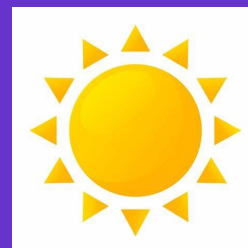




ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Summer Newsletter #5  
23rd May 2025



Dear Families

It has been a very busy, fulfilled half term and I have enjoyed thoroughly getting to know the children and talking about special plans for summer term 2<sup>nd</sup> term. Thank you all for making me feel so welcome to St. Margaret's.

This week it was a pleasure to be joined by the writing group, who worked together on Thursday to write the next addition of the 'My Babbacombe & St. Marychurch' magazine. This month's article has a focus on Mental Health and Wellbeing, so we hope you enjoy the read when it is released.

### Education Welfare Officer (EWO) Visit

We had our termly visit from Matt Jackson this week and reflected on the positive steps taken by the school working partnership with families to help improve overall attendance and punctuality. We believe that every day in school is a valuable opportunity for your child/ren to learn, grow, and thrive, both academically and socially. We encourage all pupils to attend school regularly and be punctual, but we need your support as parents and carers to be proactive in communicating and concerns or difficulties. We are here to support you in any way we can. Please contact the school if you have any concerns about your child's attendance, or if you need assistance with any challenges, you may be facing.

We have some wonderful plans in place to help support improved attendance and punctuality, and also a few incentives for pupils that improve their attendance or consistently maintain excellent attendance at school. Watch this space for more information after half term.

Why is attendance so important?

- Missing school, even for a few days, can impact your child's understanding and ability to keep up with the curriculum.
- School is a place where children learn to interact with others, build friendships, and develop important social skills.
- Regular attendance contributes to a sense of routine, structure, and positive self-esteem



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## 'Super 6'

This week the Year 6 team have launched Super 6 which an opportunity for our oldest cohort to earn special privileges for representing themselves and the school as positive 'Role Models'. Please ask your Year 6 child about this and how they are getting on with the challenge.



*Team Super 6 always follow the school values so that they are:*

**Aspirational:** *in their learning and in setting a good example to others.*

**Respectful:** *towards other pupils, adults and school property.*

**Responsible:** *for their actions and learning, and they show*

**Kindness:** *towards all staff and pupils.*

## Online Safety and 'Poppy Playtime'

"Poppy Playtime" is on the raise again and been a something that are younger students have openly talked about at school. This game features a character named Huggy Wuggy, a large, blue creature with a menacing appearance. While the game itself is intended for older audiences, it is being accessed by younger children through various online platforms, including YouTube and Roblox. Additionally, there are many videos and associated content, including copycat versions of the game, which are accessible to children. We have noticed that some children may find the game's imagery and themes frightening or upsetting, potentially causing nightmares or anxiety. It is important to be aware of the game's potential impact on your child's emotional well-being. If you have any worries or concerns regarding this games or help on setting on parental security at home, please contact the school and we can assist.

## Year 5 Kayaking Trip

St Margaret's Academy is spending some of the PE & Sport Premium on an outdoor adventure programme and we're continuing our partnership with Reach Outdoors. It offers our children across the school enhanced learning opportunities in outdoor education. Year 6 children started the programme back in the Autumn term with an amazing coasteering trip off Ansteys Cove. This week Y5 experienced kayaking at Goodrington beach. They were accompanied by experienced guides and the sea conditions were good, with small waves.



Kayaking is a fun activity that involves moving through water in a small water vessel with the aid of a double-bladed paddle. It allows the boat driver to manoeuvre through waterways by sitting face-forward and propelling ahead with alternating side-to-side paddle strokes. The paddler usually sits in the cockpit with the legs extended beneath a closed deck, leaving the upper body free and exposed.

The children used open kayaks and they shared the paddling with a friend on a double kayak. This experience allowed the children to get a real understanding of the Devon coastline and experience nature in a way that would be impossible otherwise. The great thing about the trip was that it was a lot of fun, and all the children got over hurdles that they met, from putting the wetsuits on, to not knowing what was below them, to manoeuvring the kayak. It was a way to push their limits and step out of their comfort zone. Essentially, the children did what they were comfortable with and physically capable of. Check out our next adventure in July when Y3 experience water safety at Goodrington beach.



## Mrs Madej Class Arrangements Update

We are really pleased to announce that we have appointed Mrs Clinch-Othman to cover Mrs Madej maternity leave. After half term we have planned handover meetings between the two teachers ahead of Mrs Madej leave commencing mid June.

## Mental Awareness Week

This week we have been focusing on Mental Health Awareness Week, by highlighting the importance of community and our collective responsibility to support each other's mental well-being. We have been working together on fostering a culture where it's safe and encouraged to talk about our struggles, where we actively listen and offer support, and where we celebrate our achievements together. In class the children have been creating videos about mental health, playing board games and enjoying the outdoors with friends and not to forget the beautiful beaches during our kayaking adventures.



From everyone at St. Margaret's, we wish you a wonderful half term break and look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Take care.

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer

Headteacher

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# Diary Dates

W/C 26th May 2025	Half Term
Tuesday 3rd June 2025	First day back for children
W/C 3rd June 2025	Year 4 MTC
5th June 2025	National Thank You Day
6th June 2025	National Fish & Chips Day
6th June 2025	Y1 & Y2 Recycling Workshops
W/C 9th June 2025	Year 4 MYC
W/C 9th June 2025	Healthy Eating Week
W/C 9th June 2025	Bikeability Level 2
W/C 16th June 2025	National Schools Sports Week
W/C 16th June 2025	Hazel Class Start Swimming
16th June 2025	09.30—12.00—KS1 Sports Day
16th June 2025	13.25—15.00—EYFS Sports Day
18th June 2025	National 'Thank a Teacher' Day
19th June 2025	09.30—12.00 KS2 Sports Day
26th June 2025	PTA Summer Disco
W/C 30th June 2025	Parents Evening @ Torquay Academy

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Beech	This week's star is Olivia, a genuinely talented writer! Her captivating writing about nurses was delightful to read. Just like the nurses she describes, Olivia is always helpful, thoughtful, and full of heart.
Pine	Hattie is our star this week. Not only for her superb actions for our music show yesterday but also for being so imaginative in class when building our hospitals. Well done Hattie!
Oak	Willow is our star of the week! This is because she has shown real determination with her work even when she is finding it hard. She is always wanting to help her friends, she has such a good heart. Well done Willow!
Apple	Alara is our star of the week for simply always doing the right thing at the right time all the time! She has worked so hard in all aspects of her learning this year and overcame some fears by going to represent the school at St Cuthbert Mayne. Well done Alara.
Holly	Isabelle is the star this week in Holly. Her positive learning attitude and active thinking has been great to see over the last few months. She is always ready to learn and shows great motivation to try her best. Well done on your traditional tale published piece too!
Willow	Pippa is the star in Willow class. She has shown tremendous resilience and motivation in all her learning this half term and we have been especially impressed with the effort she has put into her story writing this week. Well done Pippa.
Cherry	Cherries star of the week is Louie. Louie has worked exceptionally hard on his times tables this week. He has shown fantastic motivation to achieve higher and higher scores. Well done Louie.
Hazel	Micah is our star in Hazel this week. We have been working hard on our readiness for year 5 this week and Micah has really stepped up to the challenge. He has shown maturity, resilience and respect in the classroom as well as trying his best with his work. He has even gone above and beyond to help others in the classroom, too! We are very proud Micah - keep it up!
Birch	Our star in Birch is Niamh. She has shown great resilience this week. Your effort in Maths has been amazing and you've really motivated yourself. Also Miss Scaife was super impressed with you in Kayaking.
Rowan	Lola is this week's star as she has shown incredible motivation in her maths learning and really impressed us with how resilient she was when kayaking this week. Even when she found it really tricky, she didn't give up and ended up really enjoying it! Keep up the incredible work.
Maple	Star of the week in Maple this week goes to Jack for his super learning behaviours! Jack really impressed us with his audition for the Year 6 production; we can tell that he worked hard to read his lines with expression. Jack also included some fantastic ideas in his letter written from the perspective as a WW2 evacuee. Keep it up Jack!
Hawthorn	Bertie has made a great start on Super 6 behaviour this week, showing aspiration in learning parts for the play and in his history work. His attitude towards his learning and his listening in class have been superb! Keep this up!

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