



ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter #3
19th January 2024

What a crisp, lovely cold week. I hope everybody has been staying warm and enjoying the fresh weather.

Congratulations to Mrs Duggan and the lovely Duggan family who welcomed the arrival of one more lovely Duggan this week with the birth of their baby boy.

Healthy Snacks

We are noticing an increase in the number of children who are bringing an unhealthy snack to school each day. The BBC has a useful website which provides a very quick reference point and is worth a look: [Healthier snacks - Food facts - Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

We will be looking at healthy versus unhealthy snacks in Monday's assembly with the focus being on how we can help children understand what their bodies need and how they can take ownership of this themselves e.g. by looking out for foods with green and yellow labels rather than orange or red, and by realising that fresh is always better than packaged because the latter are processed to make them cheaper and last longer on a warm shelf.



Sad Dahl News

Sadly, after a short illness one of our lovely guinea pigs, Dahl, died this week. We have happy memories of the little fellow bringing joy to children and staff. Rest in peace, Dahl.



Tesco Blue Tokens

HELP US WIN £1500 FOR ST MARGARET'S!! We have been nominated by Tesco to be shortlisted in their blue token scheme! If we manage to get the most tokens between all the below stores, we can receive a grant of £1500 towards our continuing school library project!!

Next time you are in any of the local Tesco PLEASE get as many blue tokens as is allowed and put them into the token box!! and tell all your friends and family to do the same!!!

Boxes will be at stores in: Barton Torquay, Torquay Fleet Street, Torquay Express (garage on Teignmouth Road), Paignton Victoria, Paignton Torquay Road, Torquay Lymington Road, Brixham Express and Torquay Babbacombe Road.



Maths News

In the Maths Blog you can see how [Year 2](#) have been learning about symmetry. In the Forest School Blog, enjoy some fab photos and a short video of [Year 2 Oak](#) Class enjoying their session last Friday.

Dunboyne Writers

Winners from the Dunboyne Writing Homework competition visited Dunboyne Court on Monday afternoon this week to share their writing with our friends who are less mobile and couldn't make it to school. Have a look at the super photos in our [Writing Blog](#).

Well done to everybody who took part. Dunboyne friends found it super hard to choose winners as usual. Everybody who took part has received a certificate and a point for their house. These house points are very valuable and rarely given. The house with the most points at the end of the summer term, wins a special House Party.

Peer Support Champion Needed

Family Hub Torbay is looking for a parent who will be Peer Support Champion for families of children who have additional needs. If you think you might be interested, please contact Anna Messer, the Practice Team Lead for SEND on 07872 502957.

Amazon Book Wish List

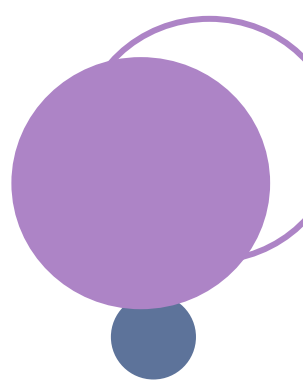
If you would like to gift a book to the school, please follow the link to our Amazon Book Wish List. Thank you so much.
https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref=wl_share

New Dunboyne Homework Competition

This week we launched our new Dunboyne homework for this term. This time we are challenging the children to find out about a culture or religion, and to educate others about it using any format. For example, they could produce a Power Point to share or they could design a piece of art or put on a play with some friends. We are hoping it will be a really engaging topic as there are some many curious aspects to humanity that most of us know nothing about. In Monday's assembly this week, we shared a taste of some of these e.g. not many people know that in one town in Austria on Christmas Day, people go diving in a lake to find a Christmas tree. Who knows that in Edinburgh on New Years Eve there is a torch lit procession of Vikings? Who knows the adventures of Rama and Sita which inspires Hindus' magical *Festival of Lights*?

Your child could choose a country and find out about all their unique traditions or they could choose a religion to help educate others about what is fascinating and worth celebrating in our vast and multi-cultural home, *Planet Earth*.

The deadline is 4th March and we really hope your child will get involved. All those who take part earn a point towards their house and a nice certificate while the winners will be off to Dunboyne Court to share their projects there and enjoy a game of Beetle Drive and snack with the residents.



Family Hub Torbay

There are three Family Hubs across Torbay. They are a great place to meet professionals who can support you and your family – like health visitors, maternity services and family support workers. For expectant parents and those with babies and young children, this includes help with parenting, infant feeding and support for parents/carers to manage their own wellbeing.

You can access information on all of the below:

- Health and wellbeing advice for you and your family
- Community support networks
- Activities, classes and things to do across the Bay
- Support for adults including housing and financial advice.

Check out their website for all the information: [Home - Family Hub \(torbayfamilyhub.org.uk\)](http://torbayfamilyhub.org.uk)

All this information is repeated on our website for any future reference. You can find it in under 'Parents' – 'Useful Information for Parents' along with a variety of other resources.

Use our Library

Come in and use our wonderful library!

We are opening it for you to use with your child as nice calm shared reading place after school from 3.15 – 4.00pm. It's a wonderful resource thanks to our PTA.

This half term:

- Wednesdays for Year 1 and siblings
- Thursdays for Year 2 and siblings

Parent Tours

Throughout the autumn term I ran tours for prospective new parents. This term I am running tours for current parents. This is a great way for you to get a better insight into what's going on in school. I have scheduled the first one for Tuesday 6th February at 9.30am. We'll visit all the classes and it should last about an hour. If it proves popular, I'll run more. Please let the office staff know if you would like to sign up.

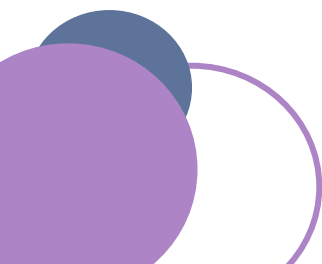
Help with Rising Costs

- **Household Support Fund** – if you are on a welfare benefit / tax credit or have a disposable income of less than £50 per week:
[Household Support Fund - Torbay Council](http://torbayfamilyhub.org.uk)
- Do you need help with child care? If so, try this website:
<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>
- Help for households – very useful government website:
<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>
- 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->

Enjoy your weekend.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)





Diary Dates

Date	Event
23rd January 2024	Year 4 Climbing/Bushcraft @ Parkfield/Whitehill
29th January 2024	Year 5 Space Dome
1st February 2024	Skern Lodge Meeting Y6- 3.15-4pm in Hawthorn class
6th February 2024	Parent Tour 9.30-10.30 (Please contact the office to book a space)
8th February 2024	Non-Uniform day- Donations for Children with Cancer UK
8th February 2024	PTA Valentines Disco
W/C 12th February 2024	February Half Term
5th March 2024	Year 5 Climbing and Orienteering @ Parkfield/Whitehill
12th March 2024	Year 5 Climbing and Orienteering @ Parkfield/Whitehill
26th March-28th March 2024	Year 6 Skern Lodge
26th March 2024	Non-uniform day - Easter egg donation
26th March 2024	PTA Easter Bingo
29 th March – 14 th April 2024	Easter Holidays



Beech	James is our star of the week for having an amazing time in PE this week and we have noticed that you are putting your hand up far more in class - well done James.
Pine	Jessica is my star this week. She is such a superstar every day in Pine class. She does exactly what she is asked to do (and mostly does it when we don't even ask her!). She always shows masses of respect and works super hard, well done!
Oak	Lily is our star as she has worked extremely hard to complete a set of instructions that are amazing! Lily always shows the school values but she has also been spotted for being extra thoughtful and helpful this week. Super effort Lily, Well done!
Apple	Alex is our star this week. He has been making such an effort in his learning recently, especially writing. He has become more responsible and tries his hardest in every task. Well done Alex, keep it up!
Holly	Shahriyar is our star of the week. He has a renewed enthusiasm for reading and has quizzed nearly every day this week. Keep it up Shahriyar - we're all very proud!
Willow	Jude is our star as he has been so focused all week, particularly during computing lessons where he has shown great aspiration and shared his knowledge with the rest of the class. Well done Jude - several adults noticed your positive attitude this week!
Cherry	Archie is our star this week as he shows kindness and respect towards his classmates and his teachers. He is also someone who tries hard with his work, and listens well so he knows exactly what to do when it is his turn to work independently. Well done Archie!
Hazel	Star of the week in Hazel class is Raya for always showing all four of our core values in everything that she does. She is a role model to the rest of the class. Well done Raya!
Birch	Willow is our star of the week in Birch class. Willow always demonstrates our core values and is someone who can always be relied upon to be a role model for others. Well done Willow, we're very proud of you.
Rowan	Scarlett is our star this week as she has shown such incredible perseverance and resilience in her learning. In maths, she has worked so hard to understand a new method and has really impressed me with her wonderful ideas in writing too. I'm so proud of you Scarlett, keep up the amazing work!
Maple	Our star of the week is Alice for her amazing effort in her writing! Alice wrote two whole pages in her beautiful handwriting all about her invented "Cracking Contraption" which was an automated dog-feeder. How creative! Keep it up Alice!
Hawthorn	Max is Hawthorn's Star of the Week for being a terrific role model. He is polite, respectful and kind to others. He shows responsibility in his willingness to help people without waiting to be asked and aspiration through trying hard to act upon advice about his work. We are very proud of you Max!