



ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter #5

2nd February 2024

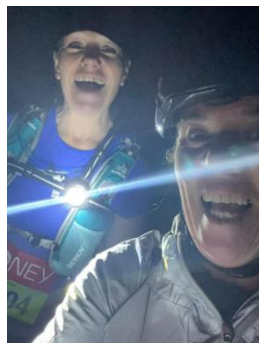
As a staff group, and with pupils, we are always reflecting on the educational provision we provide for your children. At the core of everything we do is our recognition of the importance of relationships. We are social creatures and these interactions with those around us, at school and at home, are the foundations and making of us as people. As part of our staff training recently, we have been reflecting on the excellent insights provided by Bruce Perry. Highly recommended as a very useful watch as a parent too. Here's the [link](#).



This all ties into our school values, predominant amongst them, my favourite: kindness; so much needed in our disconnected world. Here's our super hero, *Kind Kevin*.

Marathon Legends Blackburn & Cosh for *Children with Cancer UK*

This year Sue Blackburn and Hilary Cosh will be running the marathon in London in April. This will be Sue's 11th marathon and Hilary's first. They are undertaking this incredible feat to raise money for *Children with Cancer UK* which has a vision for a world in which every child survives cancer: [The Charity Fighting Childhood Cancer | Children with Cancer UK](#)



We are making next Thursday 8th February a non-uniform day when we welcome any donations, however small, which we will add to Sue and Hilary's fund-raising pot. They are aiming for £1500 and at the time of writing are already at £315. If you would like to make any donations direct to their fundraising page, you can do so [here](#).

Orchard Legend Bakers for Fruit Trees

A massive thank you to Kim Baker who has been over to B&Q with her powers of persuasion to get some fantastic donations of new fruit trees, seeds and compost to help replace our apple tree that was uprooted in recent storms. Amazing.



Curriculum News

In the Science Blog you can see some of the photos from [Year 5's](#) trip to space on Monday this week when they visited the space dome. In the Sports Blog you can read about the [Lionesses'](#) winning ways when they topped the league earlier this week.

Safer Internet Day Tuesday 6th February

Next week we will be having a special focus on online safety to tie into Tuesday's *Safer Internet Day*. You can help at home by having conversations with your children and finding out for yourself more about their online lives and reflecting on their use of technology. For example, we are noticing an increase in older children's use of social media with some hiding behind this virtual world to be more unpleasant to others than they might actually be in real life. With younger children we are noticing each year how fewer and fewer children can hold pencils and scissors. One of our worries is that technology is reducing interactions with real people, unfortunately creating more of a disconnected and distant world where fall outs are less easily resolved. Here are some links that might help get your conversations started:

- You can find [tips for help with social media](#) and gaming on our website under 'Parents' – 'Useful Resources for Parents'.
- There is [digital safety advice](#) for children from the age of 6 to 18 on a website created for young people by Devon and Cornwall Police.
- The UK Safer Internet Centre has a host of [questions and answers for parents](#).

If your child finds some of these chats a bit awkward, try sitting side by side, rather than face on (see the Bruce Perry video above for more info about that). As a dad I remember having most of our *Birds and Bees chats* when we were out and about in the car. Side by side is so much more easy-going and neutral.

World Book Day – 7th March

This year for World Book Day, on Thursday 7th March, we will be celebrating all the books we love. Please come into school dressed as a character from one of your favourite books and even bring in the book too. In class, we will be discussing all the books we love and even have opportunities to share our recommendations with our friends!

Riviera Life Church Food and Baby Bank

If you are really struggling with some of the basic necessities for life, the Riviera Life Church is really good place to look. Come and see us in school and we can make a referral for you, or you can contact them direct on 07486 402493 or look on the web: [Riviera Life Church, food and baby bank. - Family Hub \(torbayfamilyhub.org.uk\)](#)

Recent Reminders

- Healthy snacks: [Healthier snacks - Food facts - Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Pile in the Tesco Blue Tokens at Tesco: Barton Torquay, Torquay Fleet Street, Torquay Express (garage on Teignmouth Road), Paignton Victoria, Paignton Torquay Road, Torquay Lymington Road, Brixham Express and Torquay Babbacombe Road
- Dunboyne Diversity Competition deadline is 6th March
- Use our Library after school next week: Wednesday for Y1, Thursday for Y2
- Our Amazon Book Wish List: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref=wl_share
- Places still available for the parent tour next week on Tuesday 6th Feb at 9.30am

Train to be a Teacher - Locally

For further details on the SWIFT Initial Teacher Training, look on our [website](#) under 'Parents' and / or the provider site: <https://www.swiftteachertraining.org.uk/>

Happy February!!!



Tim Hughes
(Headteacher)




Diary Dates

Date	Event
6th February 2024	Parent Tour 9.30-10.30 (Please contact the office to book a space)
7 th February 2024	Year 5 Space sharing Morning 9-9.45am
8th February 2024	Non-Uniform day- Donations for Children with Cancer UK
8th February 2024	PTA Valentines Disco
W/C 12th February 2024	February Half Term
5th March 2024	Year 5 Climbing and Orienteering @ Parkfield/Whitehill
7th March 2024	World Book Day – Dress as your favourite character and bring in a favourite book
12th March 2024	Year 5 Climbing and Orienteering @ Parkfield/Whitehill
15 th March 2024	Red Nose Day – (Wear something red) Any donations gratefully received
21 st March 2024	Rock Steady Performance
26th March-28th March 2024	Year 6 Skern Lodge
26th March 2024	Non-uniform day - Easter egg donation
26th March 2024	PTA Easter Bingo
29th March – 14th April 2024	Easter Holidays



Beech	Cassidy is our star this week, she has worked really hard with her Maths, showing real aspiration! Cassidy is also a delight to have in Beech class, she is always friendly and kind and has a beaming smile for everyone. Well done Cassidy!
Pine	Finlay is our star this week. He has had such a super week and we are increasingly impressed with his effort towards his writing. Well done Finlay!
Oak	Ollie C is our star this week as he has amazed us with his sewing skills. He tried his best and didn't give up when making his egg cosy. Ollie C also always shows the school values and he is a kind friend to others. Well done Ollie C!
Apple	Harley has been a superstar recently. He always tries his best and is a delight to have in our team. He is very informative as well and likes to share his amazing animal facts with us. Well done Harley!
Holly	Jude is our star of the week in Holly. He's shown real aspiration in his learning in all areas - and we're particularly proud of his effort on TT Rock Stars every week. He's also responsible and consistently kind to others. We're lucky to have you in Holly, Jude. Thank you.
Willow	Roxanne is our star for showing amazing aspiration this term. The presentation of her work is beautiful and she is developing a beautiful handwriting style. She is also working so hard to understand our written method for division and multiplication. Well done Roxanne.
Cherry	Oliver is our star of the week this week. Oliver knows that learning at home is really important, and he is aspirational with his homework each week. He recently wrote a wonderful story called 'The Diary of a Grumpy Dog' inspired by the book we have been reading called 'The Diary of a Killer Cat' and Oliver's grumpy pet dog! Well done Oliver!
Hazel	Hazel's star of the week this week is Darcy! Darcy has shone this week, showing fantastic aspiration with her learning, particularly in Maths. Darcy is a kind and responsible member of the class who can always be relied upon to do her best, setting a great example for others. Well done Darcy, we are all very proud of you!
Birch	Ava is our star of the week this week. It is no surprise to anyone that Ava gets this for her kindness and respect. Ava is such a good friend to all people in the class, she will always offer to help anyone in need and she shows great respect to all of her peers. Well done Ava, keep being amazing!
Rowan	Our star of the week has shown such aspiration in his learning recently. He has tried so hard in his maths learning recently, keeping such a positive attitude and never giving up! We are so proud of you Alfie T - well done.
Maple	Ava is someone who could be star of the week every week because of her responsible attitude! This week, Ava's conscientiousness has shone through in every task she has completed in class and also in social situations with her friends. Keep it up Ava!
Hawthorn	Eryn is Hawthorn's Star of the Week for representing St. Margaret's so well this week in both the girls' football match and at the British Dodgeball Schools Championships. She was encouraging of her teammates, respectful and worked so hard to give her best performance. You are a great role model of sportsmanship Eryn - well done!