



St Margaret's
Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Autumn Newsletter #9
15th November 2024

Dear Parents,

It has been an especially eventful week in school with lots of excitement and buzz.

School Review

Each year, as part of the regular cycle of school improvement, we have an external review of the school. This is to ensure we continue to deliver the best quality education possible and to help us identify some next steps to take us further forward. We had this review on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week with a team of senior leaders from other schools, led by a lead Ofsted inspector.

It was a very positive three days. The learning behaviours and attitudes of children came out as a real strength. Reviewers were impressed with the high levels of respectful behaviour children show to others. Children spoke articulately about how happy they are to come to St Margaret's, how they enjoy their lessons and how they enjoy the extra opportunities we provide. Reviewers were especially impressed with the curriculum we provide for your children and commented on the strengths of the provision across the school, starting with excellent practice in Foundation Stage. They recognised the high level of staffing we are able to provide and how well we deploy staff to meet the needs of children. Our next steps are around how we further challenge some of the more able and how we best develop the collaboration between staff to further improve teaching. It was a very rewarding three days and as always, it reminds me that St Margaret's is a very special school.

Thank you to all the staff who, as always, go above and beyond for your children.

Remembrance Day

On Monday we marked Remembrance Day with 2 minutes of silent reflection on the playground at 11.00am. We also discussed and reflected further in the afternoon's assembly. Our [student councillors](#) also visited the cenotaph in St Marychurch to join the service and lay a wreath. Look in our SMSC Blog to see some photos and read more about the student councillors.

You can also see a [Year 4 Hazel Class's](#) beautiful piece of Poppy art in the SMSC Blog.

Start Small, Dream Big

As part of our school improvement this year, Mrs Westwood and Mrs Wall are leading us on this "start small, dream big" project, to help children raise their aspirations and get thinking about possible careers for the future. This week, we were joined by a female police officer who came into school to share her work. It was a thoroughly engaging event for the children. Have a look on our [PSHE Blog](#) to see some of the photos.

ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



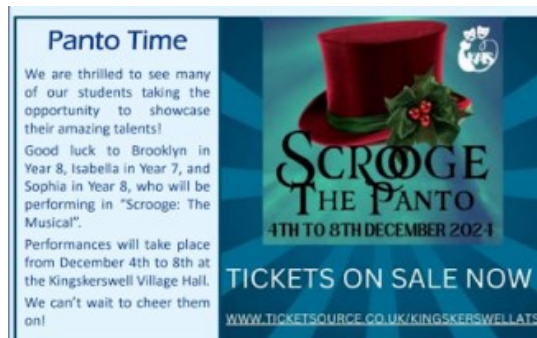
MOTIVATION



Scrooge the Panto

One of pupils – Olivia, in Year 3 – is taking part in Scrooge the Panto in December. If you'd like to cheer her on and enjoy a good panto (it's hard to beat a bit of festive Ebenezer), tickets are very reasonably priced at £10. Performances are taking place at Kingskerswell Village Hall from 4th to 8th December.

www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingskerswellats



Curriculum News

In our Creative Learning Blog you can see the beginning of [Year 3s'](#) Stone Age and Iron Age house constructions.

In the History Blog there is a lovely piece of writing from [Year 2](#) explaining how The Great Fire of London started. Then in the DT Blog you can see how [Year 2](#) enjoyed making bread, 1666 style.

Help with being a Parent

If you're looking for some help with this top job, Barnardo's offer a four-week online course ([Barnardos - Family Hub](#)) that covers the following four sessions:

- Teenage life
- Grooming line and myths & misunderstandings
- Digital dangers
- Parenting styles and nine ways to improve parent-teen relationships

Torbay also has this very useful website with lots of resources: [Early Help - Family Hub](#)

If you're looking for cycle safety tips, click [here](#).

Our Amazon Book Wish List

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref=wl_share

Torbay and South Devon
Music Centre 

Presents

Jazz

Workshop

Friday 29th November

4.30-7pm

**Torquay Boys Grammar School,
Skiphay Manor Drive, Torquay, TQ2 7EL**

For Students aged 8-18yrs

Explore and learn how to play Jazz.

Any instrument and level of player welcome.

Free to members £5 non members

 TORBAY AND SOUTH DEVON
MUSIC CENTRE  07862922739

Help with Rising Costs — Reminders

- Riviera Life Church Food and Baby Bank – [link here](#). We can make a referral for you or phone 07486 402493
- **Household Support Fund** – if you are on a welfare benefit / tax credit or have a disposable income of less than £50 per week: [Household Support Fund - Torbay Council](#)
- Do you need help with child care? If so, try this website: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>
- Help for households – very useful government website: <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>
- 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)



Diary Dates

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| W/C 18th November 2024 | Parents Evening Week |
| 20th November 2024 | Individual and Sibling Photos |
| W/C 25th November 2024 | Book Fair After School in the hall |
| 6th December 2024 | PTA Santa Visit |
| 9th December 2024 | Reception Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day |
| 10th December 2024 | Y1/2 Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day |
| 11th December 2024 | Y3/4 Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day |
| 12th December 2024 | Y5/6 Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day |
| 13th December 2024 | KS1 Nativity at Babbacombe Theatre (Doors open at 14.00) |
| 18th December 2024 | 13.15—13.45 School Choir performing at St Marychurch Precinct |
| 20th December 2024 | Book look for parents after school—Open Class |
| 20th December 2024 | Curriculum Event for Parents (During day—Times TBC) |
| W/C 23rd December 2024 | Christmas Holidays |
| 7th January 2025 | First day back for children |
| W/C 17th February 2025 | Half Term |
| 24th February 2025 | First day back for children |
| W/C 7th April 2025 | Easter Holidays |
| 22nd April 2025 | First day back for children |
| 5th May 2025 | Bank Holiday |
| W/C 26th May 2025 | Half Term |



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| Beech | Mabel is the star in Beech this week! She shows such good motivation- always listening carefully on the carpet. We have started our first TWS unit and Mabel just gets on with her writing so independently and has really challenged herself. Well done Mabel! |
| Pine | Florence is my star of the week. She is incredibly motivated and has really shone this week. Super writing in ITC with Mrs Chivers too! |
| Oak | Ivy is our star as she has impressed us with her fantastic attitude to learning and her resilience to always do her best. Her writing today was amazing and she is always one of the first to offer to help her friends. You are a star Ivy, well done! |
| Apple | Oliver Green has been outstanding this week in every way. His listening, learning, respect and concentration has been amazing! He has shown so much motivation to do the right thing all week. |
| Holly | Bethany is showing so much motivation in all of her learning, it is great to watch her push herself to the next level. She thinks carefully about her targets and applies them to the best of her ability. Keep this wonderful learning attitude up Bethany, you are a super role model for Holly class. |
| Willow | Kitty is the star of the week for showing such wonderful resilience with her learning. She has worked hard in maths lessons to practise our newly introduced column methods for addition and subtraction. Well done Kitty. |
| Cherry | The star of the week in Cherry Class is always highly motivated and well organised. She is an active thinker and contributes well to class discussions. This is clear in all her work. Well done Lexi! |
| Hazel | The star this week is for someone who shows real motivation in all their learning. She has really been enjoying the Egypt topic in History and has produced some amazing homework about it. Well done Eva! |
| Birch | This week's star is Hughie! Hughie has shown such amazing resilience this week. He has worked extremely hard in all lessons (particularly Writing) and been a super role model to his peers. All of the adults in Birch class are so proud of you. Well done! |
| Rowan | This week's star is Riley. He has shown incredible resilience and motivation in his learning recently, being eager to seek adult advice in order to improve his writing and working so hard to understand fractions in maths as well. Well done for being such a superstar! |
| Maple | Ava could be star of the week every week! Not only is she an amazing role model for all of the learning behaviours, she is always so kind and caring. She is such a great friend to those around her and is incredibly helpful in the classroom. Keep on being you Ava! |
| Hawthorn | Amelia has shown amazing motivation this week and also our school value of kindness to help others. We have been particularly impressed with her efforts in writing, using all of her previous learning to plan her final write. |

ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION