

St Margaret's Academy

Brrrrrr! It was a cold one this week. We were treated to a light snow fall on Wednesday and took the opportunity to get the children outside to enjoy this unusual Torquay phenomenon (there are some good photos in the Year 1 curriculum below).

We started the week with another assembly on *dreams and goals*; our theme for the term. One of our deaf children in Year 5, Anton, inspired us all with a presentation about the life of the genius, Beethoven. We all enjoyed Beethoven's 6th symphony which he composed when totally deaf.

Strike News

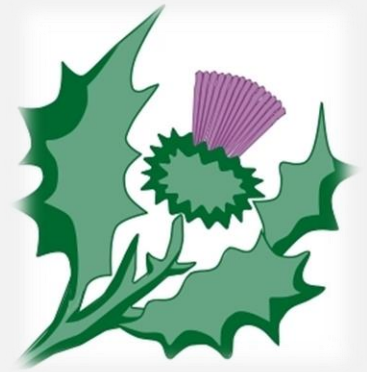
I'm sure you are aware of the news that there may be strike action from teachers. I will write to you as soon as possible on Monday with clarity about what will be happening. Apologies for not being able to confirm at this time; there are a variety of factors making planning for this tricky.

Kids Zone – Active Learning

This year and next, one of our school improvement areas is to develop better learning behaviours. We are being led in this by our Phase Leaders: Mrs Tandy, Mrs Wall and Miss Lynds. This term, we are focussing on one element to this which is *active learning*. One part of this is having clear modelling from teachers that children can access. As part of this we have launched our new Kids Zone on the website this week. We will gradually be adding to this as the year progresses so do keep an eye on it. It will be super useful to you at home as well as for the children to access independently in their learning. You can find it on the top line of the home page on the website.

Curriculum News

This term, Mrs Morgan, our Geography leader has been inspiring teachers with ideas to develop fieldwork skills. In the Geography Blog, you can see how [Year3](#) got on with their fieldwork to explore some fascinating changes to the locality. [Year 1](#) stayed closer to home for their fieldwork looking at how the weather affects us –



There are several special family community events in February to help children learn about different cultures. The events are all carnival-around-the-world themed so lots of dancing, dress up and every child gets a free mask! Check out the [flyer](#) on our website for more details and how to book; it's under 'Parents' – 'Family Opportunities and Activities'.

ATTENDANCE

The class with the highest attendance this week goes to

Maple
With **98.8%**

Well Done!
Maple have a non-uniform day on Monday 23rd January

perfect timing with the light snow, freezing temperature and rain this week. Both well worth a look and a read.

Look in the [Maths Blog](#) to see how some of high flying Maths boys got on with a Maths challenge with other children in other schools this week.

We're looking for Dressing-up Items and Games

To help make our playtimes as fun as possible, we're looking for some more simple dressing-up clothes – simple items like shirts, scarfs, coats, rather than made-up items like superman costumes.

We're also looking for any small games that don't have too many small parts, like Twister.

If you have anything spare, please do drop in to the office or hand to your child's class teacher. Many thanks.

PE Kit



On your child's day for PE, please do remember that they need to come into school wearing school PE kit, not their own sports clothes. As a reminder:

- Trainers (coloured allowed) or plimsolls for dance and gym (barefoot otherwise)
- Plain black PE shorts, black leggings or black tracksuit bottom
- Purple PE t-shirt (with logo)
- Optional purple PE hoodie for cold outdoor PE or School Jumper

Packed Lunches and Snacks



Packed lunches should be labelled clearly with your child's name. We encourage children to eat a healthy packed lunch and an after-school snack before extra-curricular activities. Please avoid sending in sweets, fizzy drinks and chocolate bars either in packed lunches or as an after-school snack. Snacks for the morning should be fresh or dried fruit. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have access to free fruit in school.

Useful Resources for Parents - Updated

On our website, you can find a range of information that you might find useful in supporting the rewarding (but sometimes tricky) job of parenting. Look under 'Parents' – 'Useful Resources for Parents'. There are two new updates this week.

SEN – Weekly Parent Support Group

If you have a child with Special Educational Needs, the *0-19 Torbay Team* is running free weekly [parent-led drop-ins](#) every Thursday 12.30-1.30 at The Beehive in Paignton. No need to book.

Free Parenting Workshops at South Devon College

South Devon College is offering [free workshops](#) on a range of interesting topics across January and February: childhood trauma, adoption, autism, domestic violence and self-care. If you are interested, please do contact the office in the first instance and we can direct you to the correct person to contact at South Devon.

Interested in being a Trustee?

We are looking to grow our school trustees. We have two different roles we would like to fill. One requires a minimum of two meetings per year (one usually virtually in the evening and one usually a visit in person). The other is a more regular role with about three events per term (one or two are usually in person with one virtual meeting).

If you are interested in helping form the direction of the school and having a more active role in the education of your children, please do come and have a chat. I am very happy to talk about the roles in more detail as is Karen Colmer our governance professional and James Bennett, the Chair of Trustees.

Also, if you know anyone out of school who might be interested, please do ask them to give me a call. This could be family members such as grandparents as well as any other professionals.

Help with Rising Costs – Reminders

- 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-tariffs>

Enjoy your weekend.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



STARS OF THE WEEK

Beech	Hugo has been a real super star this week. You have been joining in so much more with your learning and your smile full of pride has been lighting up the room. Well done Hugo!
Pine	Archie M is our star this week. Archie works his socks off every day and uses his busy time to stretch his learning. Well done Archie.
Oak	Zak- for always showing respect and kindness to others. He has also shown great responsibility by listening carefully and joining in more with the learning, especially in the Geography and Computing lessons. Well done Zak!
Apple	Thomas is our star in Apple for producing a greater depth level of writing. He has been so aspirational in using a rich vocabulary which, in turn, has helped others in the class in their writing. Well done Thomas, you are an amazing Apple!
Birch	Rory - for being an absolute champion in his times tables! Wonderful sitting, looking and listening all week too. Keep this up, we're very proud of you.
Rowan	Hayden - for his fantastic paired work during our PE problem lessons and his responsible attitude towards our Geography, especially our fieldwork.
Cherry	Scarlett is the star of the week in Cherry class for the way she has become more resilient with her learning. She is tackling tasks on her own and should feel proud of herself.
Hazel	Edith - For your aspirational work in maths - you have worked so hard to perfect your short multiplication method and are being very independent in all of your learning. Well done Edith!
Willow	Willow's star this week is Kaylee. Kaylee is a student who is always doing the right thing. She consistently shows all of the school values - especially aspiration! Kaylee is a true role model to all of the children in Willow - she works very hard, she is so polite and is a really good friend. Well done, Kaylee. Keep it up!
Holly	Precious - for showing such aspiration in their writing and spelling. She has worked so hard to improve her writing and we have been so impressed! Well done and keep up the great work.
Maple	Larisa is our star of the week for taking responsibility for her learning. In writing, we have been finishing our independent pieces. Larisa has shown great resilience and has used the resources around her to get on with her work quietly. Well done Larisa!
Hawthorn	Leo is our star of the week in Hawthorn for the terrific effort that he has been putting into listening and contributing to lessons. He has worked particularly hard in maths with solving ratio problems this week. Well done Leo- this is great aspiration!