



ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter #21
6th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week we've had across the school! Our classrooms and corridors have been buzzing with excitement as we immersed ourselves in a shared love of books, stories and imagination. From creative costumes to captivating reading activities, it has been a joy to see our children celebrating the magic that reading brings.

Alongside our book-themed adventures, we have also been daring to be brave in trying a wonderful array of fruits and vegetables. The enthusiasm with which children have explored new flavours and made healthy choices has been truly inspiring, well done to everyone who joined in with such positivity!

We are also delighted to announce the five lucky winners of our World Book Day Star Lunch:

- **Ethan** from Elm Class
- **Ruby** from Beech Class
- **Harley** from Oak Class
- **Parker** from Cherry Class
- **Mariella** from Maple Class



A huge congratulations to each of you! We look forward to celebrating your lucky win and presenting your special prize in Monday's assembly.

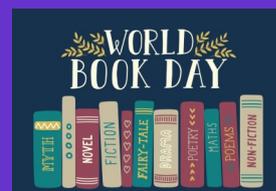
Thank you to our whole school community for making this week such a joyful and enriching experience. Here's to many more moments that spark curiosity, confidence and a lifelong love of reading

Rowan Class News

Rowan Class have been exploring the vibrant, abstract and space-themed artwork of artist Peter Thorpe. The children have spent time investigating his unique style and have been practising a range of painting and drawing techniques, including colour mixing, creating tones and tints, experimenting with perspective, and using shading to show 3D objects and shadows. Using these skills, they have produced their own striking pieces of Peter Thorpe - inspired space art, showcasing creativity, imagination and growing artistic confidence.

ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



Eat Them to Defeat Them

The children across the school have fully embraced the *Eat Them to Defeat Them* challenge! Our catering team have been delighted to praise pupils for their cleaner plates and to hand out plenty of veggie stickers in recognition of their efforts.

Pupils are feeling brave and proud as they try new vegetables, and we are super proud of them too. We hope this enthusiasm continues at home over the coming weeks as we explore a range of fruits and vegetables and broaden our taste buds together.

Please feel free to send in any photographs, posters or pictures of your family fully embracing this fantastic challenge. We love seeing the children's excitement and creativity!

Eat Them to Defeat Them—Lunchbox Inspiration for Families

As part of our *Eat Them to Defeat Them* campaign, we're excited to share a brilliant resource from **Veg Power** that helps take the stress out of packing school lunchboxes.

We all know that putting together a lunchbox each day can feel like a real challenge—limited time, running out of ideas, and wondering what actually gets eaten once your child is at school. The good news? Small, simple changes can make a big difference to your child's energy, focus and wellbeing throughout the school day.

Veg Power has created a helpful webpage full of easy ideas, practical swaps and expert advice from Registered Nutritionist Catherine Lippe. The aim is to support families in building lunches children will *actually want to eat*—using everyday foods, without pressure to be perfect. ([Link for Ideas](#))

You'll also find the fun Shaun the Sheep Lunchbox Planner, a great tool to get children involved in choosing and preparing their lunches. Helping them plan often means they feel more invested—and more likely to enjoy what goes into their lunchbox!

We hope this resource gives you a little extra inspiration and confidence as we continue encouraging our children to enjoy a variety of vegetables and make healthy choices.

Let's keep up the momentum and eat them to defeat them!

ULTIMATE LUNCHBOX
Help Shaun create the perfect lunchbox by following the five steps to the ultimate lunch... main, fruit, snack & water.

LET'S GET STARTED!

1 MAIN - SANDWICHES

A STRONG BODY
A filling sandwich needs fibre. Choose brown or wholemeal bread.

Bread, Wraps, Pittas, Rolls, Bagels

A TRUE HEART
Add a filling that contains protein and vegetables to keep you filled up and ready for adventure.

Cheese & tomato, Ham & tomato, Cream cheese & salad, Hummus & grated carrot, Tuna mayonnaise & sweetcorn

OR SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

Leftovers, A boiled egg (for two)

Why not try last night's leftovers in a sealed container - cooked chicken or salmon with veg can be perfect.

Cous cous salad with veg, Pasta salad with veg

2 FRUIT

SWEET GOODNESS

Harness the sweet goodness of fruit. One portion is one child's handful! don't forget to chop into bite-size pieces.

Apple, Satsuma, Nectarine, Kiwi, Melon, Grapes, Berries

3 SNACK

PACK A SNACK

Lunchboxes aren't the same without a snack, pick the ones with less sugar and salt.

Pretzels, Cereal bars, Bread sticks, Popcorn, Yoghurt, Cheese, Rice cakes

4 VEGETABLE

BUILD YOUR STRENGTH

Sweetcorn, Radishes, Celery, Tomatoes, Pepper, Sugar snap peas, Cucumber

Try raw veg, or even cold cooked carrots if your child prefers soft textures. One portion is one child's handful - don't forget to chop into bite-size pieces.

5 WATER

REAL REFRESHMENT

Nothing quenches your thirst like clear, fresh water.

ULTIMATE LUNCHBOX

More great lunchbox tips... plus veg hacks samplerveg.org.uk

Shaun the Sheep **EAT THE RAINBOW**

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Celebrating the Wonderful World of Books at St Margaret's Academy

What an inspiring and joy-filled week we have had as we celebrated the magic of books and the power of reading across our school community.

Celebrate
Reading!

Throughout the week, children embraced daily reading challenges at home, sharing stories and special reading moments with their families. It has been wonderful to hear about the creative places children chose to read, the characters they explored, and the new books they discovered together.

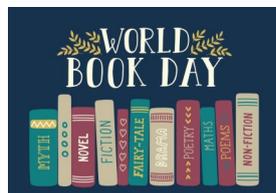
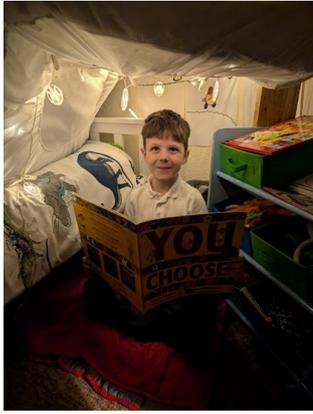
On Wednesday, we were thrilled to welcome author Clare Helen Welsh, who joined us to share her beautiful books and her passion for storytelling. Clare delivered an aspirational whole-school assembly, inspiring the children to dream big, believe in themselves, and find joy in the world of books. Her sessions with the classes were filled with imagination, creativity, and lots of smiles.

On Thursday, the school was transformed as children arrived dressed in their favourite book character costumes or cosy pyjamas, a wonderful celebration of stories in all their forms. Classrooms buzzed with excitement as children curled up with books, shared their favourites with friends, and enjoyed a day dedicated entirely to reading for pleasure.

Finally, we are delighted to announce that author Rob Holmes will be joining us on 23rd April. He will be talking to the children about *Mindfulness* and his book *Master Owl*, which explores calmness, kindness, and emotional wellbeing. This is an opportunity we are all very much looking forward to.

Thank you to all our families and staff for making this such a memorable celebration of books. Together, we continue to nurture a love of reading that will stay with our children for life.





ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION

School Attendance Update

This week we have been working closely with Matt Jackson, our Attendance Improvement Officer, to look at how we can collectively improve school attendance for all pupils and families at St Margaret's Academy.

Our current whole-school attendance is 93.4%, compared to the national figure of 94.82%. As a school, our target is above 95%, and we believe this is achievable when we work together.

Over the coming weeks, we will be launching a range of strategies, celebrations, and support initiatives to help improve attendance. We'll be sharing these with pupils and families so everyone knows how we plan to make positive progress.

But we need your help.

What can you do as a parent or carer?

You play a vital role in helping to make school attendance a priority. Here are some ways you can support your child:

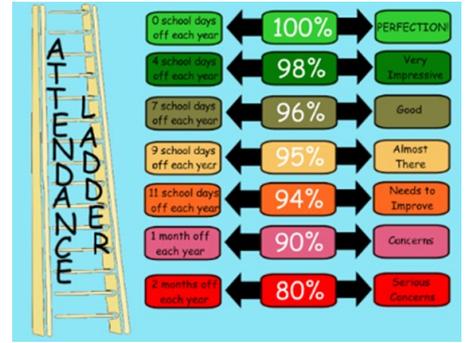
- Only keep your child off school when they are genuinely too unwell to attend.
- Book medical appointments and holidays outside of school time whenever possible.
- Talk to us if you are experiencing difficulties that are affecting your child's attendance.

We also recognise that some children face additional challenges. Those with long-term medical conditions, significant mental health needs, or special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) may encounter more barriers to attending regularly. For families in these situations, we will continue to work compassionately and collaboratively, listening carefully and offering tailored support based on individual needs.

Our collective goal is simple:

We want all children at St Margaret's to thrive, be happy, and enjoy success.

Thank you for working with us to make this happen.



PTA Easter Bingo

On **Friday 27th March**, 3:30–5:00pm, the PTA are arranging their fantastic *Easter Bingo*. As always, we will be holding a non-uniform day for all children on this date, and kindly ask that you donate an Easter egg of any size in support of the event.

All eggs can be brought into school on Thursday 26th March in advance, or on the morning of Friday 27th March, to enable the PTA some time to organise the prize hampers in readiness for the big event



I hope you have a wonderful weekend, take care.

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer
Headteacher

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

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for more details contact:
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STEADY**

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92%

of children report greater confidence and self-belief from being in Rocksteady.

Insights from 1,738 children

99%

of parents say their child loves or enjoys their Rocksteady band lessons.

Insights from 3,737 parents

"It makes me feel like I'm part of something, and happy."
Rocksteady pupil



BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE ONLINE!

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info@rocksteadymusicschool.com

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Diary Dates

9th March 2026	13.00—14.00 Y2 Woodland Walk Rowan Class Swimming
12th March 2026	13.00—14.00 Y3/4 Dodgeball Competition
16th March 2026	Rowan Class Swimming
17th March 2026	15.15—16.15 Y3/Y4 Football Home to Torre
23rd March 2026	Rowan Class Swimming
24th March 2026	09.00—12.00 Y5 Rowan Class Reach Outdoors (Archery & Indoor Climbing) 15.30—18.20 Parent Teacher Consultations (Spring Term)
26th March 2026	15.30—18.20 Parent Teacher Consultations (Spring Term)
30th March 2026	Y6 Leavers Hoodies worn from today Rowan Class Swimming
31st March 2026—2nd April 2026	Skern Lodge Residential Y6 (2 Nights)
Friday 3rd April 2026	No School—Start of Easter Spring Term Holiday
20th April 2026	Start of Summer Term

ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION





Ash	Penelope	For being aspirational in her writing this week - Penelope is beginning to use her sound knowledge to say it, sound it then write the sounds she hears . What a SUPER piece of writing about Superworm - Spuerworm is very long!
Elm	Finlay	This weeks star of the week from Elm class is Finlay. Finlay has shown great dedication to using his Fred Fingers and he has created a fantastic fact file all about Power Rangers.
Beech	Harper	The star of the week in Beech class is Harper! This week Harper has tried really hard to improve her writing at school and at home. Harper has produced a brilliant independent write this week. Well done Harper!
Pine	Luxe	Luxe is our star. We were SO impressed with her writing this week. She worked really hard to hear so many sounds in the words and did this on her own. Well done Luxe!
Apple	River	River is such a kind and responsible member of Apple class and could get the star every week. This week she has been helping other children with making their hats and looking after her friends. We have also noticed how confident she has been in class, putting her hand up a lot more to share her amazing ideas.
Oak	Callie	Callie is our star, as she impressed me with her clear sentences when writing about our class story. She also joined in with PE more towards the end of the week and she has been incredibly helpful in the classroom and at forest school.
Willow	Aditi	Willow's Star of the week is Aditi. I have been so impressed with her choices both in class and representing our school outside. She demonstrated respect to the opposition, kindness towards her team and responsibility and aspiration to give her best and never give up! Well done Aditi.
Holly	Rose	Holly's Star of the week is Rose. Rose showed an incredible attitude when out representing our school. She pushed herself outside of her comfort zone and had great fun doing so. She demonstrated respect to the opposition, kindness towards her team and responsibility and aspiration to give her best and never give up! Well done Rose.
Cherry	Isabelle	For being a responsible helper in the hall at lunchtimes, the adults really appreciate your help! Also making sure our chickens are well fed every day. Thank you Isabelle.
Hazel	Leah h	In Hazel, our star this week is Leah. Leah has shown us excellent responsibility and respect this week. Leah is always doing the right thing and takes great pride in her work. She makes sure she tries her best always! Leah is a very valued member of our class and we are so proud of her! Well done, Leah!
Rowan	Daisy	Daisy is the star of the week in Rowan class because she has been demonstrating great engagement with her learning since half term. She has been confidently answering questions in maths and has consistently tried her best in all aspects of her learning. Well done Daisy.
Birch	Quinn	This week's Star of the Week goes to someone who has shown great responsibility for their learning. They have worked hard, stayed focused, and taken pride in their work, confidently sharing it with the adults in the room.
Hawthorn	Amelia	Amelia we have noticed your quiet aspiration and resilience to always do your best! You have worked super hard in writing this week to meet the learning outcomes and your sentences were fabulous when trying to include the present perfect tense! Well done
Maple	Lola. H	We have focussed on the value of respect this week in Maple class. Our star always speaks and acts respectfully to grown ups and children, and she treats her property and that of others with respect. She always listens in class - to the teachers and her peers. Well done, Lola!