



ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Autumn Newsletter #17
30th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to this week's newsletter. We have an exciting and busy fortnight ahead at St Margaret's, with a wonderful variety of events and opportunities for our children.

Over the next two weeks, pupils will enjoy Dress Up Number Day, take part in art competitions, and engage in important learning during Internet Safety Day. We're also looking forward to the always-popular PTA discos on Tuesday 10th February.

We will also be taking part in Children's Mental Health Week, which runs from 9th to 15th February 2026. This year's theme, *"This Is My Place"*, focuses on helping children feel a strong sense of belonging in their school, families and wider communities. Throughout the week, children will explore this theme through activities and discussions that promote connection and wellbeing.

We are equally excited to be trialling some new playtime/lunchtime arrangements over the next two weeks. Playtimes will remain the same length, but will take place in two different time slots, meaning fewer children will be outside at any one time. We hope this will provide more space, reduce overwhelm, and ensure better access to equipment. Most importantly, we want the playground to feel calm, safe and enjoyable for everyone. This trial comes directly from our autumn term survey feedback from pupils and staff, and we are keen to gather thoughts from pupils, families and staff as we evaluate its impact on overall wellbeing.

I will be sending further details shortly, including a link where you can share your feedback.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to a vibrant, positive and community-focused fortnight ahead.



ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



Celebrating Inspiring Success Stories at St Margaret's Academy

This week, we are delighted to celebrate several children who have shared their remarkable success stories with us. Their passion, commitment, and enthusiasm for developing new talents has made them truly inspirational role models for the whole school community.

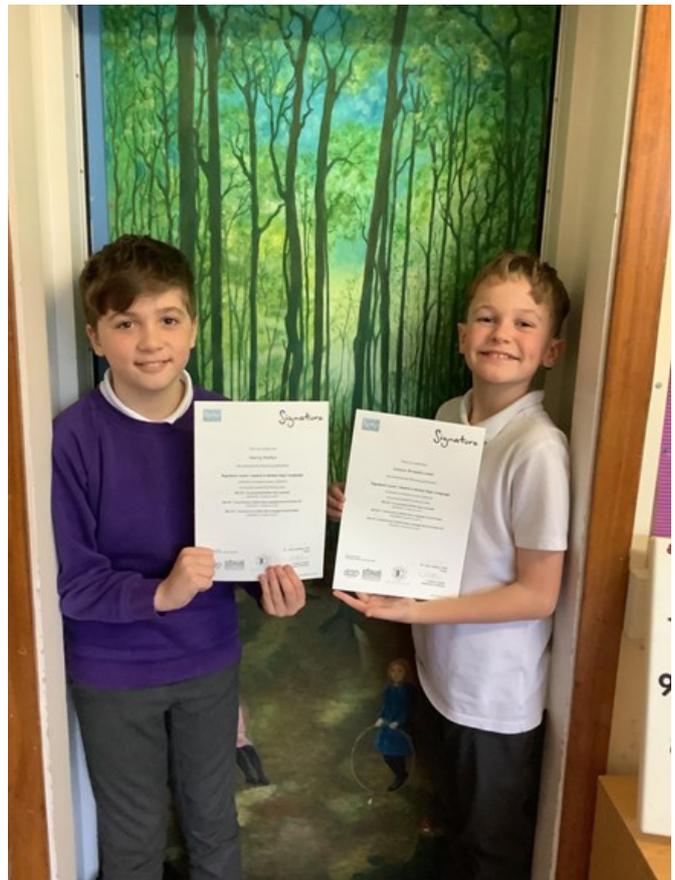
A huge well done to Ayla in Year 3, who has shown outstanding dedication in the months leading up to her recent exam. Her hard work has truly paid off - she achieved a high distinction, earning a very impressive 91/100. What an incredible achievement!

We also congratulate William in Year 6, who attended an Industry Experience Day at Stagecoach and seized the fantastic opportunity to have Oscar's Talent represent him. This is a wonderful step forward for William, and we are so proud of his confidence and ambition.

Well done to Lennon and Harry who have received their certificates for their BSL level 1, this is a fantastic achievement, they have been working very hard to obtain this, Lennon has enjoyed communicating with his friend Harry in his language BSL, well done boys!

Finally, we celebrated the achievements of many talented dancers during Friday's assembly, where children proudly shared their medals with the whole school. Their perseverance, creativity, and joy for performing shone through, inspiring everyone who watched.

Congratulations to all of our young achievers this week. Your successes remind us of the amazing things that can happen when we work hard, believe in ourselves, and embrace new opportunities. We are incredibly proud of you all!



ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



Forest School Support

If you know anyone that has any spare waterproof clothing that is over the age of 8 we would really appreciate it as our funded clothing only goes up to age 7-8.

Holocaust Memorial Day

This week we reflected on the Holocaust Memorial Day which took place on Tuesday 27th January. Holocaust Memorial Day is a national moment to remember the millions of people who were treated unfairly during the Holocaust and other genocides. During our assembly, we helped pupils understand how ordinary people—children, families, neighbours and teachers—can make positive choices that show compassion and respect towards others. This links directly to the British Values we teach throughout the year and to our school values:

- * Mutual Respect and Tolerance
- * Individual Liberty
- * Democracy
- * Rule of Law

Our aim as educators in partnership with you is to encourage pupils to reflect on how they can play their part in creating a welcoming, respectful environment at school and at home. We hope they share some wonderful ideas with you too.



ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION

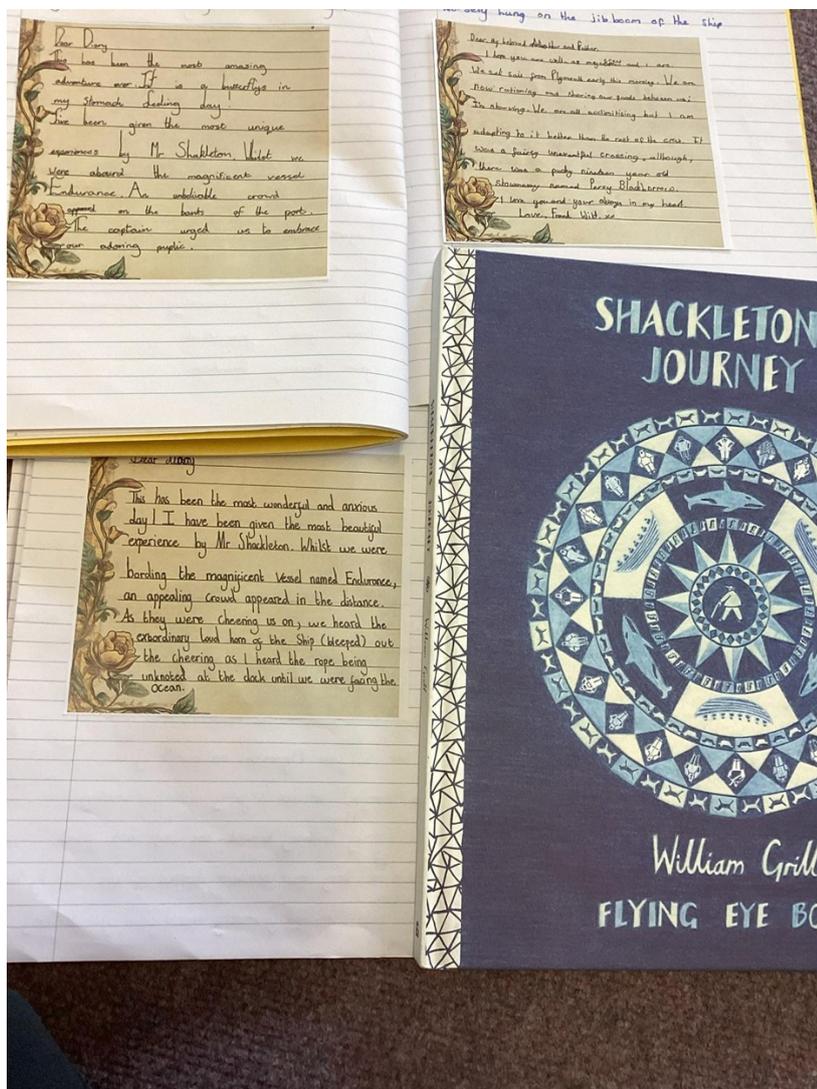


Maple Class Writing and Maths

Maple Class has been fully immersed in the incredible adventures of Ernest Shackleton and his Antarctic expedition. The children have thoroughly enjoyed writing diary entries and letters from the perspectives of the crew members on board Endurance. Our focus has been on developing formal language suited to writing from over 100 years ago, and today the children showcased their work by publishing their diary entries onto vintage-style paper. They took great care with presentation and handwriting to mark National Handwriting Day.

In Maths, Year 6 has been working incredibly hard on ratio, with a particular focus on scaling recipes. Mrs Clinch-Othman challenged the class to scale up a flapjack recipe to feed 60 people. She was so impressed with the children's accuracy and clear reasoning that she used their calculations to bake flapjacks for the entire year group!

Well done, Year 6 — we hope you enjoyed your well-earned treat!



NSPCC



Number
Day

We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on

Friday 6th February 2026. We are having a fun day of maths activities, and we will be taking part in Dress up for Digits. Pupils are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (sports top, football, rugby, netball, hockey shirt or cap) with their normal school uniform. Or get even more creative and become a human calculator, dice or domino by dressing in a maths or numbers theme.

To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for donations, and we'd love everyone in the school to take part in this special event. Suggested donation of £1 would be very much appreciated; this you can make through a coin donation in class or via the [link](#) for dedicated Just Giving page.

Art Opportunities from Miss Pritchard

Thank you to everyone who entered the 'Little Works, Big Difference' art competition in the Autumn term. If anyone from our school is successful, we will let you know!

In the Spring term, you may be interested in the following competitions:

Global Canvas 2026- The Book of Life



Global Canvas is an annual international art competition run by David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation for children and young people up to 16. Each year, we choose a theme that challenges young artists to think deeply about wildlife, conservation, and the environment.

Enter Global Canvas 2026 and be part of the world's greatest children's wildlife art competition.

More information here - <https://davidshepherd.org/wildlife-art/competitions/global-canvas/#entryformsidepods>

Enter online here - <https://davidshepherd.org/wildlife-art/competitions/global-canvas/individual-entry/>

Entry closes: February 19, 2026

Winners announced: Live final, May 1, 2026

ART COMPETITION

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/> Thank you to everyone who entered the 'Little Works, Big Difference' art competition in the Autumn term.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend! Rest, recharge, and enjoy the break. We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday. In the Spring term, you may be interested in the following competition (but please be aware, the deadline is not too far away!)

Young Artist's Summer Show



About

Now in its eighth year, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 4–18 studying in the UK. Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

What artwork can you enter?

The artwork can be made using any material; it can be a painting, sculpture, photograph, installation, video, drawing, or a combination. There is no theme so artworks can be of any subject and we don't mind when you made the artwork.

Taking part

To take part, please give you art work to Miss Pritchard who will photocopy it and submit it into the Royal Academy. These artworks will then be judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

[Young Artists' Summer Show | Royal Academy](https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/)

Please give your art work to Miss Pritchard by **Monday 23rd February**.

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend! Rest, recharge, and enjoy the break. We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday.

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer
Headteacher



ST MARGARET'S ACADEMY

PTA

Valentine's DISCO

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10TH
RECEPTION - YEAR 2: 5:00-6:00
YEARS 3 - 6: 6:15 - 7:15

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO BUY FOR £4
CASH OR CARD (SIBLING DISCOUNT - £3 FOR
SUBSEQUENT CHILDREN) FROM 3:15PM ON
MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY - WOODEN GAZEBO
AT THE TOP OF THE SLOPE

TICKETS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO BUY ON 'PTA
EVENTS' FOR £4 EACH UP UNTIL 8TH FEBRUARY.
TICKETS BOUGHT VIA PTA EVENTS WILL NOT BE
ELIGIBLE FOR SIBLING DISCOUNT AS THIS IS
UNMANAGEABLE ON THIS PLATFORM.



ENTRANCE TO THE DISCO WILL NOT BE PERMITTED WITHOUT
PREPAYMENT. PAYMENT ON THE NIGHT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Useful Reminders and Sign-posting

FREE DROP-IN SUPPORT

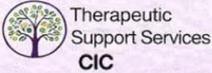
Supporting parents, carers & guardians of children aged 8+ who are struggling with mental health.



THURSDAYS · 1:30–3:00PM
ACORN CENTRE, TORQUAY

- Create a self-care toolkit
- Talk through any concerns about your child's wellbeing
- Receive support and advice

● **Specialist session on self-harm**
last Thursday of the month



Home Education Community Drop-In

Come along to our drop-in session for advice, guidance and information

Who you can meet

- SEND Case Worker
- Education Officer
- SENDIASS officer

Location Torquay Library
Date 2nd February 2026
Time 9:30am-11:30am

ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



MENTORING WITH LIFE CHANCE TRUST

Are you a young person 16-25 who is struggling with education, anxiety, employment, or something else? Do you feel like you just need some extra support?

Life Chance Trust offer a FREE 12 week mentoring programme with a mentor who is specifically matched to YOU.

“Without the support of my mentor, I wouldn't have had the confidence to apply for jobs, build a relationship with my support network and reach out to old friends”.
M, 20



SCAN THE QR
CODE TO GET IN
TOUCH AND FIND
OUT MORE

lifechancetrust.org.uk

Torbay School Nursing Team



School Nursing Service Parent and Carer Drop in

A member of the school nurse team will be attending your child's school on:

Date: Friday 13th February 2026

Time: 1.30pm - 2.30pm

We will be able to offer support and advice for:

- Bowel and bladder
- Diet and nutrition
- Sleep
- Emotional wellbeing
- Behaviour (if there is an associated health need)

**No booking needed,
just turn up!**

Contact Us

T: 0300 333 5352 (Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm)

E: tsdft.0to19torbay@nhs.net

A: 0 to 19 Torbay, St. Edmunds, Victoria Park Rd, Torquay TQ1 3QH

W: torbayfamilyhub.org.uk

Chat via the Torbay Family Hub App



Torbay and South Devon

Piano, Violin and Singing lessons now available.

Lessons take place during the school day and are charged at:

One to one:
30 minutes £20
20 minutes £13.50

Groups:
from £7

for more details contact:
Laura @ Blossomsmusic.co.uk
07515 805 812

Blossoms
Music @
St Margaret's

Lumi-Nova—What's it all about?

You may have seen reports on BBC Spotlight recently about a new app called Lumi Nova.

Lumi Nova supports children to build confidence and learn lifelong skills to manage their fears and worries through an intergalactic adventure game.

It's been used by more than 1,100 children in Devon and more than 90% saw their condition reliably improve or stabilise after using it.

Lumi Nova is available to families in partnership with Children and Family Health Devon (CFHD).

Powered by science and backed by the NHS, Lumi Nova is:

- Designed for children aged 7-12 years
- Suitable for children with mild to moderate fears and worries
- Safe and secure
- Recommended by the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE)

In particular, children with SEND have seen significant improvements after using the service – 97% experienced reliable improvement or saw their condition stabilise.

Digital therapy enabling children to self manage their worries.

- ✓ For ages 7-12 yrs
- ✓ Suitable for children with mild - moderate anxiety*
- ✓ NICE recommended

Get free Access

luminova.app/get-access

*Not recommended for use with children who have severe anxiety, and in crisis, have suicidal thoughts or are at risk of self-harm without clinical supervision. See instructions for use: 043300000000



Diary Dates

2nd February 2026	Birch Class Swimming Lesson
3rd February 2026	Space Dome for Y5
6th February 2026	NSPCC Number Day - wear a number item
9th - 13th February 2026	Children's Mental Health Week
9th February 2026	Birch Class Swimming Lesson Year 2 Dental Workshop
10th February 2026	PTA Disco Afterschool—Details to Follow Safer Internet Day
12th February 2026	Spring Link Trustee Day
13th February 2026	Whole School Non-Uniform Day for Children's Mental Health 13.30—14.30 School Nurse Drop in Session for Families
16th February 2026— 22nd February 2026	Half Term
17th February 2026	Pancake Day—Shrove Tuesday
23rd February 2026	First Day Back for Children 5.30—15.40 Y1 Parent Phonics Meeting PSC Focus
27th February 2026	5.30—15.40 Y1 Parent Phonics Meeting PSC Focus

ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



Ash	Freddie	Freddie has been working so hard on his snappy fingers pencil grip with Colin the crocodile. That pesky pencil kept trying to run off but he kept trying and he did it ! Colin is so proud of you - well done !
Elm	Ella	Ella is a super star. She always looks out for her friends, and strives to help others. Ella has also done some fantastic Maths learning this week. She has worked really hard on learning and showing different ways to make the number 5. Well done Ella - We're really proud of you!
Beech	Ronnie	Ronnie is Beech class star of the week for always showing great respect towards adults and for truly impressing everyone with his positive attitude and strong effort towards his learning.
Pine	Lucas AND Bartosz	We have noticed Lucas trying SO SO hard this week. Mrs Chivers was especially impressed with his independent writing. Well done Lucas! Bartosz has had a wonderful year and we are really going to miss him. We wish him all the very best with his new adventure.
Apple	Harrison	Lots of the adults in Apple class have noticed how much effort Harrison has been putting into his work this week. He included a lot of detail in his writing and his hand has been up lots in Maths, answering questions on subtraction. Keep up this mature, aspirational attitude Harrison - it's great to see!
Oak	Albie	In Oak class, we have been focusing on being respectful and ready for our learning. Albie is a role model for this: he treats everyone with respect and kindness, he listens well and joins in with the lessons; and he is always willing to help others. You are a star Albie- well done!
Willow	Ivy	Willow's star of the week is Ivy. Ivy has worked incredibly hard to show kindness to others, even when it hasn't always been shown to her! She has shown incredible aspiration in her learning, not just settling for something until she felt proud enough! Well done Ivy!
Holly	Nellie	Nellie is our star of the week this week for always showing great responsibility around the classroom and her own choices. She is a super star and can be relied upon to show kindness always. Keep it up Nellie!
Cherry	James	James is our star of the week this week for making such amazing progress on TT rockstars. Your fluency has improved greatly and you are now scoring over 20 in every soundcheck. Keep up the fantastic progress James!
Hazel	Finn	For his excellent writing work.
Rowan	Logan	Logan is the star of the week in Rowan class for his super coding skills and mastering how to use the microbits in computing. He has also been making very valuable contributions in maths lessons which has demonstrated his understanding of the work we are covering. Well done Logan.
Birch	Tom	This week's star has shown great aspiration. Tom has been suggesting sensible challenges to aim higher in learning. Also, his attitude has encouraged others to challenge themselves too, helping everyone to improve. Keep up the fantastic effort!
Hawthorn	Archie	This week's star has impressed all the adults in year 6 with his learning attitude. He has been incredibly responsible and motivated himself in everything he has done. Well done Archie!
Maple	Vincent	Our star of the week is someone who could win the award every week. They always uphold all of the school values, being a super role model to all their peers. They have particularly wowed me with their fantastic efforts in writing, their impressive language transporting the reader to Shackleton's vessel in freezing Antarctica.