



## ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter #1  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Welcome back everyone. It has been a super first week back. Lovely to see children and staff all feeling refreshed and ready for the term ahead. We started the short week with an assembly based on this half term's theme of *Dreams and Goals*. We looked specifically at how we can each be resilient when trying to achieve something. Have a watch of this short video that shows this so well: [Yoann Bourgeois Captivates Audience with Powerful Performance About Life \( Original Video \) \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoannBourgeoisCaptivatesAudienceWithPowerfulPerformanceAboutLifeOriginalVideo)

### Super Talented Children

Two of our Year 6 children have just passed their British Sign Language Level 1. The assessor said they are the youngest people she has ever tested to pass! What an achievement. Massive well done to Anton and Myo. Have a look on our web under 'About the School' in 'Hearing Support Centre' *Latest News* to read more and see two great photos. Wow!



### Super Talented Staff

Big congratulations to Emma Hollis who has successfully completed the Healing Together Programme training to support children affected by Domestic Abuse and Violence. As such, St Margaret's is an accredited facilitator to help our children and families. Thank you Emma



### Our Amazon Book Wish List

We are always looking to extend our range of texts in the library. If you would like to gift a book to the school please follow the link to our Amazon Book Wish List. Thank you so much.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref=wl_share)

### Writing News

Look in the Writing Blog to see how [Year 2](#) enjoyed making bird feeders this week to help launch their writing work.



## Parent Tours

Throughout the autumn term I ran tours for prospective new parents. This term I am running tours for current parents. This is a great way for you to get a better insight into what's going on in school. I have scheduled the first one for Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 9.30am. We'll visit all the classes and it should last about an hour. If it proves popular I'll run more. Please let the office staff know if you would like to sign up.

## Train to be a Teacher - Locally

Would you like to train to be a teacher and do so locally? Or do you know someone who would like to? To find out more please visit [www.swiftteachertraining.org.uk](http://www.swiftteachertraining.org.uk) or email Nicky or Abby via [info@swiftteachertraining.org.uk](mailto:info@swiftteachertraining.org.uk). You can also read more detail on [our website](#) under 'Useful Resources for Parents'.

## Help with Rising Costs – Reminders

- **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>

Enjoy your Weekend



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Beech	Arlo has returned to school with a fantastic attitude and a big smile. All the adults have noticed what a great week you have had - we are very proud of you! Keep it up!
Pine	Libby for being such an inspiration to others with her love of reading and writing. She is always playing 'the teacher' in busy time and can often be found with her head in a book. Well done Libby!
Oak	Ollie S is our star this week as he has returned to school and continued to show the school values in all aspects of his learning. He has joined in well with all lessons and helped others in the class. Super learning Ollie, well done!
Apple	Our star this week has made such amazing progress over recent weeks, in particular making good choices and listening more. Because of this, his learning is progressing really well. Keep it up Elijah and well done!
Holly	Our star of the week is Violet. We've discovered that she is the queen of similes! She inspired wonderful writing in the whole class when writing our character description of the grandma from George's Marvellous Medicine. Bravo, Violet!
Willow	Issy is the star of the week in Willow class. She has had a super first week back. She has demonstrated great responsibility for her learning by completing all tasks and has been respectful to both the adults and children in school. Well done Issy.
Cherry	All of Cherry class are my stars of the week this week. They have coped well with the change of teachers, and have been trying hard with their learning since coming back to school. Well done Cherry class!
Hazel	Our star this week is Cristiana for returning to school with a big smile. Also she has worked hard on her maths learning this week and has adapted well to change.
Birch	Molly is the star in Birch class for her excellent resilience and perseverance in her Maths learning. Molly also has really impressed me with her language choices in her Writing, too! A double whammy! Well done, Mol. Keep up the good work!
Rowan	Our star of the week is Roni! She has shown such perseverance when learning a new method in Maths, she has worked so hard in order to understand it and has never given up. Well done, we are so proud of you!
Maple	Our star of the week is Myo! This week, we have been blown away by Myo's contributions to the class discussions, particularly in Writing where he has been able to explain some fantastic technical vocabulary linked to Wallace and Gromit's Cracking Contraptions! Excellent work, Myo! :)
Hawthorn	Cole has really impressed the adults in Hawthorn with the positive attitude he has been showing in class. He is listening well, joining in enthusiastically in lessons and really trying his best with his work. Well done for such fantastic aspiration - keep it up, Cole!



# Diary Dates

Date	Event
10th January 2024	Dunboyne Writing Competition (revised date from autumn postponement)
11th January 2024	Year 1 Parent Meeting/ Open Class 3.15pm
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Y2 Maths Workshop for Parents 9.05 Woodland Den
16th January 2024	Year 4 Climbing/Bushcraft @ Parkfield/Whitehill
17 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Y2 Maths Workshop for Parents 3.15 Apple Class
23rd January 2024	Year 4 Climbing/Bushcraft @ Parkfield/Whitehill
29th January 2024	Year 5 Space Dome
6th February 2024	Parent Tour 9.30-10.30 (Please contact the office to book a space)
<b>W/C 12th February 2024</b>	<b>February Half Term</b>
5th March 2024	Year 5 Climbing and Orienteering @ Parkfield/Whitehill
12th March 2024	Year 5 Climbing and Orienteering @ Parkfield/Whitehill
21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Rock Steady Performance to Parents (time TBC)
26th March-28th March 2024	Year 6 Skern Lodge
29 <sup>th</sup> March – 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Easter Holidays