

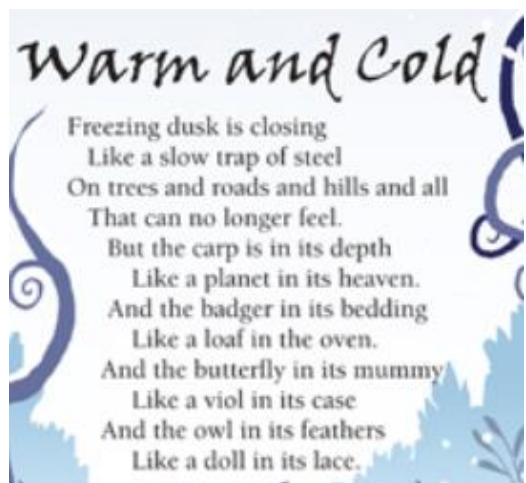
# St Margarets Academy

I hope your children have enjoyed a productive first week back. There has been a lovely atmosphere across the school with children enjoying their learning and playtimes.

We started the week with our whole school assembly on 'celebrating differences' which is our theme for this half term. We began by reviewing the stories from October's Black History Month and finished by watching two of our hearing-impaired pupils sign the story of *Stick Man*.

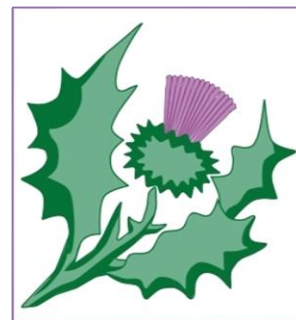
## Curriculum News

This half term, there is a big focus on History and Art in all classes. Have a look at the Collectables on the Curriculum Information page to find out more about what's going on and how you can support at home. Look in the [History Blog](#) to see how Year 4 launched their Ancient Egyptian study with a visit to Torquay Museum yesterday.



## Poet of the Month

Each month, Miss Pilkievicz will be choosing and celebrating a poet with the children. For November, enjoy looking in the [Reading Blog](#) to enjoy two seasonal poems by Ted Hughes. Here's a teaser.



**A big thank you to the PTA and all the parent helpers for the 3 fantastic Halloween discos that the children enjoyed on Tuesday evening. A huge amount of work went into this, both before and during the event. I know the children loved the fun and were buzzing with excitement. Putting on free or affordable events for the children is a key part of the PTA's rationale which must be very welcome in these challenging financial times. Thank you also to all the staff who gave up their time to help too**

## School Value Hero - Kindness

I heard a story this week that I wanted to share. Chloe in Year 6 donated her £2.50 pocket money to the homeless and is collecting clothing for them too. A really lovely, heart-warming story.



## Poppy Appeal

Poppies will be on sale all next week during break and lunch times. Children can bring in a small amount of money to purchase anything from a traditional poppy to a wrist band.

## Parent Tips for Children's Understanding of Finance

Some of you might recall having participated in a survey with Loughborough University about financial literacy at home. The university has now published their report which makes for an interesting read with lots of [useful findings and tips](#). I have added it to 'Resources for Parents' under 'Wellbeing for Families' on the website. You can read more about how giving small amounts of pocket money on a regular basis and how talking about money with your children has many benefits. The report is written in a reader-friendly manner and worth a look. There are a couple of interesting graphs too for those of you who like their visual data.

## Help with Rising Costs – Reminders

- 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>

Finally, do take care if you're enjoying fireworks and bonfires tomorrow.

Enjoy your weekends

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



# Diary Dates

W/C 14th November	Parents Evening Week
16th November	Deadline for Computing homework project
18th November	Mufti- Children in Need
21st November	School Photos (individual and sibling)
21st November	PTA World Cup Football Cake Sale
5th December	Foundation Stage Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day (Only packed lunch option available to all other year groups)
6th December	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day (Only packed lunch option available to all other year groups)
6th December	Christmas Disco
6th December	PTA Elves visiting classes
7th December	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day (Only packed lunch option available to all other year groups)
7th December	PTA Cinema Trip Year 2,3,4,5 & 6 PTA film treat in the hall for Foundation Stage & Year 1
8th December	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day (Only packed lunch option available to all other year groups)
8th December	KS1 Nativity at Babbacombe theatre
9th December	Rudolf Charity Run for Rowcroft
13th December	Upton Vale Concert KS2
17th December - 3rd January 2023	Christmas Hoildays
4th January 2023	Pupils return to school



<b>Beech</b>	Olivia - for amazing improvements in your phonics and writing. Your PE skills have really impressed Mr Mayling and I as well. Well done Olivia - a great week!
<b>Pine</b>	Elijah has been an absolute role model to all of the class this week. He has been so polite and worked his little socks off! We are so proud of you.
<b>Oak</b>	Jude B always shows the school values, putting great effort into his learning in school and at home. He has also impressed me with his mathematical thinking in the lessons this week. You are a great learner Jude- well done!
<b>Apple</b>	Micah has impressed all the adults in Apple class this week, with his super knowledge of the Great Fire of London and participating in our maths learning. Apple have learnt so much from Micah, super team work!!
<b>Birch</b>	Emily - for working so hard on your writing. Your handwriting and presentation are so neat and an example to the rest of the class. You have also been a role model with your sitting and listening this week.
<b>Rowan</b>	Jake has demonstrated an impressive array of knowledge during our work on the fossilisation process. He has gone the extra mile and supported other children in his group when sharing his knowledge. What a super star Jake - truly aspirational.
<b>Cherry</b>	Oliver for the way in threw himself into all the activities at Torquay Museum. He demonstrated an aspirational attitude by participating with enthusiasm in all the activities and he was keen to get a real feel for aspects of Ancient Egyptian life. Well done.
<b>Hazel</b>	Lilli-Mai - For your enthusiasm and involvement during yesterday's trip to Torquay Museum. I really enjoyed reading all of the notes you made during the trip. Well done!
<b>Willow</b>	Willow's star this week is Isaac. Isaac has made such an effort to improve his attitude towards his learning and increase his growth mindset. It has really paid off; Isaac has produced some fantastic work this week and is even asking the adults about how he can improve it further! We are so impressed with you, Isaac. Keep it up!
<b>Holly</b>	Alice has shown aspiration in so many ways this week. She walks through the door each morning happy and excited to learn - this has been a joy to see! Her attitude towards her learning has been fantastic and she has worked so hard in her writing and history this week. We're so proud of you!
<b>Maple</b>	Amelia B is our star of the week for being such a kind, helpful member of Maple class. She has also been so aspirational in writing. Today, she took responsibility for her spellings and used a dictionary to check them before handing in her book to be marked - well done Amelia!
<b>Hawthorn</b>	Evie has shown such consistent effort and hard work in all subjects this week. She has worked particularly hard in maths with solving long division problems. Well done Evie - this is great aspiration!