



St Margaret's  
Academy



ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter #5  
14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents,

Happy Valentine's Day. I hope everyone is keeping well and avoiding the seasonal bugs. It's been another busy, fun-filled week in school.

After half term I will be starting the gradual transition process of handing over to the new Head Teacher, Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer. Mrs O'Dwyer and I will be meeting and she will be visiting school. St Margaret's is such a special school and I'm really happy that I am able to hand over to someone who can help take things further while continuing our unique relational approach. I'm looking forward to enjoying my final 6 weeks with everyone after half term.

### Welcome Message from the next Head Teacher of St Margaret's Academy

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*I hope this message finds you and your family well. I am delighted to write to you to introduce myself ahead of joining St Margaret's as Headteacher in April. I feel extremely honoured and privileged to have been chosen to build upon the success the school has already achieved under the strong leadership of Mr Hughes.*

*Having been a teacher for almost twenty years, I am passionate about fostering a nurturing and inspiring environment where every child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. My vision is to ensure that St Margaret's continues to be a place where children are encouraged to reach their full potential, where their unique talents are celebrated, and where they develop the skills and confidence needed to succeed in an ever-changing world.*

*The wellbeing and relationships of the children and staff is already at the heart of the school, and this is something I will continue to invest in. I am also keen on building a whole school community which thrives on mutual respect and values positive relationships. I know how vital working in partnership with parents really is in order for children to find school a positive and rewarding experience. Together, we can create a supportive partnership that ensures the best possible outcomes for all our pupils. I am committed to maintaining open communication with parents and carers, and I look forward to visiting school on Friday 14th March where I hope to meet you in person on the gate before and after school. I wish you and your families a wonderful half term break.*

*Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer*



ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE

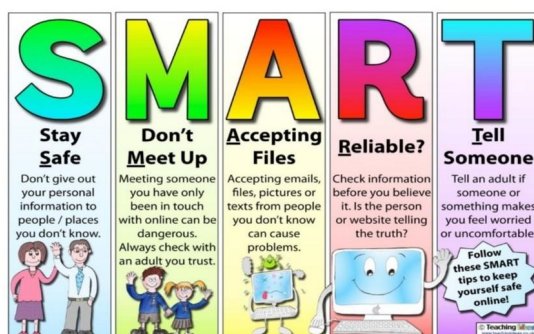


MOTIVATION

## Internet Safety Week

This week we have had an extra focus on internet safety. S – M – A – R – T. We use this acronym to help children have the strategies they need to stay safe on-line. S is for Safe (e.g. don't give out personal details on-line). M is for Meet (don't meet someone they don't know). A is for Accept (e.g. don't accept invites and popups). R is for Reliable (in this new age of fake news, artificial intelligence profiling and social media mis-information, children need to be able to be curious and have healthy scepticism). T is for Trusted adult (we always encourage children to find a trusted adult to talk to, either from home life and / or school life).

- The UK Safer Internet Centre: [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- Loads of easy-access resources including very useful age-specific ones: [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- How to set up parent controls for your internet at home (it covers all the broadband providers): [Broadband & Mobile Networks Archives - Internet Matters](#)



## Staffing News

Big congratulations to Mrs Madej who is pregnant with her first child. Mrs Madej will be going on maternity leave in late June 2025.

## Curriculum News

I hope you enjoyed your child's creative curriculum event on Thursday. This celebration is designed to give purpose to your child's learning and help make coming to school more appealing, especially on a Monday morning. From talking to your children we know they are enjoying learning more with these creative slots. Attendance has also improved.

Look in the Creative Learning Blog to see how [Year 5](#) got stuck into their space creativity recently. In the Computing Blog you can see how [Year 5](#) used the micro bits to create a game of *Rock Paper Scissors against the computer*.

## PTA Valentines Disco

Thank you to the PTA for putting on another of their amazing disco events yesterday which was again much enjoyed by all who attended.



## Wear Red to Show Love for other Children

Thank you for your support and donation today. All the money will go to the paediatric ward at Torbay Hospital. This was the chosen charity of the student council.



## Drop-In/Coffee Morning: Seeking Support for Your Child's School Placement?



Tuesday 25 February 10:00-12:00  
Parkfield House, Paignton. TQ3 2NH

Have you recently received a letter or email naming a school or setting for your child or young person and it is not the setting you wanted? Do you have questions about how special school placements are allocated? Are you thinking of requesting a change of setting for your child? We invite you to join us for an informal chat.

Hosted by Torbay Council's SEND team, SENDIASS, and SEND Family Voice Torbay, this informal drop-in session is here to provide support, answer your questions, and help you move forward.

Whether you need guidance or just a listening ear, we're here to help. Pop in and access the support you need.

For more information contact us

 07554 040107

 admin@familyvoicetorbay.org

## Our Amazon Book Wish List

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/l/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/l/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref=wl_share)

## Help with Rising Costs - Reminders

- Riviera Life Church Food and Baby Bank – [link here](#). We can make a referral for you or phone 07486 402493
- **Household Support Fund** – if you are on a welfare benefit / tax credit or have a disposable income of less than £50 per week:
- [Household Support Fund - Torbay Council](#)
- Do you need help with child care? If so, try this website: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>
- Help for households – very useful government website: <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>
- This community kitchen has some very affordable meal options and is well worth a look: <https://www.turningheads.org.uk/community-kitchen/>
- The PTA has lots of quality school uniform for a small donation – see their FB page
- Martin Lewis: <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/>
- Free uniform and help with rising costs: <https://www.punkagainstopoverty.org/>
- Try here for cheaper broadband: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>

Wishing you all a wonderful half term. See you all again on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)

ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



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# Diary Dates

W/C 17th February 2025	Half Term
24th February 2025	First day back for children
1st April 2025	Non Uniform Day to donate an Easter Egg for the Thursday Bingo
3rd April 2025	PTA Easter Bingo after school
W/C 7th April 2025	Easter Holidays
22nd April 2025	First day back for children
5th May 2025	Bank Holiday
W/C 26th May 2025	Half Term
3rd June 2025	First day back for children
24th July 2025	Final day for the children



Beech	Cavalli is our star of the week in Beech! His amazing work ethic throughout the week has allowed him to make significant progress in his overall learning journey, and we are all very proud of him.
Pine	George E is our star this week. Over the last few weeks he has been working SO hard to improve his writing and math skills. Every morning he gets his head down and writes and writes and we are so proud of him. Well done George!
Oak	Libby is our star of the week as she shows responsibility and aspiration every time that she completes her book quizzes. She also showed kindness by bringing in some materials from home to share with the class when making their bags. Super effort Libby, well done!
Apple	Erin is our star of the week for her amazing motivation to improve her writing lesson by lesson. You listen so carefully and apply the skills we have taught you wonderfully. Your writing is a pleasure to read - well done!
Holly	Our star is for someone who has recently started to show much more active learning, particularly in her maths learning. Sophia is building up her resilience and this is showing in all of her learning. Well done Sophia, keep going!
Willow	Theekshi is the star of the week because she has worked so hard designing, making and strengthening her gift box in DT. She had shown great motivation to produce a beautiful box. Well done Theekshi.
Cherry	Cherries star of the week this week is Alanna. She has shown incredible active thinking, challenging herself to be her best in every subject. She has shown incredible motivation in all of her learning, often creating more things to do after finishing the main tasks. Her desire to learn has really shone through this week and she has produced some amazing things, well done Alanna!
Hazel	Thomas is our star of the week. He has shown real resilience in our DT this week. Well done for persevering young man!
Birch	Our star this week is Oliver! We were blown away by Oliver's fantastic presentation that he made as part of our creative curriculum celebration this term. Oliver showed fab active thinking throughout this project and was motivated to make something he was really proud of. Well done Oliver!
Rowan	This week's star goes to Fletcher for his consistent resilience and motivation. He has really impressed me in Maths and Art over the past few weeks, always striving to improve and achieve his best. Well done and keep up the incredible work!
Maple	Noah is our star for showing excellent learning behaviours, particularly in our DT unit "Electrical systems". This week, Noah and his group made a fantastic, functional alarm system and was motivated to take his learning further by adding in an extra switch. Fantastic work!
Hawthorn	Ronnie has shown great resilience during her DT project. She worked hard with her partner to ensure their intruder alarm did what she wanted. She has also shown improved resilience when coping with our practice SAT papers. Ronnie always shows pride in her work and presents it beautifully which is always noticed- Well done Ronnie!

ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION