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St Margaret's  
Academy

**HANDS – FACE – SPACE – FRESH AIR ----- ACT AS IF YOU'VE GOT IT**

18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – Spring Newsletter #7

Dear Parents,

What an end to the half term! I'm sorry we had to close today because of Storm Eunice. It was a very difficult decision to make. With the increasingly worsening forecast last night and the warnings about not to travel, we didn't want to put anybody at risk. Thank you for your understanding and I really hope you've all managed to stay safe and not been too disrupted by having your children having to stay home at such short notice.

It seems a long time ago now but we started this week with Valentine's Day back on Monday which was the perfect link to *Children's Mental Health Week*. In assembly we reminded ourselves about being kind to others and Martin Luther King's quote about love:



**“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”**

Thank you so much to all the parents who baked the wonderful Valentines cakes for the PTA Cake Sake after school on Monday. The cakes that weren't sold were donated to the Torbay Food Alliance who were exceptionally grateful and sent a big thank you to St Margaret's.

#### Mental Health - HI FLK

Following on from Monday's assembly, when we also practised calming a technique to help our mental health, teachers continued this work in class. Ask your child about the 5-a-day for good mental health. Doing these things is really good for our brain.

'H' is for being healthy such as exercise, sleep, diet, drinking water  
'I' is for some special calm time, mindfulness, time for oneself  
'F' is for friends, making connections  
'L' is for learning something new  
'K' is for showing kindness to others



#### Curriculum News

The Year 1 team have added a new [subtraction collectable](#) to their *Curriculum Information* page. I hope by now you've come across these collectables which are available in each year group's curriculum information page. They are designed to help you at home understand the expectations for that subject for that year group so you can support at home.

Have a look in the [PSHE Blog](#) to see Year 1s loving their time in the orchard; lovely pictures!

*KINDNESS RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY ASPIRATION*

The [term dates](#) for the next academic year, from September 2022 until August 2023, can now be found on the school website under 'Information for Parents'. These dates have also been added to the website calendar.

We are really excited to have the Space Dome in school after half term for Years 2, 5 and 6. Children in these year groups would have received a letter about this with more details a few weeks ago. Thank you if you have already paid the voluntary contribution towards this amazing experience. If you have not yet had the chance, please pay via the School Gateway. We are sure this will be an inspiring visit and will get the children excited about their science learning.

### The Masked Reader

*The Masked Reader* is coming to St Margaret's after half term. **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March is the 25<sup>th</sup> World Book Day.** To celebrate the event we will be having a week of events. On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February, we will be welcoming the book fair into school for the week.



Books will be available to buy after school **Monday – Friday, 3.00pm – 3:30pm from the school hall.** (We are unable to take card payment.)

Last time we had the book fair we raised £600 to spend on books for the library, which the children have been able to enjoy. This book fair comes at the right time for having a healthy Easter where the Book Bunny can bring the perfect gift to your house for your child to enjoy over and over again.

During the week, the children will enjoy many stories in class and on **Thursday**, some of the staff will be reading stories as masked readers and we will be asking the children to work out 'Who's that behind the mask?'

The children will also be able to 'dress down' or dress up as their favourite character on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**. This year we are also inviting them to decorate a mask. A template will be sent home and once cut out, it can be fixed onto card (a cereal box would be perfect) and then decorated. Rather than decorated in block colours, why not decorate it as a character or with clues for their favourite story? The more creative, the better. Examples might be...

- A James and the Giant Peach mask could have pictures of mini beast and a peach.
- A BFG mask could have dream bottles and a dream catcher.
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar could be a mask with different pictures of fruit.

We hope that you will enjoy the challenge and look forward to seeing all of the masks on Thursday. If you have any questions please do speak to your class teacher.

**A template for the mask and a colourful poster with ideas can be found on the [Reading Blog](#).** It is also sent out by email alongside this newsletter.

### **Roles in Education and Early Years Workforce - an information session**

'Thinking about returning to work or changing carer? Torbay Council are hosting a session on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 6.00pm-7.00pm, via Zoom, to provide information for anyone looking for an exciting

opportunity as support staff in schools or working in early years settings. The session will also have representatives from partner agencies talking about training opportunities and providing information related to benefits and returning to work.

To register for a place please use the following link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/roles-in-education-and-early-years-workforce-an-information-session-tickets-261679439247>

### Communication with School

This is just a reminder about how best to get in touch with school if you have a query or concern. Working in partnership with you is really important to help do the best job we can for your children.

In the first instance, please do speak to the class teacher. If it's something quick, catching them at drop off or collection is fine. You can also send them an email via the class email which starts with the class name e.g. maple@... If you need a bit more time to discuss with the teacher, please do ask them for an appointment and they will be happy to oblige. You can do this by phoning the office, catching them in person or via email.

If you feel the class teacher hasn't been able to resolve your query, you are welcome to speak to myself or Mrs Pike or one of our Assistant Heads (Mrs Turner or Mrs Kerswell). Please let the office know either by phoning in or sending an email via admin@.... You can also catch us on the gate if it's brief or to request a longer chat.

### Covid Update

At the time of writing (Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>) our total number of covid cases has dropped to just 3. From a peak of 57, it's good to get back to a sense of normality in the school again. This week we re-introduced mixed play times but with Key Stage 2 still separate from Key Stage 1.

If you think your child might be at high risk from covid, further information on the vaccination of high risk children aged 5 to 11 years old is available in the [guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years](#) published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

It has been a very busy half term at St Margaret's. Staff and pupils are all ready for a short break to recharge. Many thanks once again to all the amazing staff here for their often superhuman efforts.

Wishing you all a lovely restful and enjoyable half term with your children.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)