

St Margarets Academy

15th December 2023



Festive Fun

On Monday, we enjoyed our wonderful KS2 Carol Service at Upton Vale Baptist Church with our talented signing choir taking centre stage. The BBC picked this up for a short feature on Spotlight. If you missed the service, you can find the [Spotlight clip](#) on our website under 'Hearing Support Centre' – 'About the School'. Well done to all the children for their fabulous singing and signing, and thank you to Miss Pritchard and Mrs Wall for bringing this all together so brilliantly. A few photos can be found in our [SMSC Blog](#).



Miss Pritchard took our school choir out on tour into the community, two afternoons this week, visiting our friends at Dunboyne Court and also travelling to Lorna House Residential Home. These are always very special, and very much appreciated, Christmas events. You can enjoy a fabulous video of the [choir](#) rocking around the Christmas tree in our SMSC Blog. Here's what Phil messaged from Dunboyne:

*"The visit of St Margaret's choir here has been thoroughly enjoyed by one and all.
I am so pleased to be able to say a big thank you on behalf of some very happy residents, staff, and care team members, their appreciation of some delightful singing by the enthusiastic and well-behaved children has been an absolute delight."*

Design Technology News

It's well worth having a look in the DT Blog to see [Year 1 Beech Class](#) photos and videos of their models, and rather clever evaluations. Super little engineers. They will bring a smile to you face.



Welcome

A big welcome to Lou Down who joined our Hearing Support Centre team recently.



More Festive Fun

On Tuesday afternoon, we had a packed hall of parents and grandparents to watch Reception children's first ever show: a magical festive sing-a-long with beautiful lighting to match from our Year 6 tech wizard, Myo. Parents in Reception also enjoyed a Christmas crafts afternoon last week. If you would like to see photos and stories from Reception do have a look at their latest newsletter in the [Reception News Blog](#).



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.swifteachertraining.org.uk or email Nicky or Abby via info@swifteachertraining.org.uk. You can also read more detail on [our website](#) under 'Useful Resources for Parents'.

Christmas Generosity

I've been amazed this year at the incredible level of generosity from people in the community. In my whole career I can't recall anything like it. So many of the donations have been done anonymously. If any of the donators are reading this: thank you on behalf of the many people who have benefitted. It has caused a few tears, is very humbling and helps restore one's faith in humanity.

Here's just one selfless example that I am able to share. One our pupils, Niamh, sold drawings and reindeer food at the Christmas market to raise £34 for our Hearing Support Centre; so special. Thanks Niamh.





Wishing you all a
fabulous
Christmas. See you
all again in the new
year when the first
day back for
children will be
Wednesday 3rd
January.

A small rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Tim Hughes'.

**Tim Hughes
(Headteacher)**

Sad Farewells

Today we sadly said some goodbyes to three valued members of staff.

If your child has ever been taught by Leigh Tullier over the last 7+ years, you will know how very liked he is by children and parents. This was evident by some of the tears from children in his current class when told of the news. Mr Tullier has been our French lead and Educational Visits Coordinator as well as providing wider opportunities for your children such as football club and running club. He is possibly best known for his work leading the student council. In this role he has helped ensure your children have had a voice and influence in the success of the school with their active participation in events such as staff recruitment and providing leadership with our British values. Because of Mr Tullier, children at St Margaret's have also played an important role in the community such as Remembrance Day and with making soup for the homeless. We are all going to miss his boundless energy, enthusiasm and good humour. School won't be the same without him and we wish him every success in future teaching adventures.

Also leaving us today is Liz Burley. Liz has only been with us since September 2022 when she joined us as a Deaf Inclusion Worker. However, it feels as if she has been here so much longer as she has had such a positive influence with her expert signing, expert in-sight into a trauma informed approach and general affability and team playing approach. She will be much missed by staff and pupils, and we all wish her every success with her new ventures in the north.

Last, but certainly not least, we say a sad goodbye to Jenna Bundy. Jenna has only been here for just over a year but has also worked with us previously – which in itself tells you of her good character and skills. Jenna has been a wonderful addition to our group of teaching assistants with staff and parents speaking highly of her work helping some of our most vulnerable children. You may have seen Jenna in her other role as a School Support Worker when she is out and about before school helping create a harmonious community. Fortunately, Jenna will continue with this role before school and we very much hope that in the near future, she will be able to re-join our teaching team.