

# St Margaret's Academy

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

Dear Parents,

The spring term adventure came to a close today with lots of Easter fun and final pieces of work being completed.

We are growing in popularity as a school and have seen more children join us this term, with more coming after the Easter break. It's a privilege to be the Head Teacher here and work with such a talented and caring group of staff. **Thank you so much to all our staff who give so much and always go above and beyond for your children.**

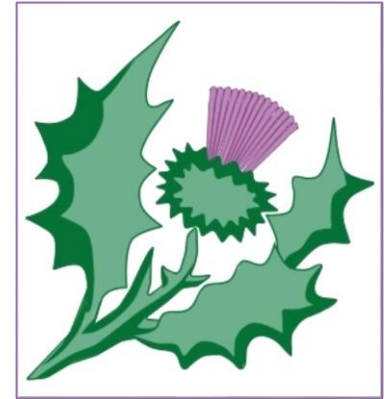
## Awesome Year 6

We have a brilliant group of Year 6 children. This week, they have really made themselves proud, achieving a lot in many different ways.

Most attended the residential trip to Skern Lodge in Bideford Monday to Wednesday. They demonstrated stand-out behaviour and personal attributes. See Mrs Kerswell's write-up and some of the photos on the [PSHE Blog](#) for more information. A special photo slide show will be arranged for after the Easter break so look out for this.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff who took the children to Skern Lodge. Leading, organising and caring for the children on a residential trip is a massive undertaking. While it is one of the most rewarding activities that staff take part in, it is also one of the most tiring, physically and emotionally, with the lack of sleep and constant worry to look after your little ones. So, big thanks to Mrs Kerswell, Miss Pilkiewicz, Mr Tullier, Mrs West and Mrs Maddex.

Those Year 6 who stayed at school were equally amazing. Along with Mrs Hollis, they worked on a project to find out about the history of St Margaret's Academy. They have been interviewing staff, past and present, interviewing past pupils, researching online, exploring maps and working as a team to create a lasting legacy for the



**This week's  
class attendance star  
goes  
to  
Hazel Class with  
96.7%  
Well done!**

### **\*\*\*Polite Reminder\*\*\***

Dogs are **not** permitted on school grounds at any time even if you are carrying them.

(With the exception of service dogs)

Many Thanks

school. You can find their work so far on our website under 'About the School' – '[History of the School](#)'. This is a work in progress that we expect to grow over time as we find out more. If you have any interesting insights, especially from the 1960s, the Year 6 historians would love to hear from you.

## Curriculum News

Our *Reading for Pleasure* project with the Open University this year is progressing really well across the school. Trustees were able to see this in action last month. Have a look in the [Reading Blog](#) to see how our Year 1 have been enjoying the sunshine with their reading for pleasure.

Have a look in the [Year 1 Curriculum Information](#) page to see a new Collectable about children's learning of animals, including humans.

Year 4 completed their Level 1 Bikeability. Have a look in the [Sports Blog](#) to find out the full details and see the [PSHE Blog](#) for more photos.

A key component of our new writing scheme, *The Write Stuff*, is to provide immersive experiences in the subject they are writing about. This helps ensure the children can focus on the skills of writing rather than simultaneously having to acquire new knowledge of the topic. Have a look in the [Writing Blog](#) to see a good example of this happening with *stroodles* in Year 4 Hazel Class.

## Easter Fun

Last Sunday, Mrs Baker decorated the [orchard](#) with an Easter theme for the children to enjoy this week. There have been several Easter egg hunts taking place round school. The PTA organised an Easter Egg colouring competition which our friends at Dunboyne Court had the unenviable job of judging. It took the whole community of residents and staff to finally arrive at the winners after much agonising. In After School Club, they designed and made [Easter baskets](#). The week finished with the PTA Easter Egg bingo in the hall today which was really good fun. (The links above take you to some of the photos in the SMSC Blog – Social, Spiritual, Moral and Cultural.)



## Times Table Rock Stars! – Message from our Maths Leads, Mrs Rice and Miss Lynds

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April, we will be relaunching Times Table Rockstars and Numbots (more for KS1). **We would like to invite the children to dress up as a rock star or robot for the day.**

- Reception, Y1 & Y2 – Rock star or robot
- Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 – Rock star

Throughout the day, the children will complete activities linked to number facts and times tables. They will also have the opportunity to log in to the app to practice. To support the purchasing of new maths resources, we ask that you consider sending in a small donation on the day; any amount however small is very welcome but please don't feel you have to send in anything at all. We will let you know what any money raised pays for.

We look forward to seeing your fabulous costumes. Thank you for your ongoing support.



## Kids Eat Free over Easter

If you are looking for somewhere to eat this Easter break, there are several places doing great deals. Have a look under 'Wellbeing for Families' – '[Supporting Families](#)' to find the full list. Thank you to Mr Tullier for finding this. Well worth a look.

## Interested in being a School Trustee?

We are currently looking to add to our board of trustees by appointing at least one more parent trustee. This is a great way to get to know the school more. Don't feel you need to have an educational background as we are always looking for insights from people with different perspectives. If you are interested please contact our Governance Professional, Karen Colmer on [kcolmer@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk](mailto:kcolmer@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk). You are also welcome to discuss the role with me.

## Covid Update

Pupils with symptoms of COVID-19 are no longer advised to get a test. In case you haven't seen the latest update, Covid-19 symptoms in adults can now include any of the below symptoms. The advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with others if:

- you have a high temperature
- you do not feel well enough to go to work or do your normal activities

The symptoms:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

## Easter Holiday Clubs

If your child receives free school meals there are a variety of Easter holiday activities available to you in Torquay and across the Bay. You can find out more on the [Torbay website](#) and our school website under 'Wellbeing for Families' – '[Supporting Families](#)'. You should also have received a letter about it earlier this week. If you need any more support to find out more, please do contact the office.

The reading guinea pigs, *Roald* and *Dahl* have enjoyed their first week in school. See the [Reading Blog](#) for more

## Orchard Waterproof Clothing Please from Mrs Posey

The children absolutely love using the orchard and we would love for them to be able to use it 'whatever the weather!' Most children have wellies and there are others that can be borrowed but we are really in need of **waterproof trousers, overalls or dungarees**. This would help the children to really enjoy themselves without the worry of getting their clothes mucky.

If you have any **waterproof trousers, overalls or dungarees** that your child has grown out of and you would like to donate them to the school we would be extremely grateful. Please hand them in to the office, to your class teacher or to Mrs Posey. Many thanks!

Wishing you a peaceful and enjoyable Easter break.



Tim Hughes (Head teacher)



Beech	Emma for always being such a happy and eager member of the class. You join in so well with all of our learning and always have a wonderful smile on your face! Thankyou.
Pine	Olivia H- For being a general superstar in our class. She is always doing the right thing and she tries so hard in everything that she does. It has been lovely to see her growing in confidence throughout the year.
Oak	Felix- for showing kindness by sharing his belongings with others and for showing resilience when completing his writing this week. Felix also showed great focus and skill when designing his Easter egg which resulted in him winning. Well done Felix!
Apple	Henry has shown tremendous progress this term in all aspects of his learning! He is a very polite boy, shows kindness to his peers and respect to adults, and is a lovely member of the Apple crew.
Birch	Ava for working very hard in her writing and her maths! Her homework has also been very good. She is also such a friendly and kind member of our class. Well done Ava!
Rowan	Frankie is our star of the week for being truly aspirational! This week, we have written explanation texts about 'the street beneath our feet' and Frankie has included an amazing range of facts and a lot of ambitious vocabulary. Well done Frankie - keep it up!
Cherry	Isaac is the star of the week in Cherry Class. He has shown super responsibility for his learning especially in writing and maths. We are really proud of the work you are doing. Well done Isaac.
Hazel	Miley - Miley has put 100% effort into everything she has done this term. She is such a kind, polite and hardworking individual who is a role model to the rest of the class. Well done Miley you should be very proud of yourself!
Willow	Nate - for his incredibly impressive Math's brain in his problem solving and reasoning test. We are so impressed! Well done Nate!
Holly	Jake - He has a great maths brain and has really improved his reasoning and problem solving skills by explaining his methods more clearly. This meant he achieved a fantastic score in his recent assessments. Well done Jake!
Maple	Amelia is this week's star as on our recent residential, she was always showing the school values and being a super representative of the school. On all the activities she showed perseverance even when slightly horrified by the heights - great job Amelia!
Hawthorn	Euan - For being recognised by the instructors at Skern Lodge for his super attitude during the residential activities this week. Euan has also worked hard in school to develop greater responsibility for his learning behaviour. Well done Euan!