



St Margaret's
Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter #4
7th February 2025

Dear Parents,
Happy February everyone.

Hearing Support Centre News

Yesterday evening, Felicity Morris from our PTA gave a speech to the Torbay Cabinet members at their council meeting ahead of their debate into the closure of our Hearing Support Centre. Felicity's speech and the subsequent debate was allowed because the PTA petition (led by Felicity and Laura) reached over 1000 signatures (1600+ in total) which qualified the subject for debate by the cabinet. Felicity's speech which opened the debate was, in the words of one councillor, very eloquent. It was very well delivered and hit home the message about the council spreading disinformation about the closure.

There was a lively debate that followed resulting in a unanimous decision to refer the closure to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Unfortunately, an amendment proposed by the Liberal Democrats to pause the closure while the committee investigated was rejected when the Conservative Councillors voted as a group to reject this pause. I have no idea why the Conservatives grouped together to do this. At least, however, there will be an investigation, thanks to the drive of the PTA pushing forward the petition, the super speech from Felicity and the advocacy from the local St Marychurch councillor, George Darling. We watch this space.

If you want to watch what happened, you can find a video recording of the full meeting here: [Torbay Council, Meeting Of The Council 6 February 2025 - YouTube](#)



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Internet Safety Week—Next Week

S – M – A – R – T. We use this acronym to help children have the strategies they need to stay safe on-line. S is for Safe (e.g. don't give out personal details on-line). M is for Meet (don't meet someone they don't know). A is for Accept (e.g. don't accept invites and popups). R is for Reliable (in this new age of fake news, artificial intelligence profiling and social media mis-information, children need to be able to be curious and have healthy scepticism). T is for Trusted adult (we always encourage children to find a trusted adult to talk to, either from home life or school life).

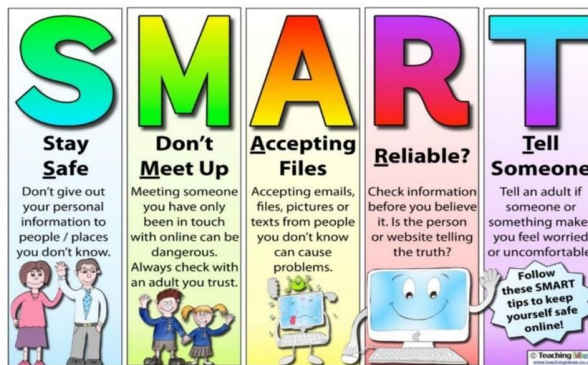
You can find advice on [scams and fake news](#) on our Parent page – 'Useful Resources for Parents'. This covers risks around click bait, sales, "you're a winner", false friendships, panic and fake celebrities. Well worth a read.

Next week we will be having an extra focus on internet safety. National Internet Safety Day is Tuesday 11th February. Here are a few key links to ways you can get involved at home:

The UK Safer Internet Centre: [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Loads of easy-access resources including very useful age-specific ones: [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

How to set up parent controls for your internet at home (it covers all the broadband providers): [Broadband & Mobile Networks Archives - Internet Matters](#)



Polite Reminders

Dropping off and collecting: if you have a young child in school, please make sure you drop them off with the teacher in the morning, rather than allowing them a longer, more independent walk in. Before school we have had reports of older children playing in the road. Please do chat to your children about being safe.

Foundation Stage Newsletter

The latest Foundation Stage Newsletter can now be found on the [website](#). Read all about how the gingerbread men escaped, and thanks to the 'Lost' posters written by the children, they were thankfully found and recovered just in time by Mrs Mallandaine.

You can see which books and songs the children have been sharing, and how you can help at home with understanding number and supporting with reading in the same way we teach in school. There is also the wonderful gallery showing what the children have been up to across the provision.

Curriculum News

More news from the Careers Week: in the PSHE Blog you can see how [Year 1](#) enjoyed a visit from the midwife and see photos of many of their ideas for the future.

In the Computing Blog you can see how [Year 5](#) enjoyed using the Micro-bits. In the Arts Blog, see how [Year 5](#) have been getting on with some collage work.

Next Thursday afternoon is the curriculum celebration afternoon when we welcome you in to see what your child has been doing and to have a look in their books.




Wear Red to Show Love for other children

Our student council has chosen to support the paediatric ward at Torbay Hospital as their selected charity to raise money for. Tying it in with Valentine's Day, we have chosen Friday 14th February as 'wear red day' and hope in turn you might give a small donation that will go direct to the paediatric ward.




FAMILY SUPPORT SESSION
SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD ON
THEIR READING JOURNEY
WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH
2-3PM ON ZOOM



Ilsham National English Hub would like to invite you to attend a **FREE** session to support you with helping your child at home in their reading journey.

During this free, hour-long session, The Ilsham National English hub team will be sharing videos and practical solutions to support practice at home. The focus will be on supporting your child to become an expressive fluent reader. This session is targeted at families (including grandparents), carers, childminders and before/after school provision workers. It is designed to support children from pre school age up to the end of Key Stage One (Year 2). Please note, this session will not be recorded.

Any questions or queries please contact:
englishhub@lpsw.org
[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/E/KJHUJU312B](https://forms.office.com/E/KJHUJU312B)



Our Amazon Book Wish List

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref=wl_share

Happy February Weekend



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)

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Diary Dates

13th February 2025	PTA Valentines Disco
14th February 2025	Wear Red Day to show love for children in Torbay Hospital (Student council chosen charity)
W/C 17th February 2025	Half Term
24th February 2025	First day back for children
1st April 2025	Non Uniform Day to donate an Easter Egg for the Thursday Bingo
3rd April 2025	PTA Easter Bingo after school
W/C 7th April 2025	Easter Holidays
22nd April 2025	First day back for children
5th May 2025	Bank Holiday
W/C 26th May 2025	Half Term
3rd June 2025	First day back for children
24th July 2025	Final day for the children



Beech	The star of the week in Beech class is someone who has demonstrated an exceptional work ethic this week. I have been particularly impressed by his artwork and English writing, as he has put a lot of thought into his story and the messages he wants to convey. Well done, Harley! Keep up the great work!
Pine	Blake is our star this week, she is always so kind and thoughtful and she has worked hard on her maths this week, figuring out the number bonds to 20. Well done Blake!
Oak	Aditi has really grown in confidence this year, joining in really well with all of her learning. She has put great effort into learning her phonics and she also practises her number facts by using Numbots. Well done Adidit, you are a star!
Apple	Cole is our star of the week for showing us that he can make really sensible choices. He has been listening really well and making sure that he pays attention to us when we are teaching. Thank you Cole - keep it up.
Holly	Oliver has been making impressive progress in his writing recently. He soaks up all the ideas we share as a class and shows great resilience in his handwriting. He is always proud to read out his sentences and will independently notice any skills he needs to edit. Keep it up Oliver.
Willow	Flynn is the star in Willow class this week. He is an amazingly motivated learner. He listens well, puts his hand up all the time to make valuable contributions and is truly aspirational in his approach to his work. This is demonstrated in maths in particular where he is keen to challenge himself to solve every problem he is given. Well done Flynn.
Cherry	Guy is our star of the week this week. He has shown a real aspiration this week to do his best and be even better still. I have been really proud of the effort he has put into this week and he has produced some amazing learning. Well done Guy!
Hazel	Emma is our star this week. She has been so resilient with her maths this week and her times table knowledge has been improving so much! Well done!
Birch	Kaiden is our star this week! He has been incredibly motivated in all subjects. In writing, he has gone the extra mile by challenging himself to use the skill we were learning not once, but twice in his writing! He has also been an incredibly kind friend in Maths, supporting children with our new tricky learning. Well done, Kaiden!
Rowan	This week's star goes to Theon! He has worked so hard over the last few weeks, showing active thinking in maths to understand new concepts and to complete more questions. He has also really impressed me with his motivation in Art - well done!
Maple	Maple's star goes to Elton for his consistent resilience . Elton will always take on any feedback given to him by an adult and it is clear to see that he has listened through the work he produces in his book. This week, he listened carefully to instructions in writing and wrote a fantastic description based on the setting of the Highwayman. Well done Elton!
Hawthorn	This week our star is Ava! She has been so resilient in her learning and today she has completed some brilliant maths and totally shone! What a star!

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