



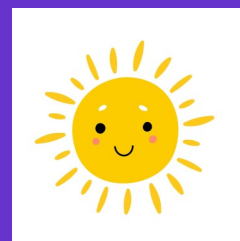
ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Summer Newsletter #26
01st May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the second week of the summer term, learning and fun have been in full action across St Margaret's Academy. This week has seen our children immersed in fantastic science topics, reaching out to their local community in Goodrington and beyond, and benefiting from visits from outside providers who have further enriched our curriculum. These experiences have made learning purposeful, active and accessible, with engaging hooks that truly inspire all learners. We are incredibly proud of the curriculum we offer and, even more so, of the enthusiasm, confidence and skill development our children demonstrate each day.

This newsletter is packed full of information to celebrate our vibrant school community, as well as to share key upcoming events and local opportunities you may find of interest. Please keep an eye on the school website calendar, Facebook page and the back page of this newsletter for important dates, updates and up and coming events. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Science in Action—Year 4

This half term, Year 4 have been brilliant scientists as part of our topic *Animals Including Humans*. We began by learning about the human endoskeleton and the important bones that make up our bodies. We were fascinated to discover that the femur is the biggest and strongest bone in the body – many of us thought it would be the spine!

We then carried out an exciting investigation to answer the question: **Does the length of your femur affect how far you can jump?** Working scientifically, we measured our femur lengths in centimetres and carefully recorded our results. Taking turns, we tested our jumping distance and compared the data.

Our results surprised us! We discovered that having a longer femur does **not** necessarily mean you can jump the furthest. This experiment helped us develop our observation, measuring and data-recording skills – and we had great fun working as a team outdoors in the sunshine. Science really did come to life!



Year 5 Science Enrichment

To introduce and enrich their Science topic on **Life Cycles**, Year 5 enjoyed a visit last week from Chris at **South West Animal Services**. He brought along a fascinating range of animals for the pupils to meet, including a three-banded armadillo, a blue-tongued skink, an African royal python, a pygmy owl, and even a beetle with its accompanying witchetty grub. The classes impressed Chris with their excellent knowledge and thoughtful questions, making the visit both memorable and highly informative.



Aaaarrgh! What a Swashbuckling Week in Reception!

Reception has had a truly adventurous week, setting sail on an exciting pirate-themed learning journey. Our classroom was transformed into a pirate cove, and the children fully immersed themselves in exploring the high seas through imaginative play and hands-on learning.

The children became brave explorers as they designed and created their own detailed treasure maps, leading the way to hidden loot. Their skills were put to the test during a thrilling treasure hunt, while the sensory sand and water areas became hotspots for searching out hidden gems.

Using their creativity and a range of junk materials, the children explored early engineering by building their own pirate ships. We also investigated scientific concepts by testing whether the ships would float or sink, before coming together to enjoy role-play aboard a large, class-built ship.

In the "Captain's Quarters" (our malleable area), children developed fine motor skills as they designed and created playdough pirate characters and treasures.

The week ended with a fantastic Pirate Day, where we spoke like pirates, sang sea shanties, and proudly celebrated all the learning that had taken place. It has been a wonderful week filled with teamwork, imagination, and curiosity about the world around us.



ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION

Celebrating Outdoor Learning: Year 5 Bushcraft and Bodyboarding

As part of our commitment to enriching learning beyond the classroom, St Margaret's Academy is using a proportion of the PE & Sport Premium to fund an exciting outdoor adventure programme in partnership with **Reach Outdoors**. This programme offers pupils across the school valuable opportunities to develop confidence, resilience and a deeper connection with the natural environment.

Year 6 launched the programme in the Autumn term with an unforgettable coastering experience at Anstey's Cove. More recently, our Year 5 pupils took part in two fantastic activities: bushcraft at Whitehill Country Park and bodyboarding at Goodrington Beach.

Children were supported throughout by highly experienced outdoor guides. Although sea conditions on the day were challenging, with a strong swell meaning the planned kayaking session had to be cancelled for safety reasons, this gave pupils the chance to adapt and embrace alternative activities. **Birch Class** enjoyed outdoor cooking, successfully making garlic bread over camp stoves, while **Rowan Class** rose to the challenge of donning wetsuits and heading into the sea to try bodyboarding.



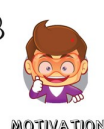
Bodyboarding is an exciting and accessible introduction to wave riding, and the children found the experience exhilarating. Many overcame initial nerves about the sea, unknown surroundings and trying something completely new, taking great pride in riding the waves and supporting each other.

The trip gave pupils a genuine understanding of the Devon coastline and allowed them to experience nature in a way that simply wouldn't be possible in the classroom. Most importantly, it encouraged children to push their personal boundaries at a level that felt right for them; from managing wetsuits to bravely entering the sea, building confidence, resilience and a strong sense of achievement.



ACTIVE THINKING

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As we head into the long bank holiday weekend, we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for our truly wonderful school community.

Together, we are proud of the rich experiences, opportunities and support that make our school such a special place for our pupils, staff and families. We wish everyone a happy, restful and safe bank holiday weekend, and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday.

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer

Headteacher



ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION

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



Registered Charity No: 1169709

OPEN DAY

Saturday 25th July

• 2026 •

11am - 3pm

Dartington Estate



Come to our centre on the Dartington Estate to meet the team, the horses and other animals.

Pony Demo with Young People

Raffle | Bric a Brac | Plant Stall
Games | Children's Art Activities

Refreshments | Cakes | Tea & Coffee

Entry by Donation - No Dogs Please



RAFFLE

PRIZES

GAMES

Help us make a difference!

Buckhams Stables,
Old School Farm, Dartington Hall,
Totnes, TQ9 6EB

info@sironaequine.org.uk www.sironaequine.org.uk

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ST MARGARET'S ACADEMY PTA

WORLD CUP

DRESS DOWN DAY!

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE

Each class will be allocated a different country and you can come dressed in that country's **COLOUR** or **THEME!**

PLEASE DONATE an item of your country's **COLOUR** that will be used in our **RAINBOW RAFFLE HAMPERS** at the **SUMMER FAYRE!**

Let's fill our hampers with lots of colour!

WE WILL ANNOUNCE THE CLASSES' COUNTRIES/COLOURS ON FACEBOOK ON FRIDAY 8TH MAY (INFO WILL ALSO BE SENT HOME WITH THE CHILDREN)

WHO WILL TAKE THE CUP? The class that we deem to have gone to the **MOST EFFORT** in their outfits will win a **WHOLE CLASS TREAT** COURTESY OF THE PTA!

Let's celebrate the World Cup in style!
We can't wait to see your amazing outfits!

U9s

(school year 3 going to year 4)

We are creating a new team for next season.

We train and play on the 3G pitch at Torquay academy school.

Training is on a Wednesday at 5:30 and games get played on a Sunday.

Going to be doing tryouts through May.

We will also be looking for a Parent to take on the team to be a manager and also a coach to help out.

Contact Andy for info
07572876014



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

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
8th June 2026	Cherry Class Swimming Bikeability Level 2
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

ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



Ash	Oriah	For her fabulous phonics this week, Oriah gave it her all! She worked so hard, knew all of her sounds, and did a brilliant job helping Fred Frog review everything we've been learning. What a superstar! Well done, Oriah – we are all so incredibly proud of you, and you should feel proud of yourself too!
Elm	Wren	This Week's Star of The Week is Wren. Wren has completed some wonderful writing this week. Working hard and putting in lots of effort. Well Done Wren.
Beech	Harrison	For being kind and always looking after other children in class and showing respect to adults.
Pine	Ivy	Ivy is our star of the week. She always tries her best and we have been particularly impressed with her writing lately. Well done Ivy.
Apple	Luna	Luna has been so responsible with her learning this week. Her hand has been up in every lesson to contribute ideas and she has been really challenging herself recently. We are so impressed with how much you have grown in confidence Luna. You truly are a star!
Oak	Hattie	Hattie is a role model for respect and responsibility. She always offers to help others and she has been earning lots of dojos for being kind. Hattie was fantastic at representing our school at a sports event this week. Well done Hattie, you are a star!
Willow	Olivia	Olivia, you are an absolute star! You have been such a fantastic role model to everyone in Willow Class, always being in the right place at the right time and leading by example in everything you do. You've shown real kindness and teamwork by going out of your way to help Mrs Harrison during her first week, and you're always there to support your classmates too. Your positive attitude and willingness to help makes Willow class a happier place for everyone! We are so proud of you, Olivia — keep shining bright!
Holly	Harper	This week our star Harper! She has been so responsible and kind in the classroom and is always doing the right thing at the right time whilst also being incredibly helpful. Thank you for being amazing!
Cherry	Sophia S	For being a fantastic learning mentor to your learning partner this week - guiding and supporting them when needed. Thank you for your responsibility and kindness!
Hazel	Lily	Hazel's star this week is Lily. Lily has shown great aspiration in his maths when learning about decimals. She was excellent at making links between decimals and fractions! She has even taken to supporting her friends during the learning, too. Well done, Lily. You're a super mathematician!
Rowan	Jude	Jude is the star of the week in Rowan for his great attitude towards his learning. He demonstrates focus and perseverance in all of his tasks and always completes his work to the best of his ability. He listens carefully in class discussions and makes good contributions which show his understanding. Well done Jude.
Birch	Mila	Mila is star of the week for showing great maturity. Her actions, including being ready for learning, making the right choices, and showing excellent listening skills, demonstrate how responsible she is. She is showing that she is definitely ready for year 6, Well done!
Hawthorn	Josh	Josh has worked hard in his mock SATs test this week and made superb progress in all areas. Well done Josh!
Maple	Theon	Theon has worked incredibly hard this week, really trying to remain focused during our SATs practice this week. He has also applied himself superbly in his writing, and made some excellent vocabulary choices.