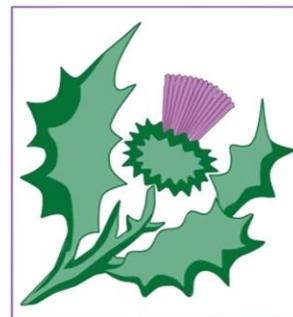


St Margarets Academy

Dear Parents,

This week, I start with the super sad news of the recent death of one of our former pupils, little Frazer Wilton. Some of you may remember Frazer and his delightful sense of humour that lit up the room. He was with us from September 2017 until December 2019. I know you will join us in sending your best wishes, and maybe a prayer, to his family. Please read the tribute to lovely Frazer on the attached page.



With the sad news of Queen Elizabeth's death, this week we spent time celebrating her life and reflecting on the proclamation of our new monarch, King Charles III. We started with a whole school assembly on Monday morning, including a tribute to the Queen's humour with the short video of when she met Paddington Bear. This was followed by various activities in class. Have a look in our SMSC Blog – *spiritual, moral, social and cultural* – to read about the [memorable events](#) and see some photos, including marmalade sandwiches, art work, poetry and letters to the new monarch. Enjoy. Find out more about the Paddington activities in Year 1 by [clicking here](#). **Please remember that Monday 19th September is a Bank Holiday and school will be closed for the state funeral.**



Working in Partnership: School and Home

I hope you found the start of term meeting with your child's new teaching team useful. This is part of our aim to better engage with you this year, to help improve our partnership, in the best interests of your child. We want to do better at this and have noticed that many regular traditional events like this meeting, dropped off because of the pandemic. We are bringing these back looking to engage with you in many other ways. More information about this will follow soon. In the meantime, check out the key dates below which can also be found on the [home page](#) of our website. These dates take you up to Christmas with some still to be confirmed shortly such as Harvest and the carol service at Upton Vale.

Other Improvement Areas for 2022-2023

We have also identified the following main areas in which we want to further improve:

- Consistency in high quality teaching in subjects other than English and Maths
- Learning behaviours so that pupils know and use the skills of an engaged learner

We will also be further developing the teaching of Maths, embedding the improvements we made in writing last year and continuing to focus on providing engaging playtimes.

Our Main Achievements in 2021-2022

After a pause in statutory testing arrangements because of the pandemic, last year saw the return of all these assessments. Despite the significant impact of covid-19, your children have made some remarkable achievements. We are hugely proud of the whole school effort, demonstrating particular strengths in the following areas, all of which are higher than the averages for Torbay and England:

- Progress and attainment in Reception.
- Early reading standards (phonics) in Year 1.
- Reading progress and attainment by the time children leave school in Year 6.
- Maths progress and attainment by the time children leave school in Year 6.
- Outcomes for our disadvantaged pupils.
- Outcomes for our younger SEN pupils in Year 2, especially in writing.

Our Approach to Relationships and Behaviour

I know teachers have described our approach to behaviour in their parent meetings and in their start of term letter but I just wanted to reiterate it here. Below are the first 3 paragraphs from our short [Policy for Behaviour and Relationships](#) which can be found on our website. This was reviewed and updated by staff in our training at the start of September.

At St Margaret's Academy we adopt a relational approach to behaviour management. This means we put relationships with the children at the forefront of our practice. We know that secure, safe and happy children are in the best place for learning.

We recognise that children who are presenting with undesired behaviours are often in a state of distress rather than wilfully choosing to misbehave. Therefore, they need our support and connection. We use a restorative approach following an incident such as reflecting on the incident with a member of staff and making an apology. We use our school values to reinforce desired behaviour. This is always done sensitively and privately to avoid shaming the child. Restorative practices provide teaching opportunities to help children manage big emotions, rather than following an approach based on punishment which can be detrimental to long term emotional development and the child's mental health.

We work closely with parents and value your support in modelling and reinforcing our school values. We always inform parents about an incident involving their child. Parents, if you have any queries or uncertainties about how an incident has been handled, please come and talk to us. We want to work as a team with our families and always value feedback.

Student Councillors



In line with the British Value of *democracy*, each class has now voted and elected their student councillor for the year. They will be flying the flag for pupil voice, led by Mr Tullier. You can keep up with all their news in the [Pupil Voice](#) blogs under the Curriculum in Action tab.

Help with Rising Costs-Reminder

- Martin Lewis a good source of information: <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/>
- CAP (Christians Against Poverty) is offering a free course on money. This is open to people of all faiths. These are taking place at St Matthias Church Lounge at 7.00pm on 12th, 19th and 26th October 2022.
- Free school 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>

Torbay Community Support

A new community hub for Torbay has opened at Paignton library next to the bus station. It is open 9.30am – 1.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. You can just walk in and chat to somebody for advice on any of the following areas:

- Health and social care
- Caring for family and friends
- Access to local groups and activities
- Practical and IT support
- Finance and welfare benefits
- Housing
- Emotional wellbeing including bereavement and isolation
- Domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Other areas already supported via the Torbay Community Helpline (e.g. befriending)

0 to 19 Health Advice

On our website under 'Wellbeing for Families' – 'Resources for Parents' you can find an excellent document which signposts you to all the resources and help you can access for you and your family from aged 0 to 19; direct [link here](#).

Top parenting tips: <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

Enjoy your long weekend



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Beech	Yasmin has shown great responsibility coming in every morning this week. She has been a super helper in the classroom and has had a go at all of the jobs in Beech class including ordering the numbers on the very tall beanstalk! Well done Yasmin - keep it up!
Pine	Bethany is our first star this year due to her incredible effort since joining our class. She has her hand up to answer EVERY question and is always trying her best. Well done Bethany!
Oak	Logan- for showing responsibility and aspiration in his learning. He has joined in well with the lesson and tried his best. Great start to year 2 Logan, well done!
Apple	Ossie is our first star of the year for his fantastic writing ideas in our baseline story and also for his interaction during our maths learning, well done Ossie, an aspirational start from you!
Birch	Rocco - for settling into key stage 2 brilliantly and demonstrating excellent sitting, looking and listening all week! Keep it up!
Rowan	Ellie - for her high level of respect towards everyone at all times and for her consistently responsible attitude towards all aspects of her learning. We are so proud of you Ellie!
Cherry	Dylan is our first star of the week. We have been really impressed with the responsibility he shows for his learning. He participates in class discussions thoughtfully and is keen to share his knowledge and understanding which is amazing. Well done Dylan - a great start to Year 4.
Hazel	Marialey - For making a fantastic start in year four and at St Margaret's. You are already a model student to the rest of the class, showing all four of our school values every day! Well done.
Willow	Toby is Willow's first star this year. Toby has really impressed the adults in Year 5 so far with his maturity, his respect, his resilience and his aspiration. Toby is a real role model for all of the children in Willow class. Keep it up, Tobes! We are so proud of you!
Holly	Thomas is our first star of the week. He has had a fantastic start to year 5! He has shown such responsibility in his presentation and has shown real aspiration in all areas of his learning. We are so proud of you - well done!
Maple	Theo is our first star of the week! He has made a super start to Year 6 and tried his best in class. Theo has also shown respect and kindness to the public when they asked him for directions on the gate! What a great representation of the children at St Margaret's! Well done Theo.
Hawthorn	Kye is our Star of the Week for his fantastic participation in all lessons this week. He has shown great enthusiasm with sharing his ideas and answering questions. Well done Kye for such an excellent start to Year 6!