



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you all enjoyed a relaxing summer holiday! We are well and truly back up and running in school and would like to welcome you to the Autumn term in Year 6.

We are sure it is hard to believe that your children are in their final year of primary school! It will be a busy and exciting year and we have lots to look forward to such as a residential trip and school performance. We will of course also have the Year 6 Statutory Assessment tests at the end of the year and would ask you to ensure you have no holiday booked and **your children are in school during the week beginning Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**. You will also need to apply online through Torbay Council for your child's **secondary school place before the deadline at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**. If you are planning to visit a secondary school this month to look around, please let the office know. The secondary schools have many open days to enable you to look around as a family and make the choice that is best for your child.

The children will be given the opportunity to take part in a residential trip to Skern Lodge. Last year we ran a very successful 3 day trip. Almost all children attended and they gained so much from it! More information will follow shortly regarding deposits and payment schedules. The date for this residential will be **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024** and there will be a meeting arranged nearer the time to inform you all about it.

**Hawthorn Staffing**

- Assistant Head Teacher - Mrs L Kerswell (Monday- Wednesday)
- Teacher - Mrs W Kennedy (Wednesday- Friday)
- Teaching Assistant - Mrs E Hollis (Monday- Thursday)
- Teaching Assistant - Mrs J West (Monday-Friday)

**Maple Staffing**

- Teacher - Miss H Lynds (Monday - Friday)
- Teaching Assistant - Mrs E Gunstone (Tuesday - Friday)
- Teaching Assistant - Miss Scaife (Monday and Wednesday)
- Hearing Support - Mrs Down and Ms Burley (Monday-Friday)

School Start Time	Break	Lunch	End of the day
8.55am	11.00-11.15am	12.25-1:25pm	3.15pm

**Reading Books**

Reading diaries and books will be sent out this week once children have been assessed. We ask for your support in ensuring that children read for at least 15 minutes each day. This will prepare them for expectations at secondary school. Children will be expected to log their reading and complete online quizzes at the end of each text. This will allow us to monitor children's level of reading and their understanding of the texts much more closely. We will report this to you during parents' evenings. Children will be expected to hand in their reading diaries on a Monday and a Thursday so we can check their progress. They will be asked to make up reading time during break time where reading homework has not been completed.

**P.E**

Children will need to come to school in their PE kit on their allocated days for PE.

**Hawthorn: Tuesday and Friday**

**Maple: Monday and Thursday**

Children will need to ensure that they wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions so may choose to wear black or grey leggings or tracksuit bottoms. They must wear their PE T-Shirt **and their school jumper**. This is not a non-uniform day.

Please note, if your child has an after-school sports club, they must bring their kit with them to change into at the end of the school day.

## **Planning and Topic information**

A copy of our termly overview will accompany this letter to give you an idea of topics covered in school this term.

## **Homework**

Children are expected to read every night. They will have one piece of maths homework to complete each week online on [www.maths.co.uk](http://www.maths.co.uk). We will check each piece has been completed for the correct Monday - but in preparation for secondary school children are expected to plan ahead if they know they have a busy weekend coming up. Therefore homework for the whole half term will be uploaded and available. They have a weekly score sheet on the back of their reading diaries and will record their homework scores on this sheet so that you can see how they are getting on!

## **Behaviour**

At St Margaret's Academy we adopt a relational approach to behaviour management. This means we put relationships with the children at the forefront of our practice. We know that secure, safe and happy children are in the best place for learning.

We recognise that children who are presenting with undesired behaviours are often in a state of distress rather than wilfully choosing to misbehave. Therefore they need our support and connection. We use a restorative approach following an incident such as reflecting on the incident with a member of staff and making an apology. We use our school values to reinforce desired behaviour. This is always done sensitively and privately to avoid shaming the child. Restorative practices provide teaching opportunities to help children manage big emotions, rather than following an approach based on punishment which can be detrimental to long term emotional development and the child's mental health.

We work closely with parents and value your support in modelling and reinforcing our school values. We always inform parents about an incident involving their child. Parents, if you have any queries or uncertainties about how an incident has been handled, please come and talk to us. We want to work as a team with our families and always value feedback. More information can be found in our short *Policy for Behaviour and Relationships* which can be found on our website.

<https://www.stmargaretstorbay.org.uk/website/policies/248513>

## **Reminders**

Can we please remind you that all **long hair must be tied up** and water bottles for the classroom must contain only water. A healthy snack is permitted at playtime. If children cannot remove earrings for P.E. then they must be taped up before they come to school. Nail varnish and make-up are not permitted.

## **Parental Consents**

When your child starts at St Margaret's Academy we seek consent for:

- Use of images
- Marketing
- Trips
- ICT user
- Medical

Each year we will inform you of your consent preferences with the annual data collection. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time. If you would like to withdraw or change your consent, you must submit your request in writing to:

[Adminteam@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk](mailto:Adminteam@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk)

## **Internet Safety**

We would like to flag up the importance of internet/computer/mobile phone safety. If you wish to find out more about this, these websites may be useful:

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

<http://ceop.police.uk/>

We also ask for your support in knowing which APPs and facilities your child uses on their mobile phone (if relevant) and to remind them about making appropriate and safe comments via TikTok / Messenger/ WhatsApp etc should they use these.

Mobile phones are not allowed in school except where children need them at the beginning and end of the school day to walk home. They must be turned off and handed in to the teacher at the beginning of the school day. They will be kept in a box in a lockable cupboard and given out at the end of the day. There is a consent form for this which has already been sent out.

It has been lovely to say hello to some of you at school pick-up and we look forward to working with you and your children this year.

**The Year 6 team**