



ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter #6

9th February 2024

This week we have been focussing a lot on our core value of *responsibility*: responsibility for behaviour in the real world, in the playground and when learning in class, as well as responsibility for our actions in the virtual world. Younger children, have been thinking about how to be more cautious when on online, while older ones have been reflecting more about their behaviour on social media. Children in Key Stage 2 also joined a live national internet safety lesson on Tuesday.

We finished the week today with another fantastic show from the Reverend Nathan and the Cuthbert Mayne Jump Team with a very upbeat performance all about kindness, full of singing, dancing and joy. A fitting conclusion to the week.

Winter Infections Circulation- *please read*

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) – South West has written to school this week to warn of an increase in illnesses that are circulating and anticipated to worsen over the coming weeks, likely up to and including the Easter break: respiratory infections (colds, covid, flu) and whooping cough, scarlet fever and chickenpox.

Increasing levels of measles are also being predicted. The UKHSA is advising to make sure you get your child vaccinated with the MMR if you haven't yet done so. It's never too late they say. More info can be found on this [link](#). Please also see the letter that was emailed to you on Tuesday this week.

If you think your child has measles, please contact your GP asap and inform school asap. If they are diagnosed, they must stay off school for a minimum of 4 days from the onset of the rash until they are well enough to return.

While we have not currently had any cases of measles, we have seen quite a big increase in other infections amongst staff and children. The [e-bug website](#) provides useful resources and ideas for how to help keep your child well.

Fond Farewells and Hello Again

Today we sadly said goodbye to two of our amazing teaching assistants who are moving on, into a either a world of cats or a world of older children. Jenn Davies has been involved with St Margaret's for the last 24 years, while Rowena Boari has been with us from an apprenticeship in 2020. On behalf of St Margaret's we wish them both well in their new lives and thank them for everything they have given. Below is a short message from each of them.

Fortunately, this does mean we can welcome back Mrs Jenna Bundy full time to help fill their part-time positions. Welcome back Jenna! I'm sure you've chatted and seen Jenna before school each day helping with a smooth transition from home.

Farewell from Jenn Davies

St-Margaret's Academy has been a big part of my life for the last twenty-four years, from my eldest daughter starting foundation in 2000 to all of my six children making their way through the school. I began working here in 2013 when my youngest son was in year 2. It has been an ever-changing journey, but one that has given me the opportunity to grow professionally, experience working with all age groups and settings with many amazing, dedicated and talented staff who go above and beyond, who work incredibly hard to provide a fantastic, learning environment for all our children at St-Margaret's. It is, however, time for me to move on so I am exchanging children for cats and I'm starting a new chapter working at a beautiful cattery! Thank you to all the wonderful staff and children I have worked with over the years - it's been unforgettable!



Farewell from Rowena Boari

A short farewell to all St Margaret's families as I prepare for a new chapter. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working at the school alongside such a dedicated, kind and inspirational team. To all the pupils, I'd like to say thank you all for being so brilliant! Stay passionate about your learning. Stay kind. Believe in you and those around you. Wishing you all the very best. With love from Mrs Boari

Online Safety Helpful Links

Here are some links that might help get your conversations started:

- You can find [tips for help with social media](#) and gaming on our website under 'Parents' – 'Useful Resources for Parents'.
- There is [digital safety advice](#) for children from the age of 6 to 18 on a website created for young people by Devon and Cornwall Police.
- The UK Safer Internet Centre has a host of [questions and answers for parents](#).

PTA Valentines Disco

Thank you to the amazing PTA who organised Thursday's Valentine's Disco. What a super success and event, much loved by the children

Recent Reminders

- If you would like to donate to [Children with Cancer UK](#) in support of Miss Blackburn and Mrs Cosh's marathon fund raiser, you can do so via this [link](#).
- Riviera Life Church Food and Baby Bank – [link here](#). We can make a referral for you or phone 07486 402493
- World Book Day is 7th March – dress as a favourite book character
- Healthy snacks: [Healthier snacks - Food facts - Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Pile in the Tesco Blue Tokens at Tesco: Barton Torquay, Torquay Fleet Street, Torquay Express (garage on Teignmouth Road), Paignton Victoria, Paignton Torquay Road, Torquay Lymington Road, Brixham Express and Torquay Babbacombe Road
- Dunboyne Diversity Competition deadline is 6th March
- Our Amazon Book Wish List: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref_=wl_share

Places still available for the parent

Train to be a Teacher- Locally

For further details on the SWIFT Initial Teacher Training, look on our [website](#) under 'Parents' and / or the provider site: <https://www.swifteachertraining.org.uk/>

Wishing you a fantastic half term break.

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Date	Event
W/C 12th February 2024	February Half Term
21 st February 2024	Year 1 trip to local Woodlands
21 st or 28 th February 2024	Year 5 trip to Oddicombe beach (weather permitting)
5th March 2024	Year 5 Climbing and Orienteering @ Parkfield/Whitehill
7 th March 2024	World Book Day- dress as your favourite book character
12th March 2024	Year 5 Climbing and Orienteering @ Parkfield/Whitehill
21 st March 2024	Rock Steady Performance
26th March-28th March 2024	Year 6 Skern Lodge
26th March 2024	Non-uniform day - Easter egg donation
26th March 2024	PTA Easter Bingo
29 th March – 14 th April 2024	Easter Holidays





Beech	Cavalli is our star of the week. He has been a real super star this half term. Joining in with lots of learning, listening carefully to the adults and playing nicely with his friends. Well done Cavalli we are proud of you!
Pine	Archie is our star this week for his super effort with his maths. He has his hand up so much and always has a smile on his face, well done Archie!
Oak	Bobby is our star this week as he has shown great aspiration when writing a report about chicks. He made sure that his handwriting was neat and that he used clear finger spaces. Bobby also always shows respect and kindness to others. Super effort Bobby, well done!
Apple	There are so many reasons why Albie is our star. He has been trying so hard in his writing and produced a fantastic report on bees this week. Albie has also been much more proactive in our input which demonstrates his growing confidence. Not only all that but he is kind and polite. A definite superstar!
Holly	Our star of the week is Zak. He's always responsible and tries his absolute best in class. This week, he's been fab at being proactive with quizzing and shown great independence when completing tricky tests. Well done, Zak!
Willow	Isaac is the star of the week in Willow Class. He has shown great aspiration to design and create his shell structure box in DT. He used laminating to strengthen his gift box and the end result was not only beautiful but functional too. Well done Isaac.
Cherry	Olivia is our star of the week. She tries hard with all of her learning, and is aspirational and responsible. Well done Olivia!
Hazel	This week in Hazel class our star of the week is Hughie! Hughie has shown fantastic aspiration to improve his times tables this week and has put in tremendous effort with his home learning. Well done Hughie!
Birch	Miss Davies has had such a wonderful last week with all of the children so we have really struggled to narrow it down! We would love to give all of the children in Birch class star of the week. You have all been fantastic and you will be very much missed
Rowan	Ludo is our star this week. He always works hard to show all the school values and is incredibly respectful in class. He worked brilliantly with others in computing recently when programming as well as kindly showing others how to do it! Well done.
Maple	Bella is our star this week. Bella is always showing such fantastic learning behaviours and listens so well in class. Bella's piece of writing based upon 'The Highwayman' was so impressive and I can tell she has really taken on board all the learning so far. Well done
Hawthorn	Mabel is our Star for her fantastic effort with her writing this week. Her diary writing based upon 'The Highwayman' was excellent and showed how carefully she had thought about the skills and ideas she had been taught leading up to it. It was your best piece of Year 6 writing so far Mabel and a pleasure to read. Well done!

