

# St Margarets Academy

We've made it to half term. Time to recharge batteries in readiness for the run to Christmas.

Great news to celebrate: Congratulations to Miss Hoey, who is officially now, Mrs Griss!



## Anti-bullying Workshops

Following on from the anti-bullying workshops that were held in school last Friday, the workshop lead, Richard Pomfrett (from the *Stay Safe Initiative*), has emailed in to thank us for inviting him in. He commented, "I was extremely impressed with everyone's attitude and enthusiasm throughout our sessions. 10 out of 10 for all." His lasting advice for all children is to follow the Golden Rule: **Speak out and tell someone, tell a trusted adult.** Please do share this with your children so we can continue to keep children safe and happy. If you are interested to find out more about the stay safe initiative please click the link: <https://thestaysafeinitiative.org.uk/>

Thank you once again to the PTA who funded this very valuable experience. It has helped set the scene for Anti-bullying Week starting on 14<sup>th</sup> November and gives us the golden rule to keep referring back to.

## Curriculum News

St Margaret's has just been awarded the 'Music Mark' in recognition of our commitment to provide high quality music education. Thank you to our music leader, Mrs Posey! Have a look in the [Music Blog](#) to see our certificate.



PROUD TO BE A  
MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL  
2022 - 2023

See the [Sports Blog](#) to find out about the amazing success of the Year 4 Dodgeball Team in a competition with local schools. Well done to all our teams!



Look in the [Writing Blog](#) to see how a group of our talented Year 6 writers enjoyed their day with author, Colin R Parsons. Very exciting.



In the ever-rapid changing world, it is important teachers keep up to speed with training, especially in the world of computing. On Tuesday evening Miss Pritchard delivered training to teachers on computational thinking. Have a look on the Computing Blog to see the [teachers being students](#).

Miss Pritchard's [Digital Leaders](#) (the children, not the staff) have set up a blog to share their work. Keep an eye on the Computing Blog for more news. Their first blog on e-safety can be found there now. Enjoy.

You might sometimes hear us talking about the funding we receive for disadvantaged pupils. If you would like to know more about how we spend this you can find the full 3-year plan on the website which has just recently been updated: [Pupil Premium Catch Up Funding](#)

## **Dispelling the Myths about Secondary school for SEND**

On Tuesday 8th November, between 5-6pm, there is a virtual event for all our parents/carers of SEND children in Year 5 or Year 6 to hear from Torbay's mainstream secondary SENCOs about hot topics in relation to secondary school.

This will cover homework, uniform, mental health support and the graduated response and hearing from parents who had previous concerns around secondary school transition and now feel reassured. Click the link to register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/Dispelling-the-myths-about-secondary-school-for-send-tickets-438874524517>

## **Parents of Children with SEND - Reminder**

The Local Authority, Torbay SEND team will be running monthly drop-in sessions to share improvements they're making to the service and to hear your views. They will take place on the first Tuesday of each month between 6pm and 7pm. The first session will be on 1st November 2022 on Microsoft Teams. Any parent or carer from Torbay is welcome to come and join in. (Please be mindful that they cannot discuss individual children/young people)

To join on your computer, mobile app or room device, visit <https://tinyurl.com/TorbaySEND>  
Or download Microsoft teams and enter the following: Meeting ID: 356 027 397 524  
Passcode: fmfEDq

## **Gardening Hour New Date**

Mrs Posey's Gardening Hour is now scheduled for after school on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Children and their parents/carers are invited into our orchard for a little tidy up. There are lots of weeds to dig up so please bring gardening gloves if you have them. Wellies are also advisable! There will be a list in the orchard of all the jobs that need to be completed, we can then mark them off one by one. Please ensure that your child ONLY attends if they have an adult with them as we cannot take responsibility for them. There will be biscuits at the end for all of the hard workers! We hope you can make it!

## **Wear Yellow in Memory of Frazer**



Today the whole school took part in a wear yellow mufti day in memory of Frazer and to raise money for the Children's Hospice and Batten's Disease. Some of you may remember Frazer and his delightful sense of humour that lit up the room. Yellow was Frazer's favourite colour. Thank you for all the donations, we will let you know what money we have raised after the half term.

## **Half Term Fun Days and Family Fun - Reminders**

If you are looking for some free Halloween activities for half term, have a look what Play Torbay is offering: <https://www.playtorbay.org.uk/half-term-events>. Activities run from 11.00-2.00 on 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October but you'll need to book in advance.

These free events for Parents and Tots, and family cooking, are worth a look:



### Help with Rising Costs – updated

- 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/>
- CAP (Christians Against Poverty) is offering a free course on money. These are taking place at St Matthias Church Lounge at 7.00pm on 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
- Free uniform and help with rising costs: <https://www.punkagainstpoverty.org/>
- Try here for cheaper broadband: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>

Have a lovely half term. See you all again for more fun on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)

# Diary Dates

<b>24th-28th October</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
1st November	Flu Vaccinations
1St November	PTA Halloween Disco - Time TBC
3rd November	Year 4 trip to Torquay Museum
W/C 14th November	Parents Evening Week
16th November	Deadline for Computing homework project
18th November	Mufti- Children in Need
21st November	School Photos (individual and sibling)
21st November	PTA World Cup Football Cake Sale
6th December	Christmas Disco - Times TBC
13th December	Upton Vale Concert



Beech	Samuel is our star of the week for being so aspirational with everything he does. The sentences you have been producing during our early morning work have been fantastic and you always take such care over the presentation of your work. Thank you Samuel.
Pine	Charlie is our star this week. He is such a wonderful asset to Pine class, always helping others and being kind. He listens to every single instruction and is a real pleasure to teach. Well done Charlie.
Oak	Jack- for always showing the school values with his learning in school and at home. Super effort Jack- well done!
Apple	Elazora has produced some amazing poetry this week, writing super acrostic poems and autumn leaves shapes. Elazora was also really proud when she went to show her poetry to our reading lead Miss Pilkiewicz.
Birch	Fletcher - for good reading at home and high scores on your books quizzes all half term! Great effort in all subjects, including French where you scored 100% on our end of unit test yesterday!
Rowan	Lola has worked extremely hard all week in all aspects of our curriculum. She usually prefers to keep her ideas to herself but this week she has readily shared them and amazed us with her knowledge. Clearly she has put on those big brave pants!!!!
Cherry	Ava for the amazing effort she has put into her learning over the entire half term She has worked hard especially in writing and maths. We are really proud of her concentration and aspiration. Ava you are a star.
Hazel	Jack - For your independence in maths this week. You have worked so hard to perfect your methods for addition and subtraction - Very inspirational. Keep it up!
Willow	Oliver C is our star! He has had a super week. He has written some amazing stories and his science invention was amazing! Well done young man, you should be so proud of yourself.
Holly	Neave - her positive and helpful attitude has been an absolute joy to have in class this week. She has worked so hard on her writing and French where she has shown the aspiration value. Keep up the hard work!
Maple	Ashleigh is Maple's star of the week for being a kind, caring and hardworking addition to our school. Ashleigh has settled in so well into St Margaret's and is already showing all four core values. We are so lucky to have you here Ashleigh! Keep it up!
Hawthorn	Bailey has shown a great effort and positive attitude this week. He has been particularly resilient in maths when he had to tackle some tricky maths problems. Well done, Bailey - we are very proud of you!