Morris is the new Secretary and Marcus Mee is the new Treasurer. You can find out more about the new committee's plans and read a [welcome message](#) from each of the members on the PTA page of the school website which is also attached as part of this email. Sam Newman, one of our wonderful school administrators has also volunteered to help with communication between the PTA and school so if you want to get in touch with anybody and aren't sure how, just see Sam.

I met with the new committee this week. I shared our school improvement plans and we discussed how the PTA and school can work together over the coming year. An aspect of this is our work on reading which we discussed how the PTA might support. The committee is interested to know if there are any Osborne reps in our parent body and if so, please could you get in touch with Laura or Sam in the office.

The first meeting with the new committee is this coming Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> October. **All parents are welcome and it would be lovely to see as many as possible there** to help spread the load – more hands make light work etc. etc. I know parents will be welcome to sign up for as little or as much as they can manage and any help, however small is always valued. If you are worried about child care, I can offer you a free place in the After School Club for the duration of the meeting. The meeting will be held in Y3 Rowan classroom which is opposite the sloped gate entrance.

## Curriculum News

This is a just a reminder to keep an eye on the Curriculum Information section of the school website, where you'll find all the information to help support you at home and keep you in the loop with what's happening. Do have a look at the *Collectables* which provide you and your children with the expectations for what they will learn in different subjects. They are fun and engaging to read too. Year 2 have just posted a new one for [addition and subtraction](#).



## Upcoming Events

### October 18

Harvest Festival

PTA meeting -all welcome

### November 17

Flu Vaccinations- more information to follow

### November 25

Individual school photographs



**This week's  
class attendance star  
goes to  
Hawthorn Class  
With 99%  
Well Done!**

Have a look in the [Science Blog](#) to see how Apple Class got on this week making bug hotels in the orchard as part of their learning about animals.

If you have a child in Year 1 or Year 2, you can read lots about the style of learning that takes place in their classrooms by looking in the '[Continuous Provision in KS1 Blog](#)' found under 'Curriculum in Action'.

Our *Reading for Pleasure* project with the Open University is starting to gain traction across the school. Two of our new trustees visited the school on Wednesday and were able to see some of the children enjoying this in Year 4 Hazel Class. Have a look in the [Reading Blog](#) to see more.

Have a look in the Eco Blog to see how Mrs Baker's Shorts Farm crew got on last week [making bird boxes](#) and this week how they've decorated the orchard, [Halloween style](#). Super thanks to Mrs Baker. Look in the [Forest School Blog](#) to find out how Year 4 got on identifying trees and making shelters last week.

After half term, we will be participating in UK Parliament Week. The School Council has invited in Torbay's MP, Kevin Foster to talk about his job to children in KS2, and take questions from them. It might be a good opportunity for you to talk about this at home before he comes in. It will help us educate the children about one of our British Values, Democracy. One of Year 6 pupils is also representing St Margaret's on the national scale by participating in a UK student council during this week. We really look forward to finding out more about this.

## More Important News

### Staying Safe On-line

At our recent Parent Voice meeting we discussed on-line safety and how school can best help you to help your child safety navigate the on-line world. We are exploring a possible information evening but in the meantime, there will be a weekly feature on this newsletter; the first of which is about online gaming. More information and links to some of the topics I'll be sharing can also be found on the 'Curriculum Information' page under '[Staying Safe Online](#)'. Don't forget that there is also a live feed on the home page of our website.

### Online Gaming – Safety information for Parents

Online games are social activities, and most have features that allow children to chat with others whilst they play. For information about the positives of gaming, the risks of in-game chat and measures you can take to help protect them, watch this short video: [In-game chat: a guide for parents and carers](#)

The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) rating system can be a useful tool to help you decide what online games are appropriate for your child. For more information on the PEGI system and other factors to consider before deciding what's suitable, read [Gaming: what's appropriate for your child](#)



## In the Community



### Free Tickets for Torquay United v Kings Lynn Town 23.10.21

Torbay Council and Sport Torbay want to invite members of the Torbay Community to attend Torquay United FC's home game against Kings Lynn on Saturday 23rd October 2021, 15:00 Kick off as part of their 'Community Celebration Day'. There is a limited number of tickets available and in order to reach as many families as possible they can only issue one adult ticket with up to two accompanying children tickets per family. Tickets will be allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis. They apologise in advance if this causes any inconvenience.

If your family is in receipt of benefit related free school meals, all you need to do to get your free ticket is email [joanneh@torquayunited.com](mailto:joanneh@torquayunited.com) directly with the name of your school and the names of the people wanting the tickets. For example – Our Lady of the Angels – Parker Family – Kirsty (adult), Riley (child), Willow (Child). Torquay United will need to have your names before 4pm on Tuesday 19th October.

The tickets will then be emailed to your family – tickets will be an e-ticket which will need to be printed and shown at the turnstiles on entrance into the ground. You will all watch the Game from the Wollen's Stand – which is being opened up for the day for the entire Torbay Community.

Gaming is popular with both children and adults and can help to cure that lockdown boredom! If your child is gaming, you may have some questions about how to keep them safer. If so, check out - [gaming: what parents need to know](#).

For a guide on the apps, sites and games your child might enjoy, visit: [Net Aware](#).

## Speech, Language and Communication

The pandemic has had a significant effect on children's language and we are seeing many more referrals and cases. Because of this we have increased our provision for catch-up interventions for children across the school but especially for those in Reception and Year 1. Another part of our provision this year is a programme called the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) which we are accessing as part of an initiative funded by the Department for Education in response to Covid-19. The programme is designed for Reception pupils and involves providing targeted small groups and one-to-one support for children who would benefit from additional support with their language and early literacy skills. If you have a child in our Foundation Stage, you should have now received a letter providing you with more information.



## Are you a parent new to the school?

As some of our new parents missed school tours because of the pandemic, I have had a request to hold a tour for current parents of children in Reception. I've scheduled Monday 15.11.21 at 9.30am. If you would like to book a place, please contact the office.

## Harvest

Final reminder that we are holding a Harvest Festival for children on Monday morning with the Reverend Nathan and his Jump team from Cuthbert Mayne. **We welcome any donations of non-perishable food items to mark the occasion and for us to give back to those most in need in our community. Please send these in on Monday morning with your child.**

## Looking for affordable and fun half term activities?

The Windmill Centre in Hele is showing 3 different films over the half term break, each with a home-cooked meal for just £2. Parents go free. For more information pop into the community centre, phone 01803 314876 and take a look on our website under 'Wellbeing for Families' – 'Supporting Families'. Quick link [here](#).

## Wellies

If you would like your children to access the Orchard at lunchtimes and playtimes, please do send them in with a pair of wellies, very clearly named. Thank you.

Wishing you a fantastic weekend,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Hughes'.

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



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|----------|--|
| Beech    | Micah - for wonderful engagement in all of our lessons. You are listening so well and it shows in your learning. Well done for being such an ASPIRATIONAL member of our class.   |
| Pine     | Henry- for being such a polite, kind and respectful member of the class. He always tries his best and did some great writing today. Well done Henry!   |
| Oak      | Oliver- for being a role model for the school values and also for being a fantastic learner. He always tries his best and I have been impressed with his effort and dedication to his practice on Numbots. Well done Oliver!   |
| Apple    | Rocco has been an absolute superstar this week in his maths learning! His confidence has really shone through and has produced some amazing number bonds work, well done Rocco you really deserve this.  |
| Birch    | Ryan - for amazing progress in times tables, being our handwriting hero and for sitting, looking and listening so well. You are a great role model for everyone in our class!  |
| Rowan    | Our star of the week this week is Noah! He has taken so much responsibility for his learning this week and shown aspiration when writing his final story in English. His handwriting has also come along beautifully - Mrs Rice could not believe the improvement! Well done Noah!   |
| Cherry   | Amy for taking responsibility for her learning in maths this week. You have worked with enthusiasm and determination to complete tasks. Well done.   |
| Hazel    | Jake - For being extremely responsible for many things in and out of the classroom, you are a fantastic digital leader, water bottle monitor, book collector, classroom tidier as well as a hard worker and kind carer for your friends!   |
| Willow   | Our Star of the week this week is Olly! Olly has made a considered and noticeable effort to show the four core values this week. He has been a kind friend, he has challenged himself with his learning, he has shown respect to all of his peers and has enjoyed taking on responsibilities to help around the class. Well done Olly! |
| Holly    | Kye - We have been so impressed with the amount of effort and care that he has put into his work this week. His maths work is laid out beautifully and has been used as a good example for the rest of the class. This is true of his final write too. Keep up the good work!  |
| Maple    | Darcy - it has been an absolute delight to see her confidence grow over the course of this term. She has shown the school value of aspiration in maths recently as she is so happy to take on a challenge in this subject. Well done, we're so impressed!  |
| Hawthorn | Ethan - for always demonstrating every one of our school values, particularly respect and responsibility. His attitude to learning is fantastic and he always gives his very best. Well done for being such a wonderful role model, Ethan. We are very proud of you!   |