

St Margaret's Academy

In our assembly this week we introduced the new composer of the month, Igor Stravinsky, enjoying a short performance of his "Dumbarton Oaks". Key Stage 2 went on to hear a presentation about *bikeability*.

Curriculum News

Well-done to the girls' football team with a hard won draw this week to stay on track for league success. See the [Sports Blog](#) for Mrs Scaife's full report.

I hope you've enjoyed the book fair this week, and the accompanying cakes from the PTA. The children have been taking part in different book activities over the week. For example, see the [Reading Blog](#) to find out how Birch Class got on when they visited Fables bookshop in St Marychurch.

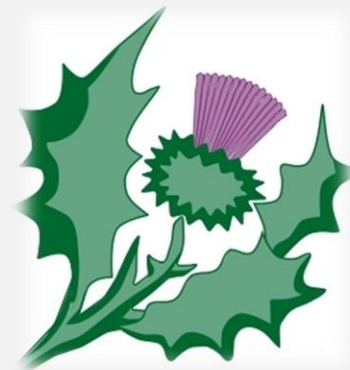
Teaching staff have been working hard to provide more opportunities for children to write for pleasure recently – in fitting with how much the children enjoy the reading for pleasure work we did with the Open University. In the [Writing Blog](#) you can see how Year 2 have been enjoying mashing up traditional tales e.g., with the gingerbread man coming to the rescue of Rapunzel.

Local Collaboration

This week, I have been working with some local Head Teachers sharing our work around school improvement. Teachers also worked with their colleagues from the same local schools, sharing examples of children's writing to ensure our assessments are accurate and to share good practice in writing. It has all been invaluable and helps ensure we are providing the best education we can for your children.

Safeguarding Alert for Discord and Roblox

It has come to our attention that unscrupulous people are using the game, Roblox, to extort money from children using emotional blackmail and threatening messages. This has happened to one of our pupils. Please look out for unusual money requests from your



Parent's Evening

Parents evening for years 1-6 will be held w/c Monday 20th March. The booking system on eschools will open on Sunday 12th March at 4pm and will close on Sunday 19th March at 4pm.

Should you have any problems please contact the office



The class with the highest attendance this week goes to

**Oak CLASS
98 %
WELL DONE**

children and frequent password change requests. Especially look out for any requests originating from Albania.

Much of the communication with the blackmailers took place using the social media app, *Discord*. This is an app, rated age-appropriate for ages 13+. The NSPCC report users receiving abuse and harassment on this app. Full and useful details about this app can be found on the NSPCC website, [direct link here](#).

On our website you can find full information about social media and online gaming to help you keep your children safe when on line. This is in the 'Parents' tab under 'Useful Resources for Parents', [quick link here](#). General good practice is to keep checking your children's devices and keep talking to them about their online activity, and please remind your children to never share their passwords.

Help with Rising Costs – Reminders

- 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>

Enjoy your weekend.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Diary Dates

15 th March 2023	KS1 Trip to the Zoo
17 th March 2023	PTA Mini First Aid Reception and Year 3 Children
20 th - 24 th March 2023	Year 1-6 Parents Evening
24 th March 2023	PTA Non-Uniform Day - Donation of a chocolate egg
28 th March 2023	PTA Easter Bingo after school
29 th March-31 st March 2023	Year 6 residential to Skern Lodge
3 rd April- 14 th April 2023	Easter Break
17 th April 2023	Start of the Summer Term



Beech	Philip is our star of the week this week for working so hard on his writing and phonics. You are writing so many more letters the right way round and even told me that you were doing Fred in your Head - we love seeing how proud you are of your achievements
Pine	Archie J is our star this week. He tries SO hard all the time and always has his hand up for every single question we ask. So aspirational. Well done Archie!
Oak	Anu is our star as he always puts 100% effort into everything that he does. He is an excellent learner because he listens well, always joins in and he takes the time to practice his learning (both in school and at home). Anu is also incredibly kind and respectful, meaning he is a very valued member of Oak class. You are a super star Anu- well done!
Apple	Our star this week could be nominated every week! He is a happy, kind, aspirational learner and ALWAYS tries his best. In rare moments where he finds something tricky, he never gives up and will listen carefully to any support. Well done Jack, you are a super Apple.
Birch	Lola for being a delight to teach! You always work hard and show all of our school values. Well done for being so kind, respectful and always handing your homework in on time
Rowan	Jacob is a deserving Star of the week this week for his outstanding contribution during all lessons and his excellent understanding of fractions. He has gone above and beyond - inspired by our work last half term in Geography and RE and has independently sought further information about the things that he has learnt about (NASA satellites is just one example) He is a fantastic asset to Rowan class. Keep it up - you superstar
Cherry	Alfie T is the star of the week in Cherry class. He has shown such a positive attitude towards his learning this half term. He is contributing ideas in lessons and producing more work during independent tasks. Well done Alfie you are showing a more aspirational attitude towards your learning
Hazel	Isla is our star of the week for showing one of our core values - Kindness. You have encouraged and supported your peers and week and have been a role model to all. Well done!
Willow	Cole is Willow's star this week. Cole has really impressed myself and Miss Davies with his excellent aspiration in Maths. Cole has been super focused and engaged with his learning and it has really paid off! He is making really good progress - keep it up, Cole! We are so proud of you.
Holly	Isaac is this week's star for showing such aspiration in his learning. His hand is always up sharing ideas and he has worked so hard on his maths recently. Well done Isaac and keep up the amazing work.
Maple	Ellie is our star of the week for her overall outstanding attitude towards school and her learning. Ellie is always polite and helpful and uses excellent manners. She is an absolute pleasure to teach. Well done Ellie!
Hawthorn	Hawthorn's Star of the Week is Reuben. He has been putting terrific effort into developing a positive attitude towards his work when he finds it difficult, and has worked very hard to show respect towards others. We are really proud of your perseverance and your growing responsibility Reuben. Well done and keep it up!