



St Margaret's
Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Summer Newsletter #30
5th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to everyone after what we hope was a lovely, sunny May half-term break. We hope that all our families have had a restful time and are feeling refreshed and ready for the final half term of this academic year.

There are just a few key updates to highlight for the week ahead. Firstly, our school calendar on the website has been updated with all important dates, including the summer fair, sports days, transition (move-up) days and INSET days, so please do take a moment to check this regularly.

As a quick reference, we have two INSET (teacher training) days remaining this term: Friday 19th June and Wednesday 22nd July. On both of these days, the school will be closed to pupils. This means that the final day of term for pupils will be Tuesday 21st July. We wanted to highlight these dates early, particularly for families who may be planning trips or bookings.

Additionally, on the school website under *Information for Parents* and *Term Dates*, you will find the term dates for 2026–27 and 2027–28, which may be helpful for forward planning.

In this week's newsletter, you will find a wealth of important information, including updates on reporting to parents, upcoming surveys (parent voice and pupil voice), transition arrangements, and preparations for September. There is a lot to take in, so please do take some time to sit down with a cup of tea and have a careful read.

Year 5/6 Ultimate Frisbee Competition

At the beginning of the Summer term the Y5/6 children focused on playing Frisbee in their PE lessons. At the end of the unit the children played in an intra-school competition in school, which gave them an experience of competition.

The most able also had an opportunity to represent St Margaret's at an Ultimate Frisbee competition against other schools in our local cluster. They competed against Homelands, St Marychurch and Shiphay and the Sports Leaders from St Cuthbert Mayne helped organise the competition. The Y5/6 children loved the opportunity to compete against other schools from the same area. We were able to take 30 children, split into 3 teams of 10 and they were organised into an A, B and C pool and each team played the other school teams in their pool.

The A and C teams won their pool and the B team also played very well, just missing out on the top spot coming a close second. They had lots of fun developing their skills and experiencing competition.



Bikeability—Level 1



This week pupils from Y3 and Y4 have been awarded the nationally recognised and certificated qualification – Bikeability Level 1. Bikeability is the new cycle training scheme for the 21st century designed to give the next generation the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads. Level 1 taught the children basic bike handling skills to build their confidence in a controlled environment on the large playground away from roads with qualified instructors. This course will equip them for the more intensive Bikeability Level 2 course, which will be available to them in Year 5.

It has been lovely to see the children bring their bikes to school and learn about staying safe when out and about on their bikes. They enjoyed practising different skills, such as braking without skidding and manoeuvring around obstacles with increasing confidence.

There will be further Bikeability Level 2 lessons for Y5/6 next week, where they head out on to the roads!



ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION

Health and Safety Reminder

Following on from our recent Bikeability sessions and with the lovely weather encouraging more active travel, it's wonderful to see so many children and families walking, cycling, and scooting to school.

As a gentle reminder, we kindly ask that all children wear a helmet when riding to help ensure their safety at all times.

Please also take extra care when crossing roads around the school site.

For drivers and all road users, we ask that you approach the school area with caution and care, being mindful that there are many children and families travelling on foot, bikes, and scooters.

By working together and staying vigilant, we can help keep everyone in our school community safe. Thank you for your support.

Sports Day Information for Parents and Carers

We're excited to remind you about our upcoming Sports Days! This year, we've organised the events slightly differently to give children more opportunities to take part, stay active, and fully enjoy the experience.

Monday 6th July

- **Morning:** Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2)
- **Afternoon:** Reception classes

Thursday 16th July

- **Morning:** Year 5 and Year 6
- **Afternoon:** Year 3 and Year 4

We've grouped the days this way to maximise participation and fun for all children, while also aiming to keep events on the same days where possible to help families with work and childcare arrangements.

We hope to see many of you there supporting the children. Fingers crossed for some sunshine, but not too hot, so everyone can enjoy the races and activities comfortably!



Looking Ahead to September

This week, we have been working closely with staff and children to plan our class organisation for September, ensuring the very best provision for all pupils as our cohort numbers change due to low birth rates nationally.

From September, St Margaret's Classes will be arranged as:

- A Reception class
- A mixed Reception/Year 1 class
- A Year 1 class
(All remaining year groups remain the same).

Throughout this process, we have consulted with both staff and pupils to consider whether any adjustments to class groupings and dynamics were needed. In particular, we have focused on ensuring children feel happy, comfortable, and supported. Pupils have been encouraged to share friendships and learning partnerships that help their wellbeing and enjoyment in school, as we know these are crucial to a successful learning experience.

Over the coming weeks, staff will liaise with parents and carers in both current Reception and Year 4 regarding plans moving forward. We are committed to working collaboratively with families to ensure every child is well supported during their transition into the next academic year.

Annual reports will be shared on Friday 10th July, celebrating your child's progress and confirming their new class and teacher.

We will also be supporting children with their move through transition days on 14th and 17th July, giving them time to become familiar with their new environment, staff, and friends.

As always, some children may benefit from additional support, and we will work closely with families to ensure everyone feels confident and prepared for the next step.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch, we are always here to help.

Pupil and Parent Voice Surveys—Supporting School Improvement

This week and next, pupils will complete our Pupil Voice Wellbeing Survey using Chromebooks. This helps us celebrate what is working well and identify how we can continue to improve the school. Younger pupils will be supported by our Year 6 children.

We will share the outcomes and next steps before the end of term.

In the coming weeks, we will also launch our Parent/ CarerVoice Survey, giving you the opportunity to share your views, celebrate successes, and suggest improvements. We value your feedback and look forward to working together. Thank you for your continued support.

Lastly, I'd just like to take this opportunity to share some lovely news and celebrate with our school community. A huge congratulations to Miss Paige, who got married over the May half-term break.

We are now supporting the children as they get used to her new name, Mrs Harvey. So, if you start to hear the name Mrs Harvey, you'll know why! We know it may take a little while for everyone - children and staff alike - to remember the change, but we'll get there.

Once again, our very best wishes and a massive congratulations to Mr and Mrs Harvey.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend, take care.

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer

Headteacher





SUN SAFETY



APPLY SUNSCREEN

Please apply sunscreen to children before school. Children can bring sunscreen into school to reapply throughout the day.



WEAR A HAT

Children to bring a hat into school. Remember to label it!



HYDRATE WITH WATER

Please ensure children bring a water bottle into school each day. Children can refill bottles in the classroom as and when.



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

8th June 2026	Hazel Class Swimming Bikeability Level 2
8th June—12th June	Phonics Screening Check
9th June 2026	Y3 Trip to RAMM
10th, 11th & 12th June 2026	Whole School Art Project with Local Artist
11th June 2026	Class Photo Day
12th June 2026	World Cup PTA Event
15th June 2026	Hazel Class Swimming
18th June 2026	KS2 Primary Athletics
Friday 19th June 2026	INSET Day—School Closed to Pupils
22nd June 2026	Hazel Class Swimming Y3 Beach Water Confidence
25th June 2026	Police Community Support Office Session with Y5/Y6
29th June 2026	Hazel Class Swimming
1st July 2026	Year 5 activities day at Torquay Academy
3rd July 2026	Year 4 Beach Water Confidence
Saturday 4th June 2026	PTA Summer Fayre

ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



Ash	Riley	For his fantastic doubling in maths this week . Riley showed everyone his amazing understanding of doubles using his speedy fingers and doubling machine hands- Well done Riley - superstar maths!
Elm	Vinnie	For fantastic phonics learning and working really hard on Fred talking skills - We are so proud of you!
Beech	Elsie. H	This week's Star of the Week goes to [Name] for achieving Star Reader, doing really well in Maths, and always being ready to learn. Their hard work, positive attitude, and enthusiasm for learning have been wonderful to see.
Pine	Ezra	Ezra for his fabulous energy, especially dancing to our phonics song! He always has his hand up, eager to answer questions and join in.
Apple	Matilda	What a great week you have had Matilde! We have a budding engineer in the making. Your problem solving and design skills were amazing during our DT work and you have been working so hard during our work on fractions in Maths. Well done.
Oak	Isabelle	Isabelle is the star for her super effort and resilience in her learning this week. She has been responsible by completing her book quizzes independently and she even chose to take home extra time tables work to practise. You are a star Isabelle, well done!
Willow	Evelyn	Evelyn is star of the week for her responsibility and resilience this week, especially when coming into school! Well done Evelyn, we're all super proud of you!
Holly	Arlo	Arlo is Holly's star of the week for demonstrating aspiration and responsibility. He has worked so hard and has become a free reader this week too! We have all been so impressed by Arlo this week - well done, we're all so proud of you!
Cherry	Issa	We have been so impressed with the choices that Issa has been making recently. Because of this, his learning has taken a huge step forward which has not gone unnoticed. Well done Issa, keep it up!
Hazel	Penelope	Penelope is Hazel's star this week for her incredible aspiration in Maths. We have been focusing on telling the time and her knowledge has been incredible! She has worked extremely hard, challenging herself and supporting her friends. Well done, Penelope! Keep it up!
Rowan	Amira	Amira is the star of the week in Rowan class. This week she has been working hard on practising her written methods for the four number operations and she has demonstrated great perseverance and resilience even when she has found things a little tricky. What a great aspirational learning attitude. Well done Amira.
Birch	Evie	Star of the Week for fantastic ideas in our writing lessons this week. Evie has contributed lots of thoughtful and creative ideas during class discussions and has used these brilliantly in their own writing. They have shown great enthusiasm, imagination, and confidence in sharing their ideas, helping to make our writing lessons even better. Well done, Evie!
Hawthorn	Hayden	We have seen such an improvement in his attitude towards his learning this week - he has worked hard to complete his writing and has been respectful to his peers and adults. It has been wonderful to see Hayden pushing himself a little bit harder - keep this up!
Maple	Ruby	Ruby is our star of the week. She has worked tirelessly on her writing showing resilience and aspiration. We are incredibly proud of all your progress this year!