

St Margaret's Academy

We began this week with an assembly on how we can stay safe online. In school we use the acronym, *SMART*, to help remind us how to navigate the World Wide Web safely.

Stay SMART in the Online World

- **S** is for Safe e.g., use strong passwords, use a user name, don't give our personal information and use avatars to protect your personal identity
- **M** is for Meet – a reminder that online friends we don't know in person, are still strangers
- **A** is for Accepting e.g., don't open email attachments if you are unsure of the sender, don't click on pop-ups, don't accept friend requests from people you don't know
- **R** is for Reliable e.g., don't just rely on information from one web page, check several, ask a trusted adult, look in a book, watch out for fake news
- **T** is for Tell – we use this in all areas of safeguarding – tell a trusted adult if you are worried, a reminder that cyber-bullying is very unkind and to take screen shots and save messages if people are posting anything mean – and don't do mean things back

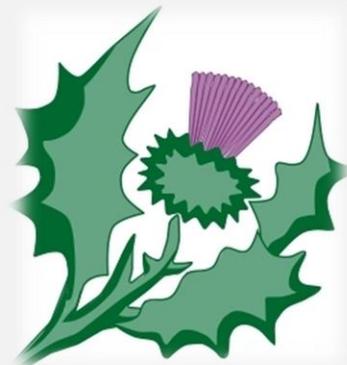
On [Childnet](#) there is a lovely child-friendly cartoon video we use in school to help demonstrate *SMART*. Well worth sharing with your child at home.

Tuesday, 7th February, is [Safer Internet Day](#). Teachers will be working with children in class on this theme. Check out this video from our Digital Leaders telling you more about the day which is themed around, **Want to talk about it?**

Online Gaming Concerns

In education there are growing concerns about children's increasing exposure to highly inappropriate content when gaming with friends online. We hear from children themselves, colleagues and parents about playing games that are age-rated much older than the child. These games encourage and reward violence, often with frequent swearing from other gamers. We feel these factors are increasingly influencing children to be more aggressive and less respectful in schools and society as a whole.

Please can I bring your attention to the PEGI age rating for games. This criteria has been established by experts in the field of child protection, psychology, the law and media. Games are classified into the following age groups based on the content: 3, 7, 12, 16 or 18.



Reminder to parents that sessions for Breakfast and After school Club must be booked and paid for in advance using the gateway app. Spaces are limited at these clubs so booking is essential.

ATTENDANCE

The class with the highest attendance this week goes to

Maple CLASS
99%
WELL DONE

Here are some of the games we hear children talk about playing that are rated older than their age:

- Grand Theft Auto (rated 18) – graphic violence, violence against vulnerable and defenceless characters, swearing, drugs, alcohol, nudity – rewards achieved for violence and criminality
- Call of Duty (rated 18) – graphic violence, violence against vulnerable and defenceless characters and strong language
- Fortnite (rated 12) – frequent scenes of mild violence

On the *Think You Know* website, there is a useful article titled, [Gaming – what's appropriate for your child?](#) where you can find out a lot more. This is another useful site where you can enter then names of games to find out more: <https://videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/>

Parent and Child Workshops

We hope you are enjoying the workshops that are taking place. These are part of our work this year to help better engage with you at home. This week there has been an addition and subtraction workshop for Year 2, phonics for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, collage art for Year 1 and multiplication workshop for Year 4. Feedback from teachers has been really positive that you found them super useful... and even fun, which is what we always aspire the learning to be like.

Sports News

Look in the Sports Blog to see our top sporting pupils in Year 5 complete the [Bronze Ambassador Award](#); well done to them and being excellent role models for others. Keep up with the exploits of the [Lionesses](#) in their league and cup games this week.

Reading News

Reading is still the number one most important thing you can do with your child. The more they read, the more likely your child is to be successful in the future.

Under the *Parents* tab on the website under *Useful Resources for Parents* there is now a 'Ten Top Tips for [Reading Stories with your Child](#)'. This can also be found on the *Curriculum* page by scrolling down to *Subject Specific Information* and choosing the *Reading* page. On this page there are a wealth of other ideas to help you at home with reading.

Music, Dance and Drama Opportunities

The *Doorstep Arts* organisation run various groups in Torbay including:

- Early Years music sessions (ages 0-4)
- Doorstep Arts Studio Courses (ages 7-20)
- Doorstep Youth Theatre (ages 14-20)
- Regular Open Mic opportunities
- Opportunities to engage with musical theatre, write/compose own music, and play in small ensembles to support live theatre performances.

Some groups meet at Palace Theatre Paignton, others at various sites across Torbay. For more information visit their website (www.doorsteparts.co.uk/takepart) or email polly@doorsteparts.co.uk



Uniform Reminder

At St Margaret's Academy we encourage our children to take pride in themselves and in their work. School uniform plays a valuable part in contributing to the ethos of our school whilst setting and reflecting an appropriate and formal tone. We need you to help us with this by making sure your child is wearing the correct uniform. Below is a quick reminder;

- Black Shoes; flat soles with grip or plain simple black boots during the winter months – No sandals or open toe shoes
- Grey trousers, grey tailored shorts, grey pinafore or grey skirt
- White polo shirt (with or without logo) or white shirt with collar
- Purple sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- Plain black, grey or white socks; plain grey tights
- **Long enough hair must be tied back**
- **Make-up, nail varnish (including false nails) or transfer tattoos are not acceptable in school**

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.**

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

St Margaret's PTA run sales for second hand uniform. Please contact the office or the PTA via their Facebook page for more information. Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Interested in being a Trustee?

We are still looking to grow our school trustees. Please do get in touch if you would like an informal chat to find out more.

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>

Happy weekend!

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Beech	James is our star of the week this week. He has enjoyed our art lessons so much and really got involved. You have shared your ideas in a group and listened to the ideas of others carefully. You are also working really hard on remembering to put your hand up to answer questions during learning time - thank you James.
Pine	Alex is our star this week. He is so polite and hardworking and two other members of staff noticed him this week and reported back! Well done Alex!
Oak	Noah- for his amazing creativity and participation in our DT lessons this week and also at home when making a trolley for a postman. Noah always presents his work neatly and tries his best. Super effort Noah- well done
Apple	Archie has been so much more responsible this week in his learning and also making better choices throughout the day. He has shown resilience in his writing and been very creative during busy time. Well done Archie, keep up the positive vibes!
Birch	Henry is our star this week for leading the pack with his book quizzes. Nearly 50 and nearly all of them passed! Fantastic work both at home and in school Henry - keep it up!
Rowan	Joshua - for his fantastic Geography enquiry report. The tone and the detail he included was super - keep up the great work Joshua!
Cherry	Ludo is the star of the week in Cherry class. He has worked so hard on his story writing this week and shown true aspiration. He has also been working hard on learning his times tables and his sound check scores are amazing. Well done Ludo.
Hazel	Maisie is our star of the week in Hazel class for lots of reasons: You have been putting in SO much effort into your homework each week, you have gone above and beyond to make sure that your handwriting is consistently neat and you have been reading a lot every evening. What a role model to the rest of the class - Well done!
Willow	Willow's star this week is Mason. Mason is so incredibly aspirational and always puts in 100% effort to all of his work. This week, I have picked Mason particularly for his respect and responsibility. Mason has worked so hard on his attitude towards his learning - it has not gone unnoticed! Well done, Mason. I am so proud of you - keep it up!
Holly	This week's star goes to a super helper in the classroom, Toby is always eager to help and shows such aspiration in his learning. He is an absolute joy to have in the classroom - keep up the great work Toby!
Maple	Our star of the week goes to Linus for always showing kindness to others. This week, we have noticed him being so supportive and encouraging towards his peers. What a great value to have! Well done.
Hawthorn	James is Hawthorn's star for his super participation in class this week. He has shown some great active listening. Well done James - brilliant aspiration!



8th February 2023	Head Teacher Coffee Afternoon for Parents of Years 3,4,5 and 6 2.45pm
8th February 2023	Year 2 Maths Parent and Child Workshop 3.20pm
8th February 2023	Year 5 Parent DT afternoon 2pm
9th February 2023	Open classes for 'book looks' after school
10th February 2023	Non-Uniform day for Cued Speech
13th - 17th February 2023	February Half Term