



**St Margaret's  
Academy**

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## Spring Term Newsletter No.1



We hope you had a lovely Christmas with your families and wish you all a Happy New Year!

We are off to a great start to the new year as our new school website has launched! We are really pleased with it so please click on the link at the top of this newsletter to have a look around. We hope it will contain all the information that you need and be a useful site for prospective parents too. It has a helpful calendar of key school events and is an easy place for you to check out all the school news on a daily basis.

The next stage will be to launch a new communication system to ensure you receive all the information you need from the school. Each parent will have a separate login and you will receive messages and emails from us. As most adults communicate these days using tablets or smartphones the company, eSchools, also has an app that you can download which will mean you receive instant notifications and have a personal calendar for your child. so you know when they are swimming or when there are special days. You will be able to see information about each of your children, including letters sent home and current attendance. You will also soon be able to book parents' meetings online to save you coming in to school to sign up. Our main means of communicating with you will be through eSchools so please watch out for the information we will send home soon to tell you your usernames and login details. This is the logo of the company should you wish to download the app in readiness!



### **We are very proud of this week's Star Pupils:**



Beech — Lacey has a positive attitude to learning and is applying the Year 1 spellings.

Pine — Euan is always being kind and helpful.

Apple — Finley is always ready to learn, giving 100% and helping others.

Oak — Alana has improved her writing by using her phonics more.

Birch — Alfie W has shown fantastic effort with his spellings this week.

Rowan — Jake has settled really well into the school and is an enthusiastic member of the class.

Cherry — Catherine has a great attitude to learning in all subjects and has a growth mindset.

Maple — Pheobe has a positive approach to her learning and is always smiling.

Holly — Bethany has a fantastic attitude in all aspects of learning and amazing presentation.

Willow — Jay has shown an excellent effort and attitude towards his geographical learning.

Hawthorn — Scarlett always puts in great effort and has started the year with enthusiasm.

Hazel — Frankie has shown a really positive attitude and works hard.

*Learning today to achieve our tomorrows.*

### Diary Date Reminders:

**Monday 9th January** — Y6 Hazel Class swimming

**Wednesday 11th January**— Y2 Maths Workshop for parents from 9:05am in the Woodland Studio

**Thursday 12th January**—Y4/5 Futsal Tournament until 5pm

**Wednesday 18th January**— Y1 Maths Workshop for parents from 9:05am in the Woodland Studio



### Attendance Award

Congratulations to Beech Class for winning the School Attendance Award with 99% attendance.

The whole school achieved 95.1% attendance overall which is below our target of 96%.

### Star of the Week

We hope you like our new look Star of the Week box too! We thought you might like to know why your child was chosen and it makes it more personal. We will also send home a paper copy with the Stars as well as emailing it out to everyone.

### Mobile Phones and Smart Watches

Christmas often means children receive electronic gadgets but please remember our policy is that only children in Year 6 can bring a phone to school and that is only with agreed, signed permission. Watches that have a recording facility must not be worn to school either. Please remember to let the office know of any changes to contact details if you had a new phone for Christmas too!

### Another Award

Exciting news! We have received a Bronze Award which recognises all we have achieved with our school food and food education over the last two years. We serve fresh, seasonal school meals and we have a school nutrition action group where pupils and parents are involved in planning improvements to school menus and the dining experience. We also ensure that that opportunities are given for cooking and food growing activities and that there is an opportunity to visit a farm as part of the children's curriculum. We are already working towards achieving the Silver award.



### Reception Intake 2017

For children who are four years old between 1st September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017, the closing date for primary school applications is **16th January 2017**. If you or your friends and relatives have children who were born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013. they fall into this category, so please make sure that the online application is completed by this date. Even if you already have children in our school, if you do not complete the application form they are not guaranteed to get a place in our school. The LA has informed schools that there are some 300-400 applications not yet submitted, so please do check you have completed an application form.

You can find information about applying on Torbay Council's website: [www.torbay.gov.uk](http://www.torbay.gov.uk) or you can contact the admissions helpline 01803 208908 between 9.30am and 3.30pm, or email [pupil.services@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:pupil.services@torbay.gov.uk) if you need advice.

RESPECT

CREATIVITY

INDEPENDENCE