

St Margaret's Academy

Dear Parents,

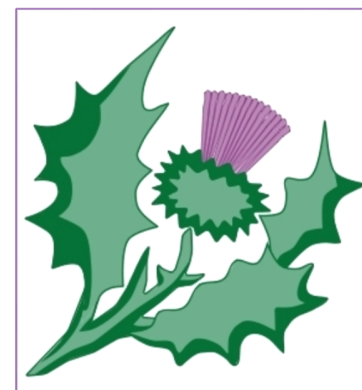
We've made it to the end of a super busy unusual yet exciting term. This week and today has been a special mix of celebrations and farewells. We've all enjoyed the fun of Christmas events and celebrations of Christmas stars and values heroes. In the absence of traditional events, you can share in some of this fun on our website. Look in our 'Well-being in Action' page under 'LET'S SMILE' – '[Smiles in December](#)'. Here you will find heart-warming Christmas films from each class and a fun video from all the staff to the children. Thank you to Mrs Wall for organising the former and Mrs Kerswell for organising the latter which we managed to do in our staff bubbles. We hope you enjoy them as much as the children and ourselves.

Farewell

On Wednesday we said goodbye and thank you to Mrs Stoneman who retired from work after 27 years of service to St Margaret's pupils and families. Mrs Stoneman has been a teaching assistant in our Hearing Support Centre for all these years, working with four Head Teachers in her time. When she started in 1993, the first Jurassic Park film was released. Meat Loaf was number 1 in the charts with Whitney Houston not far behind. The first high speed trains travelled from London to Paris via the tunnel and in one of those strange symmetries of life, the European Union was formed. In our goodbyes we learnt how Mrs Stoneman was known for her utmost kindness, empathy and for always putting the children at the centre of everything. She was also recognised as a problem solver and someone who could always find anything. We all send her our warmest thanks and best wishes.

Today we also said our goodbyes and thank yous to Miss Wooldridge and Mr Robinson who have left St Margaret's to start new adventures in their teaching careers.

Miss Wooldridge started here in 1998 as a class teacher, progressing to become one of our Assistant Head Teachers. If your children have ever been fortunate enough to be taught by Miss Wooldridge, I'm sure you'll know how talented a teacher she is in the classroom. Her best known skills are with Maths but she's also known for her skills in art and classroom management. It has always been a delight to walk in to her classroom and see the engagement of her pupils and the way Miss Wooldridge develops their thinking with her expert questioning. She has helped move the school forward with her leadership of Maths and more recently with our spending of the pupil premium.



Upcoming Events

January 4

Non – Pupil Day

January 5

First day back

Cued Speech Non-Uniform day

This non uniform day today raised £145 in aid of the *Cued Speech Association* who support school's work with our deaf children and their families.

Thank you so much for your contributions.

Mr Robinson started here in 2016 as a Senior Teacher on the leadership team. He led on the introduction of our school values, helping ensure they became a part of all that we do in school. Behind the scenes he ensured that all our school trips have been properly assessed to be safe. He has coached and led our Y5/6 boys' football teams to remarkable success in league and cup events. With his interest in a broad curriculum, he has taught engaging and exciting lessons in subjects such as Geography and History that have piqued his pupils' interest.

I know the children have really enjoyed being taught by both Miss Wooldridge and Mr Robinson so on behalf of all the pupils and families, past and present, we all send them our very best wishes for the future and their new adventures.



Curriculum News

You might remember that last week, Miss Pritchard launched our [Big Write](#) project, inspired by Age UK and the *Man on the Moon*. In our Writing Blog, you can see some lovely photos of this free write and envelopes ready to be posted to Dunboyne Court for our friends to open on Christmas Day. Many thanks to all the children who took part. Have a look in the [History Blog](#) to see Year 3 using their Stone Age survival skills in the orchard. Children have been busy with various Design Technology projects this term. Have a look in the DT Blog to see Year 1s' [Christmas stockings](#), Year 2s' [postman trolleys](#), Year 4's [light up Christmas cards](#) and Year 5s' [lavender bags](#).



Over the last two weeks Teachers and teaching assistants have been taking part in phonics training

Thanks

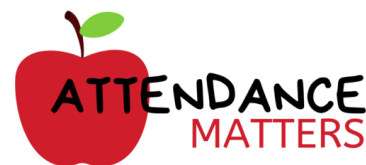
I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the staff here at school – for their dedication and continually going above and beyond for your children. They are a very special group of people and I know your children are lucky to have them working for them. This is in all departments of the school. For example, the kitchen staff have just delivered big Christmas dinners for the last 7 school days. The cleaning staff, as you might imagine, have been cleaning thoroughly and carefully all through this pandemic, helping keep us all safe. The office work tirelessly behind the scenes making sure we continue to operate. Our Meal Time Assistants, out at the sharp end each day, are brilliant, playing with the children and helping them with their lunches. Our Hearing Support Centre integrates children into mainstream education, helping them thrive as do our amazing pastoral team. Thank you to them all, and of course the teachers and teaching assistants who also work many more hours than what they are paid for.

It is a privilege working with these and I wish them all a peaceful, healthy and recharging Christmas break.

Finally, very best wishes to you all for an awesome Christmas and New Year. I look forward to working with you and your wonderful children again in 2021.

Have a lovely weekend.

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Whole School
Attendance

97.2%

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

BEECH CLASS



The Latest COVID-19 News

The government announced this week that they are introducing rapid tests for teachers and pupils from January. You can read detailed [questions and answers](#) about this on the web.

The Director for Public Health England has written to parents with a [Christmas message and appeal](#) for the holiday period. This is on our website under 'A Range of Helpful Resources for Parents' under 'Coronavirus COVID-19'. Please find 2 minutes to have a read as it contains useful information and answers to some questions you might have. Thank you.

The government has announced that, as of Monday 14 December 2020, the self-isolation period for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus will be shortened from 14 to 10 days. This change will apply to all those who are currently self-isolating including those who commenced self-isolation before Monday. The change reflects new evidence showing that people are most infectious around the time they first develop symptoms. By day 10, only 2% will still be capable of passing on the virus to others. People who test positive should continue to self-isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms or 10 days from point of taking a positive test if asymptomatic.

Important Covid Reminder for Christmas

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school i.e. by Sunday evening 20th December, please let us know by emailing admin@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk
If your child tests positive having developed symptoms from Monday 21st December, please do not contact us. Instead, follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.



MAIN COVID MESSAGES FOR CHRISTMAS

- Actions over December and the holiday will impact on January
- Be aware of who you are in contact with over Christmas
- Stay in your bubble
- Christmas doesn't change the transmission of the virus
- Hands, face, space – key message
- Keeping distance is key
- The spike in transmission in Torbay in October and November was caused by people mixing with friends in pubs and then taking the virus home



Ash	<p>Badges: Jude B - a super polite kind, respectful boy. You are a super role model in our class - always trying your best with everything you do. A super try-a-tops! Evie - Every class needs an Evie. She shows such kindness to everyone in our class - a super little bucket filler!</p>
Elm	<p>Badge: Zak - what wonderful aspiration you have Zak. You have been such a Try-a-tops this term working hard to learn new words and use your voice. We are so proud of you.</p> <p>Badge: Anu - For showing all of our school values every single day. You know how to be a brilliant bucket filler and make everyone's day brighter. Thanks you Anu.</p>
Beech	<p>Star of the week - Fletcher - for your endless enthusiasm and creativity! We have loved sharing your show and tell with you this week - you have spoken so well about each of your choices and we know you have been looking forward to it for a long time...well deserved!</p> <p>Special values: Keaton has been nominated by Mr Thomas for a Responsibility badge - he said that you "always respond well to instructions, asks politely, and alerts me if he thinks anything is amiss" Darcy - Kindness - nothing is ever too much trouble for Darcy. She is always ready to help at the drop of a hat. She shares with others and tries to make sure everybody in Beech Class is ok. Ella - Aspiration - you have worked so hard this term. You find every opportunity to have a go at moving your own learning forward and amaze me every day with your desire to try harder.</p>
Pine	<p>Special values badge Mariella - Responsibility - for her consistently impeccable manners and attitude towards learning in all areas of the curriculum. Ellie-Maii - Kindness- For always being so kind to everyone in our class. Kaiden- Respect- For always looking and listening, he is so polite and is such a fabulous role model. Roman - Respect- for great manners and always showing respect to the adult that is talking. He waits patiently when others are talking and is always respectful towards his peers. Star of the week- Charlie Vardy for always being such a positive, kind role model in our class. He is such a joy to have in the classroom.</p>
Oak	<p>Star of the week: Willow- for showing responsibility by really focusing on her learning tasks and helping others. Also for approaching every day with a positive and happy attitude. Well done Willow!</p> <p>Special values badges: Kindness- Ava- always making others laugh and smile and helping others to sort out their problems Aspiration- Bethany- for always trying her best to move her learning on Respect- Noah- for treating everyone in such a lovely way and showing great manners at all times.</p>

Apple	<p>Star of the week: Amelia- for trying really hard and persevering with her learning over the past few weeks. Well done Amelia!</p> <p>Special values badges: Responsibility- Veronica- in every way possible Aspiration- Zoe- for her effort in writing</p>
Birch	<p>Star of the week - Cole - For your fantastic art work this week. You listened carefully to instructions and worked really hard to make a beautiful collograph print!</p> <p>Special values badges: Kindness - Mabel for always putting other people before herself.</p>
Rowan	<p>Star of the week - Oliver for always aspiring to be his best and creating an amazing Christmas wreath in art! You have also improved your sitting and listening so much - we are proud of you.</p> <p>Special value badges Aspiration - Neave for making accelerated progress in maths, literacy, science and computing. Kindness - Emilia for brightening everyone's day with your constant smiling Respect - Louie for using good manners, all of the time, to everyone.</p>
Cherry	<p>Star of the week - Aiden Lee for the amazing Christmas light he created. He worked hard to design, make and evaluate this. Well done Aiden Lee.</p> <p>Special value badges Aspiration - Nate for consistently working with great concentration in all lessons over the Autumn term. He always contributes well to discussions, uses his whiteboard purposely and completes all tasks (including additional ones) to a high standard. Respect - Ellie for always being polite, caring, helpful and supportive to others. Kindness - Maisy-Beau - wrote a very caring and thoughtful letter to a member of staff that made that person's day!</p>
Hazel	<p>Whole class: aspiration award - tremendous work over the autumn term. Mr Robinson is hugely pleased with everybody.</p> <p>Special value badges: Responsibility - Charlie M who has made remarkable positive changes to the way he approaches school and learning. He should be extremely proud of his achievements Aspiration: Bea, Ellie and Holly for always showing aspiration every single day. Well done</p>
Willow	<p>Star of the week: Zain for his sewing skills and showing patience and determination to make a quality end product! Well done Zain.</p> <p>Special Values Badges: Ethan - Aspiration - Ethan is always an excellent role model in class, he makes consistently good choices and always tries his best to improve his learning at all times. An extremely mature year 5 whom I am very lucky to have in my class! Mylee - Responsibility - Mylee has been working hard to build confidence in maths and believe that she can do it! She has shown dedication by working hard at home and should be as proud of her efforts as I am! Evelyn - Respect - Evelyn is a model year 5 student, she shows respect to all adults and children that she works with, she listens and works incredibly hard both independently and with other members of the class - well done Evelyn I am very proud of you!</p>
Holly	<p>Star of the week: Thomas - for the great effort he is making to develop an increasingly mature attitude in the classroom and at playtimes.</p> <p>Special value badges:</p>

	<p>Kindness - Avalon, who is always caring and willing to help others without being asked.</p> <p>Respect - Isabelle, who is always polite and ready to listen to others.</p> <p>Responsibility - Grace, who always behaves with maturity and can always be relied upon to do the right thing. She is a fantastic role model.</p> <p>Aspiration - Ava, Ben, Natalia and Jesse who have all worked particularly hard to improve the content of their writing this term. Olivia - who has worked hard in Maths and persevered even when she has found a concept tricky at first.</p>
Maple	<p>Star of the week - Every single member of Maple Class has impressed me in so many ways this term. You have all been awarded with individual reasons that make each and every one of you amazing little humans! Aim high and remember you can all do and be whatever you want if you work hard. Thank you Maples for making my last term so special and fun!</p> <p>Special value badges: Whole class aspiration badge awarded to Maple Class for really going the extra mile and challenging themselves. They have inspiring career ambitions and are already working hard towards their goals.</p>
Hawthorn	<p>Special value badges:</p> <p>Responsibility- Juliet for always quietly doing the right thing, and showing every value in all she does. She was fantastic during her online learning and continued with a superb effort in school</p> <p>Star of the week- Olivia- I could pick Olivia every week for her continued effort and aspiration. She is so keen to learn and her positivity radiates to those around her. You are a wonderful role model for our class, and should be proud of everything you've achieved so far!</p>