



St Margaret's
Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Summer Newsletter #25
24th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to warmly welcome all of our pupils and families, parents and carers back to our school community as we begin the summer term. We hope you have all enjoyed a restful and refreshing Easter break and are feeling ready for the exciting learning and opportunities that lie ahead over the coming weeks.

This newsletter is jam-packed with exciting and celebratory news, showcasing learning in action across the school. We are proud to share with you the wonderful achievements, experiences and successes taking place in our classrooms and beyond.

As the weather begins to warm up, we kindly remind families that it is essential for children to come to school with appropriate sun protection, including sunscreen and a sun hat, and to bring a named water bottle each day so they can stay hydrated throughout the day.

Over the next few weeks, the school newsletter and the calendar on our school website will be updated with dates for all summer term events. We encourage families to keep an eye on these so that no one misses out and to enable you to plan ahead if time away from work is required.

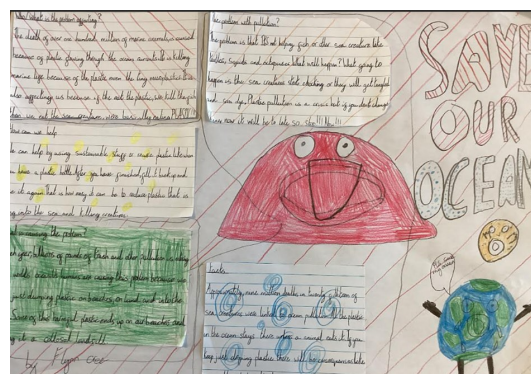
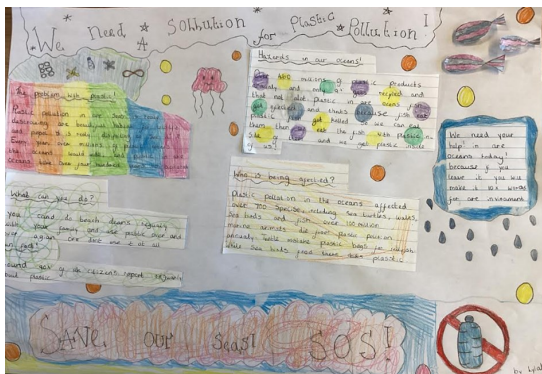
If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out, remember, our team is always happy to support.

Year 4 Making Waves for Our Oceans

Year 4 have recently completed a fantastic writing unit focused on **ocean pollution**, and their class teacher is *incredibly proud* of the passion, effort and maturity they have shown. The children created eye-catching, informative posters packed with facts and powerful messages about how we can protect our seas and care for our planet.

We are thrilled to share that the work attracted the attention of **Greenpeace**, who have been in touch to say how impressed they are with the children's posters. They are pleased to be able to share the messages more widely to help raise awareness of this extremely important global issue. What an amazing achievement for our pupils, knowing that their voices are helping to educate others and make a real difference to the world we live in!

Well done, Year 4 your commitment to protecting our planet is truly inspiring.

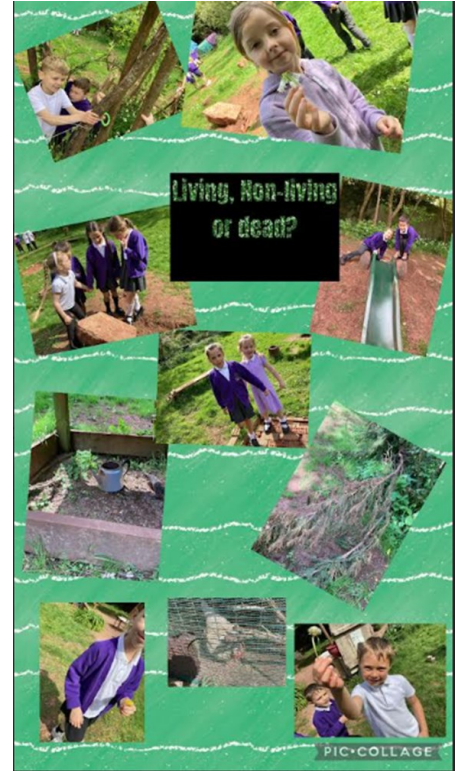


Year 2 Fun in the Sun

Year 2 have been making the most of the sunnier weather and taking their learning outside as much as possible this week.

On Monday we used our fantastic Orchard to identify the differences between alive, non-living and dead linked to our science learning this half term.

On Tuesday we made daisy chains and grouped them together to see how many metres long we could make them. We reached 2.72 metres or 272cm!



Author Visit—Rob Holmes

On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome Devon-based author Rob Holmes into school. Rob, the creator of Master Owl and other mindfulness-focused books for young people, spent the day engaging with all children across the school, from Reception through to Year 6.

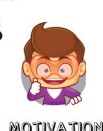
Rob led a series of enjoyable and thought-provoking sessions, sharing stories and promoting strategies to support mindfulness, emotional well-being and positive mental health. The children were fully engaged, and it was a thoroughly enjoyable day for all.

We would like to thank Rob Holmes for giving his time and for sharing his exciting books, which strongly support our commitment to well-being, positive welfare and mental health across the school.



ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION

Toys in Space

In Year 1, we started our new writing unit using the story, 'Toys in Space' by Mini Grey.

We found a pile of lost toys with labels on them! We had to read where they had been found. We then drew them and wrote some descriptions of the lost toys.



Forest School Fun This Week

This week in Forest School, the children had a fantastic time enjoying outdoor learning and hands-on experiences. On Wednesday, they especially loved making chocolate cake inside oranges cooked on the fire!

The activity was full of excitement as the children prepared their ingredients, learned about fire safety, and watched their cakes cook in the embers. It was a wonderful way to build practical skills, teamwork, and confidence – and the end result was delicious too!

Please enjoy the photos below capturing the fun and learning in action.



Respectful Use of St Margaret's Close

We have recently been contacted by a local resident regarding concerns about the use of St Margaret's Close, a private road that provides pedestrian access to the rear of the school. The road does not permit vehicle access, and residents have experienced difficulties including unauthorised vehicle use, confrontational behaviour, and children loitering in the mornings.

We kindly remind all parents and carers to use agreed drop-off points only, to treat local residents with courtesy and respect, and to ensure children move directly into school and behave sensibly when arriving.

Save the Date: Sport Day 2026

We would like to let all parents and carers know the dates of our forthcoming Sports Day events taking place this academic year. This year, we are holding four separate Sports Day Events instead of three. This will allow more children to take part and enjoy a wider and more inclusive range of races and sporting activities across the school.

Please make a note of the following important dates in your diary:

- **Monday 6th July, 9.30–12.00**
KS1 Sports Day
(This event takes place during National School Sports Week, with support from our Y6 Sports Leaders.)
- **Monday 6th July, afternoon**
EYFS Sports Day
- **Thursday 16th July, 9.30–12.00**
Upper KS2 Sports Day (Years 5 & 6)
(St Cuthbert Mayne Sports Leaders are booked to support this event.)
- **Thursday 16th July, 1.00–3.00**
Lower KS2 Sports Day (Years 3 & 4)
(Supported by our Y6 Sports Leaders.)



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Thank you to all our parents and carers for reading this long but wonderfully packed newsletter. I hope it has given you a lovely insight into the children's daily experiences at St Margaret's.

I am disappointed not to be back in school this week following an injury over the Easter break. I am currently working from home, and the St Margaret's team are, as always, available to support with any queries or questions.

I am looking forward to returning in the coming weeks once my injury has fully healed. I miss you all very much and look forward to seeing you soon.

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer

Headteacher



St Margaret's Academy PTA

Summer Fayre

4th July 2026

11am - 2pm



Free
Entry

All
Welcome

Raffle · Games · Food · Bar · Ice Cream · Tea
Rooms · Bouncy Castle · Giant Inflatable Assault
Course · Live Performances · Craft Stalls ·
Preloved Uniform
St Margaret's Academy, Barewell Road, Torquay, TQ1 4PA

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



S O L I H U L L A P P R O A C H

10:30am – 12:30pm for 10 weeks at The Windmill Centre,
Pendennis Rd Torquay, TQ2 7QR

On the following Tuesdays 2026

21st April, 28th April / 5th May, 12th May, 19th May /

2nd June, 9th June, 16th June, 23rd June, 30th June

We cover many topics including

- Feelings
- Importance of Play
- Effective Communication

To book a place please contact

Andrew Wright or Gabrielle Dale on

andrew.wright@torbay.gov.uk

07776495028

gabrielle.dale@actionforchildren.org

.uk

07866 997870



Understanding your child is
a course for all parents,
grandparents and carers of
children ages 6 months to 6
years.

Familyhub
TORBAY

Diary Dates

30th April 2026	13.00—14.00 KS1 Multi-Skills and Colour Run
4th May 2026	No School—Bank Holiday
11th May 2026	Cherry Class Swimming
W/C 11th May 2026	Year 6 SATS Week
18th May 2026	Cherry Class Swimming
W/C 25th May 2026	Half Term Break
1st June 2026	Cherry Class Swimming First Day back to School
2nd June 2026	Bikeability Level 1

ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION





Ash	Albie	Albie wrote to the zoo and they sent him a dog! During Drawing Club this week, he created a wonderful picture inspired by the story <i>Dear Zoo</i> . He also worked very hard to write an excellent sentence to accompany his drawing—well done.
Elm	Rubyn	This Week's Star of The Week is Rubyn. Rubyn has had a fantastic first week back at school. With some help from our classroom reminders he has used his super listening skills to do the right thing, at the right time. Well done Rubyn, you are a super star! Miss Tolley is proud of you!
Beech	Violet	This week's Star of the Week goes to you for coming into school each morning so nicely and ready to learn. You have shown wonderful effort with your maths and writing all week, and it has not gone unnoticed.
Pine	Belle	Belle is our star for her positive attitude towards school. She has grown in confidence so much over the year and always loves to work with an adult.
Apple	Cavalli	Cavalli has returned after the holiday with such enthusiasm for learning. He has joined in with all our activities, putting his hand up to answer questions and has completed all his learning tasks willingly. He has earned several Dojos EVERY day for his hard work. Amazing Cavalli!
Oak	Johnnie	Johnnie has shone in the poetry lessons this week and he also participated very well in RE. Johnnie has shown responsibility and respect when working with others and using the Ipads in the computing lessons. Great effort Johnnie, you are a star!
Willow	Ella-Mai	Willow's STAR of the week is Ella-Mai for showing incredible kindness towards her classmates. She has taken other people's feelings into consideration when deciding to share with her classmates. We are very proud of you Ella-Mai.
Holly	Addi	Addi is this week's star in Holly class as she has really welcomed me in class showing kindness as well as really impressing me with her hard work in reading. Keep up the incredible work!
Cherry	Zane	For being a fantastic maths mentor this week to your peers. You also always help in the classroom without being asked to, which shows great responsibility. Thank you for always being such a great help Zane.
Hazel	Sienna-Rose	Sienna has had an excellent week all round for her first week back. Sienna regularly shows us all of the core values but this week we have been impressed by her aspiration. Her science knowledge this week when we learned about skeletons was phenomenal! She wanted to know more names for bones which really impressed us. Well done, Sienna - keep up the good work!
Rowan	Ossie	Ossie is the star of the week in Rowan class for his engagement in our science topic on living things. He has been making great contributions to our lessons sharing his knowledge of animals which has supported the learning of others in our class. Well done Ossie.
Birch	Louie	Louie has is Star of the Week for being fantastic in our Science lessons! You have shown great enthusiasm when learning about life cycles and have impressed us all with the many interesting facts you've shared. Your confidence in contributing ideas and your curiosity have really helped deepen our class discussions. You are becoming a brilliant young scientist—keep it up!
Hawthorn	Oliver	Oliver has worked so hard this week to complete his learning to the best of his ability, he has come back and is straight back to it! Today he used some super speech verbs in his writing and we have noticed that he is becoming more ambitious with his vocabulary. Well done Oliver !
Maple	Oliver	Oliver is a responsible and respectful member of the class and has worked extremely hard in his SATs preparation. Well done.