



ST MARGARETS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER # 12 1st December 2023

Curriculum News

Have a look in the [Writing Blog](#) to see how Year 4s' moving poetry from last week has gone nationwide. In the Sports Blog you can read how the [Lionesses](#) continued their unbeaten run on Monday to remain at the top of the league. Well done to the girls and Coach Scaife. In the Maths Blog, you can see some of the fun [Year 2 Apple](#) class had when learning about 2D shapes.

Forest School Appeal- From Mrs. Posey

We are currently in the process of building a fire circle in the orchard so that the children can sit around the fire safely. If you have any of the following available to you, we would massively appreciate any donations of long thick logs to go around the fire, planks of wood to go on top of tree 'stumps' and stumps of wood for the children to sit on.

If you happen to have any time on your hands (or know someone that does) and would be able to help with the physical lifting, sawing, placing of these logs that WOOD (!) be incredible. Please direct any enquiries or help towards my class email address: pine@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk

Fancy a Giant Pumpkin?

Our 3 enormous pumpkins are available for a good home. First come, first served. Great for soup. Please come to the office if interested and they will hand them over.

KS2 (Years 3-6) Carol Service

This will take place at Upton Vale Church on Monday 11th December, 5:30-6:30pm. You, your family and children are invited to attend the carol concert for an hour of singing and celebrating at this wonderful time of the year. Please note: parents will need to stay at the church during the performance please. We would love to see as many of you there as possible! Children will be required to wear their uniform but can wear some tinsel/a hat/something Christmassy if they wish!

Breakfast and After School Clubs

From January we are very sad to say that we have to increase the costs for Breakfast Club and After School Club. The last time prices were raised was over 4 years ago. We have resisted this move for as long as possible in the current financial climate but unfortunately, we now have no choice due to the continuously rising costs the school is incurring. We are really sorry we have to pass this on to you too as parents.

The new costs per session will be as follows:

- Breakfast Club will rise from £2.50 to £3.50
- After School Club will rise from £7.70 to £9.00 with sibling reduction rising from £5.50 to £7.00

Train to be a Teacher - Locally

Would you like to train to be a teacher? Or do you know someone who would like to? If so, read on. We are partnering with SWIFT (South West Institute for Teaching) Teacher Training to help train the next generation of teachers. St Margaret's is part of SWIFT Teacher Training's Torbay Campus. This means you can train close to home and St Margaret's can be one of your placement schools. SWIFT Teacher Training courses have been designed by expert teachers from across the area and backed by the University of Nottingham. Adults will be able to train close to home to help work around other commitments like childcare. To find out more please visit www.swifteachertraining.org.uk or email Nicky or Abby via info@swifteachertraining.org.uk. You can also read more detail on [our website](#) under 'Useful Resources for Parents'.

Help with Rising Costs-Reminders

- **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://www.householdsupportfund.gov.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-tariffs>

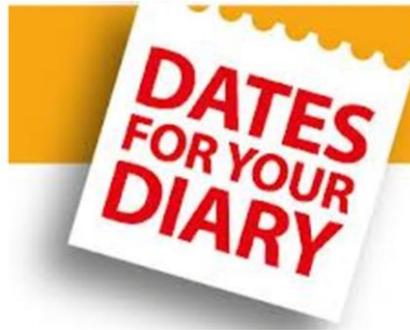
Happy December.



Tim Hughes
(Headteacher)

Star of the week

Beech	All of Beech Class are Stars this week due to their fantastic efforts with our Nativity!
Pine	You are all my little stars this week! You have all worked so hard for our Nativity! Well Done Pine Class
Oak	Oak Class are all stars this week. You have all been amazing and worked really hard for our Nativity.
Apple	Harley is our star this week simply because he consistently shows all of our values and is always smiling when he comes to school. He wasn't daunted with one of the first main speaking parts in the nativity, showing how much his confidence has grown since the start of Year 2.
Holly	Harvey is our star of the week in Holly. Inspired by our exploration of persuasive adverts for Christmas food, he independently wrote his own fabulous advert during writing for pleasure. He's made a particular effort to remain focused during lessons this week and is learning lots about friendship and making good choices.
Willow	Ossie is the star of the week in Willow. He has been working enthusiastically and responsibly in class and we were especially impressed with his learning about French colours this week. Well done Ossie.
Cherry	Emily - for continuing your brilliant efforts in all subjects in Y3 into Y4. You have been an absolute joy to teach and I feel so lucky to have been your teacher.
Hazel	Star of the week in Hazel class is Amelia for your fantastic performance of our 'Stop Bullying' song/rap. You performed with such confidence and made all the teachers in our class very proud!
Birch	Noah is the star in Birch this week. He has shown real skill in his PE and is such a fantastic member of the class.
Rowan	Maddie is our star this week, she can always be found following the school values and has worked so hard on her maths in particular. She has shown such resilience and aspiration in her learning. We are so proud of you!
Maple	Our star of the week is Pepe! Pepe has tried really hard this week with his learning. In writing, he has been contributing some fantastic ideas to the class. I have also been really impressed with Pepe's Design and Technology. He has designed an amazing Christmas decoration! Well done Pepe!
Hawthorn	Pheonix is our Star of the Week for her fantastic work in Design Technology this week. She took the lead within her group to problem-solve in order to create an architectural design to build a strong, sturdy structure. Well done Pheonix!



DATE	EVENT
4 th December	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day (Only Pack lunch bag option available for all other year groups)
5 th December	Year 3 & 4 Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day (Only Pack lunch bag option available for all other year groups)
5 th December	Foundation Stage Craft Event from 2pm
6 th December	Reception Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day (Only Pack lunch bag option available for all other year groups)
6 th December	PTA Cinema Trip Y2-Y6
7 th December	Year 1 & 2 Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day (Only Pack lunch bag option available for all other year groups)
7 th December	Rocksteady performance
8 th December	Christmas Jumper Day- whole school
8 th December	Special Visitor in school (PTA event)
8 th December	Class Christmas Tree competition winner announced
8 th December	PTA after school sale of hot chocolate and cookies, carol singing, view class Christmas Trees and Raffle
11 th December	KS2 Christmas Concert at Upton Vale Baptist Church 5.30-6.30
12 th December	Foundation Stage Singing assembly 2.30pm