



## Summer Term Newsletter No.7



It's a boy! Congratulations to Mr. Marchant and his wife on the safe arrival of their first child, Seth! We are delighted to hear their news and to share this with you. Mr Marchant has begun his paternity leave and we look forward to his return in two weeks and seeing lots of photos!

Our Y1 children were off exploring the world around them this week on a trip to Totnes Rare Breeds Farm. They watched an owl show where they found out about eight different varieties of owl. They also got lots of hands on experiences, holding guinea pigs and other small animals and met snakes, tortoises, goslings and alpacas. Every child had a bag of food, at the end of the day, to feed the animals. It was a great day out!



We really appreciate all the parental contributions towards the cost of trips. We have previously paid for the transport and asked for contributions towards entrance fees etc. but with so many cuts to the school budget we cannot continue to provide all the transport for free. We will still partly fund the transport but are now asking for a contribution towards this too. We value the experiences that the children get on our trips and hope you continue to support the school with your contributions so they can still take place.

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



- Ash— James has excellent number skills, proving his answers. He is always kind and caring too.  
Ines is so willing and ready to learn. She listens to others' ideas to help her learn new things  
Elm— Sofia has made amazing progress in her reading, applying her reading clues independently.  
Quinn is a super 'Thinkadocus'. He is always ready to tell us his thoughts and ideas.  
Beech — Naomi was a super star on our trip, always in the right place at the right time. Excellent behaviour!  
Pine — Charlie M is growing in confidence! He has been making a super effort in PE lessons too.  
Apple — Milly has been trying hard, quietly getting on and completing tasks to the best of her ability.  
Oak — Skye has made a great effort and taken more responsibility for her learning this week.  
Birch — Laci is consistently kind to adults and children. She is a wonderful member of our class.  
Rowan — Leon has made such an effort in all areas of learning, it's really showing! Keep it up!  
Cherry — Kaia has settled quickly, making lots of new friends and following our school values well.  
Maple — Athena has been working extremely hard! She has excelled herself in all areas of her writing toolkit.  
Holly — George W has excellent reasoning and problem solving skills which are very apparent in maths lessons  
Willow — Aliyah has increased her participation, concentration and attention to detail. Well done!  
Hawthorn — Jack G is a fantastic example of maturity to others. Always responsible and respectful.  
Hazel — Ben has made an excellent effort to improve his handwriting. Well done!

### Diary Date Reminders:

Monday 11th June—Willow Class swimming

Tuesday 12th June—Y2 trip. Packed lunches required.

Wednesday 13th June—Y5 activity day at Torquay Academy

Thursday 14th June—PTA Cake Sale after school

Fridays—PTA 50p ice cream sales after school



Attendance Award  
Congratulations to  
Holly Class  
for winning the School  
Attendance Award with  
97.3% attendance.

The whole school only achieved 92.8% attendance as a result of a high number of families taking unauthorised leave in term time.

### Online Gaming

Children now spend a huge amount of time online, often playing games that we, as parents, don't know much about. There are age ratings to websites, games and apps due to inappropriate content or language but we know from talking to the children in school that they are playing games that are not suitable for their age group. This is obviously a safeguarding concern. There are many websites that offer support to parents to ensure the internet is a safe place for their children. One of the best things they recommend is engaging with the gaming environment and playing some of the games with your child — that way you will see what they are watching, the words they are hearing and the strangers they are interacting with through chat rooms! Perhaps you could try it this weekend and see for yourself what your child is playing. We have emailed a copy of online gaming safety for parents and further information can be found here <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/gaming>



### Nurture Group

We have an exciting new venture for our school! From September 2018 we will have a nurture group to meet the needs of children who are not yet ready to meet the social and intellectual demands of school life. Our nurture group will be led by two members of staff: a qualified teacher, Mrs Essam, who will have completed the Nurture Teacher qualification in July, 2018 and one Teaching Assistant. The children in our nurture group will still be actively involved in their registration class but will have specialised lessons in the mornings in a small group. If you would like to find out more about the nurture group we have begun to build a web page on our website.

[http://www.stmargaretstorbay.org.uk/website/nurture\\_group/354686](http://www.stmargaretstorbay.org.uk/website/nurture_group/354686)

Mrs Essam will return from her maternity leave in July and she will begin setting up this provision. We will need to equip the room with cosy areas, a small kitchen, learning areas as well as lots of indoor and outdoor play areas. We will be putting out pleas to see if you can help us with any of the equipment we need before we buy it. Our first request is a small, clean two seater sofa! We will also need lots of cushions for the children to sit on so if you are able to help with either of these requests please let us know.

### Parking in St Margaret's Avenue

Whilst the building work is going on at the junction of St Margaret's Avenue and St Margaret's Close we ask that you please do not park on the junction whilst dropping off or collecting your child. Last night the road became gridlocked and residents and contractors are worried that there is going to be an accident. The contractors have a policy in place to ensure that the lorries are not delivering to the site at the beginning and end of the school day but also need the help of our parents to make sure that there is access to the site. Thank you.

*Learning today to achieve our tomorrows.*