

St Margaret's Academy

Dear Parents,

It has been a very exciting first week for the children being back with all their friends' full time. They've been buzzing, enjoying their lessons and loving their playtimes. We've all enjoyed seeing their smiles and enthusiasm.



On Monday, children took part in lovely welcome-back activities to give them time to catch-up with friends and ease any worries about returning. They moved on to creating their class charter and refreshing their understanding of our school values before working on more activities to support their personal, social and health education. In the [PSHE Blog](#) you can see how Year 4 used shaving foam to share their feelings about returning to school.

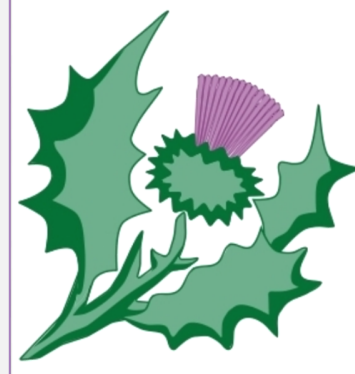
While there has been a big emphasis on PSHE this week, teachers and teaching assistants have also been assessing and teaching to meet needs in other subjects. There has been some wonderful art, writing and maths happening for example, and catch-up interventions for reading are already well-established right across the school. We are all determined to do our best to help the children catch-up and to provide them with a positive and happy school experience.

We finished the week today with our regular Friday celebration assembly with most of the recognitions being related to our value of aspiration.

Remember that although we are not running an official parents evening before Easter because of the high level of interaction and communication during lockdown, you are welcome to contact your class teacher and book an appointment if you wish. If teachers have concerns they will always be in touch anyway and then in the summer term you will receive your child's report which will summarise their progress and attainment for the year as a whole.

Thank you to you all for following our one-way procedure and sticking to the drop off and collection times. It is noticeable how it has helped ease the congestion and create more space.

Thank you to those who have already returned the Home School Agreements. While not a statutory document, we really appreciate your engagement with this and would please encourage you to look at them with your child and return a signed copy.



Upcoming Events

March 19

Red Nose Day

Friday 19th March is Red Nose Day in aid of Comic Relief. Any donation however small is much appreciated. Advance notice that we are asking children and staff **not** to wear a red nose to help support good hygiene. Instead, it's wear something red.

March 24

Behavior Policy Video Call

Please see information on the following page if you would like to take part

April 1

Dress up for World Book Day

On the last day of this spring term, Thursday 1st April, we are having a dress-up day as a book character. This is a bit of fun as we were not able to take part in World Book Day. We will use the opportunity to raise the profile and love of reading. Our school library and class collections of books are looking quite thin so we are politely asking if you might have some good quality reading books at home that you wouldn't mind donating on this day. I'll put a reminder out about this closer to the time.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing at Home – Asymptomatic Testing

As mentioned previously, testing at home is now available for household and bubble members of children (primary and secondary age). This is the test staff use in school twice weekly and is aimed at identifying the virus in anybody who has no symptoms. I have added a government leaflet with more information about this to our website if you want to read more about the scheme. You can find it on the *range of helpful resources* page under *Coronavirus (COVID-19)* – quick link [here](#). The Local Authority test / collect system will be ready from 21st March (more information to follow). In the meantime if you want to get going you can order your tests directly from central government: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

Bikes and Scooters

It is lovely to see the bike and scooter stands being used this week. When collecting your child's scooter or bike at the end of the day, please can you remind your child not to ride until they are off the school premises as we nearly had an accident this week. Thank you.

Free Online Parents Course

Free online parenting course are available. Please follow this link for more information: <https://devonccg.nhs.uk/news/free-online-parenting-courses-launched-for-families-in-devon-plymouth-and-torbay>. The well-established Solihull programme gives evidence-based information to support informed decision-making from understanding pregnancy and making birth choices, to parenting toddlers and teenagers. The courses consider relationships, emotions and brain development, as well as more practical aspects, such as babies' sleep and feeding.

Behaviour Policy Video Call

On Wednesday 24th March 6.00-7.00pm you are invited to a video-call meeting on our updated Behaviour Policy. We have been doing a lot of work in school developing this policy with all staff and governors. Your children will be involved in this to produce a child-friendly version when they return. We are keen to get your views also and hope you will be able to attend this meeting with myself, Mrs Pike and Mrs Essam. It will be a chance for you to hear about our approach and for you to ask questions and contribute to the policy. If you would like to attend please email adminteam@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk and give them an email address for the video link to be sent to.



Book Donation

Many thanks to Thomas Cox and his family who have managed to get a donation of signed books from Jack Maunder who plays for Exeter Chiefs. The book is called 'Bounce Back Jack' and is a story written by him to help inspire resilience and determination. They will be put to good use.

Chromebooks

Thank you to those who have already returned the Chromebooks. If you haven't yet done so, please return them to the main office as soon as possible. We are re-deploying them to the classrooms to support learning in school.

Reminder - How you can help us all to Stay Safe

1. Please keep your child off school if they have any of the symptoms and to not enter the school site yourself if you have symptoms. I would encourage you to keep your child off even if you have a suspicion of them having symptoms and to get a test as soon as possible. Let us know at the earliest opportunity that your child will be absent due to having symptoms. *Their absence will not be counted against them in COVID-19 related circumstances.*
2. Wear face masks on the school site.
3. Keep 2 metres from others.
4. Only enter the school site at the correct time.
5. If you have siblings please don't wait on the site. Instead, after dropping or collecting one of your children, please walk round and enter at the correct time.
6. Please stick to the one-way system (no entry by the rear gate which is exit only)
7. Only one adult to collect or drop-off

Happy Weekend



Tim Hughes (Head Teacher)



Beech	Isaac- for aspirational creations all week! You've stuck to your designs and worked really hard. Well done Isaac.
Pine	Austin-for being such a kind friend. He is also incredibly aspirational, always setting a great example to the whole class.
Oak	Paige- for taking great responsibility for her learning and always putting effort into everything she does. This has been seen at home and in school this week. Well done Paige!
Apple	Madeline and Max - two brilliant additions to Apple class! They have both settled in so well. They are kind and considerate to others and show excellent learning behaviours such as listening well and trying their best in everything. Well done to both of you!
Birch	Summer - For your excellent learning throughout the whole of lockdown and coming back to school with a fantastic 'can do' attitude!
Rowan	Lilly-Ella - for always being ready to learn with such a positive attitude! You inspire others!
Cherry	Oakley- for coming back after lockdown with a super attitude to learning.
Hazel	Evie D-for being a kind and supportive presence in class to her friends and to those who are struggling.
Willow	Elsie D - for working so hard through lockdown and for this week showing her maximum effort and putting everything she has learnt into practice in her lessons! Well done Elsie - keep this up!
Holly	Tamsin - for her dedication to keeping up with her remote learning throughout lockdown. We were so impressed by her positive, aspirational attitude and her desire to always do her best, even when she found things tricky. Well done Tamsin!
Maple	Zack H- for being hard working and always ready to contribute to class discussions.
Hawthorn	Oliver- for an excellent attitude to all aspects of his learning. He has shown a real improvement in everything he has done. Well done Oliver!