

Year 1 Welcome Letter - Autumn 2024



Play based learning

In Year 1 we offer a play based approach to learning. This means that the children will spend much of the day exploring their class room environment and leading their own play. Adults in the environment are trained to support the children learn through their play. These play based opportunities will be interspersed with short whole class teacher led carpet sessions and small group work. We have found that this approach supports transition from foundation and children's overall well-being.

RWInc. and Reading

We will continue to follow the successful RWInc programme of phonics teaching. Please support your child by reading with them as much as possible at home. Four 'reads' per week at home make a big difference to a child's reading progress. Please record these reads with the date and a brief description in their Reading Record. These will be checked each Monday.

Certificates are awarded at: 40 Reads—Bronze certificate, 80 Reads—Silver certificate, 120 reads—Gold certificate, 160 reads—Star certificate, 200 reads—Head teacher award, 240 reads—Governor award.

Maths - Numbots

Numbots is a personalised maths programme that supports each child at their own level. We will send out more information about this in the coming weeks but it is a great way to encourage your child with their maths learning at home.

PE Days

Pine Class: **Monday and Friday**

Beech Class: **Monday and Wednesday**

Mr Mayling, our specialist PE teacher, will be teaching two PE lessons per week. Please send your child into school wearing their PE kit on these days (please see website for our current PE uniform). Earrings must be removed or taped up with plasters before coming to school. We will have 1 lesson outside each week so please ensure they have a jumper or tracksuit bottoms to wear on cold days.

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Communication

We use our class email addresses to send out messages to parents. We check these within school hours but if you require an immediate response it is best to call the school office who can get a message to us. There will be 2 parents' evenings over the year but if you do have any questions please always come and speak to us. We will be on the door in the mornings or, if you need to speak to us after school, please just wait until we have dismissed all of the children safely.

pine@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk

beech@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk

Accidents and injuries

Minor accidents may well happen over the year and we have first aiders on hand should they be needed. If your child has a minor injury and has been seen by a first aider, you will be informed via an automated message (via Medical Tracker) or a text message. If the first aider has a concern or the injury is more serious, you will receive a phone call from them directly. Although we endeavour to pass on any information at the end of the school day, it is not always possible at this point as we are focussed on dismissing the children safely. If you have any concerns following a medical incident, please do contact us, as above.

Year 1 Teaching Team

- **Pine Class Teachers:** Mrs Chivers (Mon-Wed) and Mrs Posey (Thur-Fri)
- **Beech Class Teacher:** Mrs Price
- **KS1 HLTA:** Miss Copeland
- **PE Teacher:** Mr Mayling
- **Teaching Assistants** (These adults work across KS1 and they also lead phonics groups)
Mrs Cosh, Miss Blackburn, Miss Terry, Miss Stanway

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Curriculum Overview and Collectables

To see what we will be learning about each term, please to visit the school website to view our termly overviews and collectables (child-friendly fact sheets about each subject).

Creative Curriculum

As a school, we will all be working on different projects each half term, linked to our curriculum. Each Monday morning, there will be a hands-on, fun and engaging lesson to start our week that we will build on each week. At the end of the half term, we will share this learning with each other as the children will walk around the school looking at what the other year groups have been doing. We will then also invite you in to see what we have been up to. We are really looking forward to sharing our learning with you!

Bags and Clothing

Please ensure that everything that comes into school is clearly named to help us to make sure we can return all jumpers, cardigans at the end of the day and any other mislaid items.

May we ask that, if you want to add a keyring (or similar) to your child's bookbag to help them to identify it, then please only have one, alongside a clear name label. The children should not require a large backpack; we are limited on space in the cloakroom.

As the weather starts to change, please ensure your child has a waterproof coat each day. We go outside at break and lunch in most weathers as it is important for them to run around and get some fresh air.

Playtimes and Lunchtimes

For the first half term we will take Year 1 out to playtime on the top playground, separately to the rest of the school whilst they settle in. Lunchtime play will also be restricted to one playground so they can stay together. We will then gradually introduce them to the rest of the school grounds.

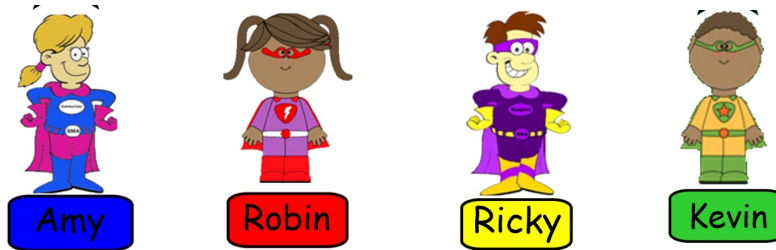
Please order a school dinner for your child online, if you would like to have one.

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Class Celebrations and School Values

- Our whole school values are:

Aspiration, Responsibility, Respect and Kindness.



When your child is observed demonstrating one of these values they will be earn a marble to put in one of our coloured pots. This encourages a 'team effort' approach as they can earn marbles as a whole class, in small groups and individually. At the end of the week, we will count how many marbles are in each pot and see which values we are best at, as a class. Each week there will be a class 'Star of the Week' which will be celebrated in our assemblies. This will also be printed on the weekly school newsletter.

School approach to behaviour management

At St Margaret's Academy we adopt a relational approach to behaviour management. This means we put relationships with the children at the forefront of our practice.

We know that secure, safe and happy children are in the best place for learning. We recognise that children who are presenting with undesired behaviours are often in a state of distress rather than wilfully choosing to misbehave.

They need our support and connection. We use a restorative approach following an incident such as reflecting on the incident with a member of staff and making an apology. We use our school values to reinforce desired behaviour. This is always done sensitively and privately to avoid shaming the child. Restorative practices provide teaching opportunities to help children manage big emotions, rather than following an approach based on punishment which can be detrimental to long term emotional development and the child's mental health.

We work closely with parents and value your support in modelling and reinforcing our school values. If you have any queries or uncertainties about how an incident has been handled, please come and talk to us or Mr Hughes. We want to work as a team with you and always value any feedback. More information can be found in our short Policy for Behaviour and Relationships, on our website.