



Spring Term Newsletter No.2 (17.1.20)

Vision reminder: ***We want ourselves and the children in our care to be successful, resilient and inquisitive learners who are happy and well-equipped to participate positively in the community and wider society.***

It has been another enjoyable week at school with lots of exciting learning in classes and happy little people at playtimes. We are making greater use of the school grounds at lunchtime, including the school field which is open to anyone who wants to run the mile, walk the mile or use the exercise equipment thanks to Mrs Blackburn. We also have areas for different team games, construction, art, dressing up, general play, quiet time in the library and indoor games. Our Orchard hosts the Eco Warriors and Forest School as well as being open to all. Thanks to Mr Thomas we now have guttering and a water butt to enhance the area plus early planting of fruit and veg. Thank you to all our brilliant Meal Time Assistants who are each leading a different area, helping to make lunchtimes rewarding and fun. Mr Brooking's team games are particularly popular. Have a look in our [Eco Blog](#) to see some rock art done at lunchtime this week. Our amazing PTA is also raising funds to develop the front area of school into an adventure play area (where the cherry tree used to be).

Our theme for PSHE at the moment is *Dreams and Goals*. In this week and last week's assemblies we've been thinking about this, especially around having a plan. We've been talking about how it's ok to dream big but every dream needs a plan and first step. It fits well with our school value, *aspiration* and the British value, *liberty* as we are free to dream and follow our dreams. As always, the children are showing themselves to be incredibly reflective and thoughtful in their plans and goals. I'm sure if you chat to them at home, they will tell you lots more.

Curriculum News

Read the [Science Blog](#) to find out how Year 1 got on this week when they used the ipads to start their work on *Materials*. Check out the [Computing Blog](#) to find out how some of our children experimented with robotics. Look in the [Writing Blog](#) to find out how the children enjoyed our BIG WRITE writing for pleasure project before Christmas. Have a look in the [History Blog](#) to see how Years 5 and 6 have been preparing for a gas attack as they empathise with their peers from 80 years ago!

Well done to all the children who took on last week's maths home learning! Try this website and challenge yourself with a Sudoku this week. There are 3 levels of challenge to suit all ages! <http://www.mathsphere.co.uk/resources/MathSphereFreeResourcesSudoku.html>

Safeguarding Update

FYI, the local authority has written a short letter that explains how information is shared between schools and agencies when there are safeguarding concerns. You can find it on our 'Parents and Carers' under '[Safeguarding](#)'.

Attendance

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you about the importance and high profile of regular attendance for your child at school. With our very busy curriculum, time lost through absence is very hard to catch up, and there is a proven link between regular attendance and success. I do sympathise and understand it is expensive to take holiday during school holiday time. However, from the school side, we are under pressure to keep attendance high. It was one of next steps from the last Ofsted inspection and will be looked at again at the next inspection. The premise being, how can attainment be good if children aren't in school? St Margaret's follows the same policy as all other schools in Torbay. Unauthorised holiday absence of five days or more can trigger a £60 fine for each parent in the family. A second time within two years can trigger a court hearing as can non-payment of the £60 fine. We have an excellent attendance officer in school, Rachel Ripley, who works on Fridays. We are very keen to work with you as a family so please do keep in touch and talk to us. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Schools Meals Update

Please pre-order meals before 8.00am on the day you want your child to have one. We will not be able to order these in the school classroom and will phone to ask for you to bring in a packed lunch. Thank you.

Polite Prompt for Polite Parking Please—again

Please can I again ask for your help with parking around school. **I am receiving reports of people parking on drives and blocking drives.** Local residents regularly write to me with concerns about their drives being blocked and access for emergency vehicles being restricted. It must be very frustrating for them. Please can I appeal to you again for your consideration about this. Thank you.

Miss Palfrey and the Reading Ambassadors' Weekly Book Choices



For our older readers: *Run Wild* by Gill Lewis



For our younger readers: *Once Upon a Raindrop* by James Carter

Weekly Attendance Award

Congratulations again to **Holly Class** for winning the School Attendance Award with **100%** attendance. School target: 96% The whole school achieved **97.8% last week**



Stars of the Week

Elm	Lily and Scarlett - we were so proud of you for being so independent in writing your 'Lost posters.' You used 'Fred Talk' to spell the words you wanted to write. What 'Try-a-tops' you are girls!
Ash	Emily and Lola - both for showing our school value of responsibility. Not only do they show responsibility in the way they look after our classroom, but also in their learning. They are always keen to practise their skills and try their best!
Beech	Alfie for super engagement in all lessons this week. You always ask such thoughtful questions which help moving your learning forward and show that you are listening really carefully Keep asking Alfie!
Pine	Finley for his excellent effort in Maths and reading this term. Well done Finley your positive attitude to your learning since Christmas has been amazing.
Oak	Sienna- for coming back to school with a fantastic attitude to her learning and for taking responsibility to make sure she is safe when moving around the school. Well done Sienna!
Apple	Poppy T for trying hard in everything she does. Her work is clearly thought out whether in Maths or writing and it is always beautifully presented, great work!
Birch	George - For showing respect to everyone this week and taking responsibility for your behaviour. Keep it up!
Rowan	Aiden-Lee for a massive improvement in participating and concentrating! Mrs Burke and I are so proud of you!
Cherry	Since the Christmas holiday, Bali has displayed real aspiration and determination in all aspects of his work. What a great attitude! We are really proud of you. Keep it up!
Maple	Keria is a fantastic role model of responsibility and aspiration in Maple Class. She is always on task, contributes in every lesson and aspires to do her very best. Well done, Keira!
Willow	Oliver - Oliver has had an amazing week! He has contributed so positively to every lesson, has shown pride and aspiration in his learning and been a fantastic example to everyone in the class. A fantastic week! Well done you!
Holly	CJ - CJ is a fantastic role model of respectful behaviour. He is always polite, willing to help others and tries his best with his work. It is a pleasure to have him in the class. Well done!
Hazel	Harrison - for such a mature, aspirational attitude towards learning. Your participation in lessons has really stood out and I love how you've challenged yourself and taken some risks You've really shown what you are capable of and I'm so impressed!
Hawthorn	Jayden- for his enthusiasm and energy in lessons. He has really pushed himself to contribute in every lesson, and it has been wonderful to see him driving the class forward.

Diary Dates

Thur 23.1.20	M&M Drama Show 'Sleeping Beauty' in school time—for all children—£3.40 voluntary donation
Wk beg 2.3.20	Year 6 Residential / Activity Week
Wed 4.3.20—Mon 9.3.20	Book fair in the library after school
Thur 5.3.20	World Book Day—further details to follow about a theme
Wk beg 9.3.20	Advance notice: parents evenings will be held this week Science Week—lots of whizzing and popping coming up
Wed 11.3.10	Science homework fair supported by our friends from Dunboyne Court

KINDNESS

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

ASPIRATION