

# St Margarets Academy

**Hands-Face-Space-Fresh Air- Act as if you've got it**

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy and exciting 7 weeks, getting back into the groove with a return to normal face to face education. I hope your child is feeling settled, happy and enjoying the learning.

## Retirement Farewell to St Margaret's Legends

Today we said farewell to three St Margaret's legends who have very sadly left us to begin their retirement adventure. We enjoyed a virtual assembly this morning to thank them for everything they have done for the children over the years. There is an African proverb which says, "It takes a village to raise a child". It is certainly true that Ruth Deeley, Chris Thomas and Richard Kelley have enriched your children's lives over the many years they have been here; from a big smile in fancy dress serving fish and chips, to growing crops in the orchard and getting working Chromebooks out to families fast in the pandemic. If you would like to read more about their achievements and contributions, please have a look at the assembly slide show in our [SMSC Blog](#) on the website. Good luck and the best of wishes to Ruth, Chris and Richard.

## Harvest Festival

On Monday we held a non-virtual real assembly and were delighted to welcome the Reverend Nathan and the Cuthbert Mayne Jump Team to tell the Christian version of Harvest. Children attended the hall in 3 smaller groups to make sure we were socially distanced and were able to join in with the music and dancing with the Jump Team. Thank you to everybody who sent in Harvest produce. This was collected later in the day by Riviera Life Church to go to Torbay people who are in need. Have a look on our [SMSC Blog](#) – Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural – to see some lovely photos. Make sure you check out Mrs Newman's cleverly carved pumpkin in the style of our school thistle.



## Upcoming Events

### November 12

Non-Uniform 'dress down day' PTA donations

### November 17

Flu Vaccinations- More info to follow

### November 22

Parents Eve Week

### November 25

Individual School Photos



**This week's attendance star goes to...**

**Rowan & Willow**

**With 97.2%**

**Well Done!**

## More Important News

### PTA News

At the meeting on Monday, the following PTA events have now been confirmed and lined up for the second half of the autumn term in the build up to a more normal – hopefully - Christmas. You can find more information on the PTA Facebook page and on the [PTA page](#) of the school website.

- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November will be a non-uniform 'dress down day' with a donation for the PTA
- If you have any old Christmas jumpers that your children have grown out of, please do send them in to the school office. The PTA will be holding a Christmas Jumper sale later in the term.
- A special visitor will be making an appearance on 15<sup>th</sup> December and I believe there may be some mischievous elves reconnoitring the site in the days beforehand.
- There will be a children's Christmas raffle.
- Wreath making with mulled wine is booked for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December in the school hall at 7pm

### Curriculum News

Look in the [Music Blog](#) to see and listen how Year 5 Holly Class got on performing *Livin' on a Prayer* as part of their study on rock music.

Have you ever wondered about the difference between ordinal and cardinal numbers? Have a look in the [Maths Blog](#) to see how Beech Class in Year 1 used conker races to learn about ordinal numbers.

In the Pupil Voice page in 'Curriculum in Action' you can catch up with the latest news from the [Student Council](#) following their meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October, including news of their poetry contest winner.

Check out the [Sports Blog](#) to see the photos and find out how Years 5 and 6 got on in an intra-school football tournament this month.

Thank you so much to all of you who bought a book at the Book Fair. £1008.96 was spent and because of this Scholastic has generously given us £600 to spend on books for our school library.

### **Staying Safe On-line – FEATURE #2 – Chatting, Being Kind and Making Friends Online**

This is the second of our weekly on-line safety updates to support you at home with parenting in the modern world. Last week's newsletter was all about online gaming. Remember you can find



## In the Community

### **Looking for affordable and fun half term activities?**

The Windmill Centre in Hele is showing 3 different films over the half term break, each with a home-cooked meal for just £2. Parents go free. For more information pop into the community centre, phone 01803 314876 and take a look on our website under 'Wellbeing for Families' – 'Supporting Families'. Quick link [here](#).

### **Lollipop Man / Woman Needed**

"Torbay Council are still seeking to recruit a School Crossing Patrol for the top of Westhill Road, so please be aware that there may not be a Patrol there after half-term. If interested in the vacancy go to the Road Safety page on [torbay.gov.uk](http://torbay.gov.uk) for information."

out more on the 'Curriculum Information' page under '[Staying Safe Online](#)' as well as the live feed on the home page of our website.

Primary-age children may not have previously had much experience with video chatting apps such as Zoom, FaceTime and Skype, but may well be using them now for education or to keep in touch with family and friends. To make sure your child has a positive experience video chatting online, read this [guide for parents and carers](#)

The internet has many positive opportunities for children to learn and play, but it can also be used in negative and unkind ways. It's really important to speak to your child about being kind online, and how they can get help if they see or hear anything that makes them feel worried, scared or sad. Use these [conversation starters](#) to help your child understand the importance of being kind online.

The term 'online friend' can be used to describe people you only know through the internet. Some children make friends online by meeting new people through online platforms such as gaming sites. To help children have positive online friendships, read this handy guide.

### **Staying Safe in the Real World**

Just a reminder to parents of children in Years 5 and 6, especially as the nights are drawing in: if your child walks home without an adult, please ask them to walk with a friend, cross roads carefully and keep their mobile phone to hand.

### **Parents Evenings are coming**

Advance notice that Parents Evening for children in Years 1 to 6 will take place in the week beginning 22.11.21. The dates and times will be released on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November for you to book a slot. In-line with the rest of Torbay schools, appointments will sadly be virtual once again. I hope that we can offer face to face meetings in the spring term.

### **Are you a parent new to the school?**

As some of our new parents missed school tours because of the pandemic, I have had a request to hold a tour for current parents of



## **Covid-19**

As I'm sure you are aware from the media, cases of Covid-19 are increasing across the country and in Torbay and Devon. Public Health England is requesting that we ask you to please test yourselves and your family twice weekly over half term and beyond. I guess we'll hear soon whether England moves to Plan B but in the meantime, please do continue to help us all by keeping your distance from others as much as possible. We are reviewing our school systems and considering if we need to take any additional measures. To reassure you, in school when in doors we continue to limit the mixing of children and staff and we have maintained our high level of additional cleaning

children in Reception. I've scheduled Monday 15.11.21 at 9.30am. If you would like to book a place, please contact the office.



### Outdoor Wet Clothes for Reception Children

If you have any outdoor clothes that your children have grown out of that is suitable for Reception children, please do consider donating them as I know they would be much appreciated. Thank you.

### Wellies

If you would like your children to access the Orchard at lunchtimes and playtimes, please do send them in with a pair of wellies, very clearly named. Thank you.



Wishing you an awesome half term break.

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)

## Free Tickets for Torquay United v Kings Lynn Town 23.10.21

Torbay Council and Sport Torbay want to invite members of the Torbay Community to attend Torquay United FC's home game against Kings Lynn on Saturday 23rd October 2021, 15:00 Kick off as part of their 'Community Celebration Day'. There is a limited number of tickets available and in order to reach as many families as possible they can only issue one adult ticket with up to two accompanying children tickets per family. Tickets will be allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis. They apologise in advance if this causes any inconvenience.

If your family is in receipt of benefit related free school meals, all you need to do to get your free ticket is email [joanneh@torquayunited.com](mailto:joanneh@torquayunited.com) directly with the name of your school and the names of the people wanting the tickets. For example – Our Lady of the Angels – Parker Family – Kirsty (adult), Riley (child), Willow (Child). Torquay United will need to have your names before 4pm on Tuesday 19th October.

The tickets will then be emailed to your family – tickets will be an e-ticket which will need to be printed and shown at the turnstiles on entrance into the ground. You will all watch the Game from the Wollen's Stand – which is being opened up for the day for the entire Torbay Community.



Beech	Kai for outstanding manners all the time. You are so polite and respectful to everyone around the school. A real role model to others - thankyou Kai
Pine	Olly because he always wants to learn. He loves numbers and will always be waiting to do some maths work whenever he can. He sets such a great example to the other children, well done Olly!
Oak	Hayden- for always being ready to learn and showing a responsible attitude. Also for being a thoughtful and kind member of the class who helps others. Well done Hayden!
Apple	Arabella has been an absolute superstar this week in maths! She has been the first one to put her hand up and, because of this positive attitude, she has a great understanding of the learning objectives. Well done!
Birch	Madeline - for making accelerated progress in times tables, maths, reading and all aspects of writing this half term! You are so polite and such a pleasure to teach.
Rowan	Isla is our star of the week because of her positive attitude towards her maths work! She has tried super hard during class discussions and has persevered even when she found things tricky in her maths book. Well done for showing excellent aspiration Isla!
Cherry	Hugo for making a fantastic effort with his poetry writing this week. Well done Hugo.
Hazel	Violet - For being a fantastic member of Hazel class - we will really miss you when you move to your new school and we wish you the very best of luck!
Willow	Willow's star this week is Linus! Linus has worked exceptionally hard this half term and has produced some amazing pieces of work. We are so proud of how well he is doing and we're so glad he's in our class. Well done Linus! Keep it up.
Holly	Hollie is a star every day. She works so hard and is aspirational in her attitude to her work. I love that she listens to advice to edit and improve her work, all with a pleasant manner. Well done Hollie!
Maple	Maple's star of the week is Lilly! She has worked so hard in maths this week, gaining the confidence to challenge herself and showing aspiration to further her learning at every opportunity. Keep up the hard work Lilly, we are so proud of you!
Hawthorn	Kayla - for working very hard to produce an excellent poem for her independent writing at the end of our writing unit. She was creative with her ideas and showed that she had paid careful attention to the teaching examples. Well done Kayla for great aspiration!