

# St Margaret's Academy

Dear Parents,

We are two weeks into the summer term already! Summer weather fast approaching it seems. Sun hats soon. Even Roald and Dahl need some shade. Have a look in our [Reading Blog](#) or on Facebook to see our much-loved reading guinea pigs taking a break in the sun.



## Curriculum News

By now you should have received all the information about the curriculum for this term. These documents can also be found on the [Curriculum Information](#) page on our website. This section is designed primarily with you in mind so you know what we're doing in school and can support at home. You will find the overview for this term, information letters (sometimes combined with the overview) and our Collectables.

I recommend the Collectables to you in particular as being a means to keep you informed of the curriculum expectations in each subject. You can find a range of these from across the year if you want to look back in the autumn and spring term folders as well as the summer one. The aim is to help the children collect key knowledge and skills in each subject. They will help you understand what this knowledge is and often how the children learn. Towards the end of the summer term we are planning a 'Collectable Day' to help bring the year's learning together in preparation for moving to the next year group. You will be invited and more information will follow once we've worked out the plan.

The other aspect of the curriculum part of our website is the *Curriculum in Action* page that includes all our subject blogs. I'm sure you're familiar with this. Its purpose is to celebrate what's been happening and let you know what your children have been up to. They might help with these type of conversations:

"So, what have you done at school today?"

"Nothing."

"Really?"

"I can't remember."

Some of our Year 1s visited Cuthbert Mayne on Thursday to take part in a range of new sports. Find out how they got on by looking in the [Sports Blog](#).



**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
KS2 SATS Week

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May**  
Reception Disco 5:00-5.45pm  
Year 3 & 4 Disco 6:00-7:00pm

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May**  
Year 1 & 2 Disco 5:00-5:45pm  
Year 5 & 6 Disco 6:00-7:00pm

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June**  
School Closed to mark  
Queens 70<sup>th</sup> year as  
monarch

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**  
Geography homework  
competition deadline

## Reception News

Recently we've received our allocation of new pupils for the next academic year starting in September 2022. I'm delighted to say we have had applications from 59 pupils out of a possible maximum of 60 which is super fantastic news because it comes in a year of a low birth rate and less families moving into Torbay. The funding we receive at school is based on the number of pupils on roll. As we spend over 85% of our budget on staffing, it means we can continue to plan ahead more confidently in times of rising costs.

This good news is a tribute to our amazing Reception staff team. All the new parent visitors across the autumn term noted the wonderful learning atmosphere, happy and children and strong relationships in practice. The Foundation Stage area has been further enhanced recently with a spring decoration and improvements to the outdoor learning area. If you would like to read about their day to day work, do have a look under *Curriculum Information* – [Reception \(Foundation Stage\)](#) where you can find their weekly newsletters which include tips for home as well as their celebrations.

Reception teachers are also trialling new short videos to act as [learning prompts](#). These are being used as memory joggers for the children in school but also really useful for you to use at home so you can see how your child learns. Do have a look. There is a great one to help you see how we teach maths, the concept of which is suitable for all ages. The number of these will grow overtime so keep an eye out and at some point we hope to extend them into other year groups.

## Dear Awareness Week

This week we marked Deaf Awareness Week with activities for pupils and staff across the school. See [Latest News](#) on the Hearing Support Centre page on our website to find out more. I'm sure your likely know that St Margaret's holds the provision for children with hearing impairment in Torbay. Our deaf pupils bring a real richness to school life, helping us to celebrate differences and often to learn a new language, *BSL*, British Sign Language.

## Trustee News

On Wednesday evening this week our full board of trustees met to review our progress so far this year and to plan ahead. We welcomed a new member to the board, Nicki Norman, who joins us as our latest parent trustee. Thank you to her and to all our trustees. It is a big commitment and they give a lot of their own time to help ensure our school runs successfully.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to one of our teaching assistants, Emma Hollis, who received an award for her care and compassion at the South Devon College celebration evening last night. Well done Emma and thoroughly deserved!

Have a lovely weekend.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



## STARS OF THE WEEK

<b>Beech</b>	Isaac is a shining star in our classroom. You have listened so carefully to advice given to you on how to improve your writing so it is EVEN better. All the adults have commented on what a hard worker you are - well done
<b>Pine</b>	Jack is our star this week because we have been SO impressed with the amount of extra home learning that he has been doing. Wow Jack, you have put in so much effort, well done!
<b>Oak</b>	Ruby has impressed us this week with her determination and effort whilst completing her assessments. She was also noticed for being extra responsible by being ready for her learning and helping others. Super singing and ukulele playing this week too Ruby. Well done!
<b>Apple</b>	Ethan is our star this week in Apple. He is an amazing member of the class, he always brightens our day with his cheeky smile and funny jokes. Not only because of his bubbly personality, but also his wonderful progress in his learning this year, Ethan is definitely a superstar!
<b>Birch</b>	Amelia for being a superstar with her reading, writing and fractions in maths! You have really improved your confidence in all areas and we are so proud of you.
<b>Rowan</b>	Finley W is our star of the week for showing aspiration in maths. Using counters with his partner, Finley has been able to find fractions of amounts accurately and has shown excellent listening skills. Well done!
<b>Cherry</b>	James for the responsibility he is showing in his writing. We have been really impressed with the improvement in his handwriting and he is thinking carefully about the words he wants to use. Well done James
<b>Hazel</b>	Wictor - For always showing all four of our core values. You are hardworking, kind, motivated and a wonderful friend to many. You are a model student to the rest of the class!
<b>Willow</b>	Amelia B is our Star this week in Willow for her fantastic effort in Writing this week - I have really enjoyed reading her work so far, well done Amelia! Keep up the good work!
<b>Holly</b>	Sophia quietly gets on with her work and is super helpful around the classroom. She is a kind and caring girl who is willing to work with anyone. She consistently shows respect to those around her. Well done Sophia!
<b>Maple</b>	Jameson is this week's star as he has such an incredible attitude towards all areas of his learning. He has worked so hard in recent weeks as well as always showing resilience and perseverance in his learning.
<b>Hawthorn</b>	Eva - for always demonstrating a mature, positive attitude to her learning. We are proud of the effort she has put into her work in order to make continued progress in her writing and maths in particular. Well done Eva!