



# St Margaret's Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter #24  
31st March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the spring term, I am delighted to share our final newsletter of the term. What an amazingly busy and jam-packed term it has been! Thank you to our pupils, staff, and families for your continued energy, enthusiasm, and support.

Please note that the school website has now been updated with the 2026–2027 term dates, including staff training days. We have also uploaded updated policies and added summer term diary dates to the school calendar so that you are kept fully informed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 6 pupils heading off to Skern for their three-day residential the very best, an exciting adventure awaits!

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who joined us this week for the spring term pupil progress meetings on Tuesday and Thursday, and for coming along to enjoy the fabulous RockSteady concert, where our pupils performed brilliantly.

Finally, to all of our school community, I wish you a wonderful and restful Easter break.

## Celebrations in the Community

Massive congratulations to Rory in Apple Class and Athena in Cherry Class, who were selected as our lucky-dip winners! Their names were drawn to represent our school at a very special community celebration.

We are delighted to share that our school has been invited to take part in the 100th anniversary of the [Babbacombe Cliff Railway](#). This is a wonderful honour, and we are incredibly proud to be involved in such a significant local event.



## Updated Relationships & Behaviour Policy

We are pleased to share that our updated Relationships and Behaviour Policy – *Language That Cares* has now been reviewed and formally approved by Trustees. This policy strengthens our trauma-informed, relational approach to supporting children's behaviour and wellbeing.

At St Margaret's, we know that children learn best when they feel safe, understood and valued. Behaviour is rarely just about choices- it is often a communication of emotion, need or worry. By focusing on strong relationships, connection and empathy, we help children regulate, repair and grow.

Why this matters

- A relational approach ensures every child feels safe, seen, soothed and secure, creating the foundations for learning and healthy development.
- It supports us in responding calmly, consistently and fairly, especially when behaviour falls short.
- It respects the fact that many behaviours stem from unmet needs or emotional distress, not defiance.
- It replaces shame or punishment with restorative conversations, helping children learn to repair and make better choices next time.
- Most importantly, it reflects our commitment to **kindness, respect, responsibility and aspiration**—the values our children live by every day.

Our partnership with you

We strongly believe that the most powerful support for any child comes when school and home work together as one team. Your role as parents and carers is central. By reinforcing our shared values, using consistent language, and being part of restorative solutions, we build a united circle of support around every child.

What this means in practice

- Clear, calm language and predictable routines
- Positive praise and celebration of values-led behaviour
- Restorative approaches to repair and learning
- Graduated and fair responses where behaviour impacts safety or learning
- Ongoing communication with families so we work in partnership at every stage

The full policy is available on our school website, and we will continue to share key elements throughout the year.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership. Together, we create a safe, nurturing and ambitious environment where every child can thrive.

## National Skipping Day 2026

National Skipping Day was on Friday 27 th March. It is an annual celebration promoting movement, fun, and teamwork in schools across the UK. Its purpose is to raise physical health awareness for children and to encourage skipping back into the playground.

The children at St Margarets have had a week of skipping in their PE lessons, capping off with celebrating the day with lots of skipping activities in their breaktimes on the playground. It was great to see so many children enthusiastic about skipping and having a go.

Skipping is a great way to exercise. It targets almost all the muscles in your body, it burns fat, and it also builds stamina. The children had lots of fun skipping and some didn't even know they were exercising, it doesn't get any better!



## Class PE Changes effective from Monday 30th March for the Summer Term

- Cherry swimming Monday and PE Thursday
- Hazel PE Monday and Tuesday
- Rowan PE Tuesday and Friday
- Birch PE Wednesday and Friday

## Bees, Bees, Bees

Year 2 are on board with getting our award for being a Bumble-Bee friendly school. We have had a bee filled afternoon! Planting bee-friendly seeds and making bee crafts to brighten up the class room. This has linked brilliantly with our story 'The Last Wolf' and developed discussions around what we can do to protect our environment and keep the bees pollinating for the future!



## Rowan at Reach Outdoors

On Tuesday Rowan class ventured out and about around Torbay to take part in two fantastic Reach Outdoors sessions. A Bushcraft session at Cockington Country Park utilised their team work skills to build dens in the woods, start fires using a flint and steel and finished with cooking 'smores' over an open fire, which of course they couldn't wait to devour!!! The other session was at Parkfield where they demonstrated amazing determination and bravery by scaling the climbing wall to dizzying heights. A great time was had by all!!



## Fun in Reception

What a ROAR-some week we've had exploring the world of dinosaurs!

We've been busy creating our own dinosaur crafts, painting enormous prehistoric friends, and building exciting dino parks, safaris, and obstacle courses both indoors and out. Uncovering skeletons, bones and some very interesting artifacts!



Our phonetic awareness has really grown too - we've been using our "snappy fingers," Fred Talk, and sound knowledge to write some fantastic fun facts and super sentences!

Today in Forest School, we followed dinosaur footprints around the orchard and even made our own using natural materials like sticks, willow, and earth. We also played a fun dinosaur egg game, learning how animals communicate to find each other in the wild.

What a fun-filled week of learning and adventure. Who knows where next week will take us!



## The 'A' Games

On Thursday 26 th March a group of Year 2 children went to St Cuthbert Mayne and took part in the 'A' Games. The 'A' Games is an annual alternative event which is organised by the Sports Leaders at St Cuthbert Mayne. The aim of the event is to increase participation, encourage healthy lifestyles and inspire all young people to benefit from the positive values of physical activity and sport.

The children took part in a fun morning of alternative activities including Bounce Fitness, Orienteering, Problem Solving and ball games with an emphasis on movement, enjoyment and discovery and not competition.

All the children received a fruit pot and certificate from the event and hopefully they left with an understanding that physical activity doesn't have to mean the usual team ball games like football and netball and can be found in other enjoyable forms.

Children's comments:

A games is 'so much fun' – Cavalli

'I don't like the A Games, I love it!' – George E

Thank you to the parents and staff that helped support the children.

ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



## Truly Aspirational

We wanted to share some positive news regarding one of our Year 6 pupils, Fletcher.

On 22nd March, Fletcher competed in the South West Tumbling England selection competition and was awarded a silver medal. He competed against five other gymnasts from across the South West region completing 3 tumble runs. As a result of this placement, he has now qualified to compete at the National Tumbling Competition in Telford during the May half term!

He continues to push himself to try new skills in his gymnastics and currently trains for eight hours each week. He had initially gone for the experience and simply to try his best, so he is thrilled with the outcome.

This is a huge achievement, and both family and school are extremely proud of him and we enjoyed watching the video and congratulated him in person during our assembly on Monday.



## Year 6 at Skern Lodge

Our Year Six pupils and the staff supporting this year's residential are having an amazing time at Skern Lodge! They've been taking on new challenges, learning new skills, and growing in independence each day.

It has been an absolute pleasure to accompany them and to witness their wonderful interactions first-hand. I'm sure we will all be ready for a good rest when we return on Thursday, just in time for the two-week break!

Please check Class Dojo for all the fantastic photographs we've been sharing.

## Staffing Updates

We have a few important staffing updates to share as we look ahead to the summer term. As always, our priority is ensuring a smooth and supportive experience for all our children.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Mrs Madej back after the Easter break following the birth of her son. She will be joining Miss Miller next week for a series of sessions to get to know the class and help ensure a calm and seamless transition for the children after the spring break.

We would like to offer our special thanks to Miss Miller for her care, dedication, and support both this academic year and last. Her commitment to the children has been truly appreciated. We wish her every success and happiness as she begins her new role in her next school.

After six years of wonderful service to St Margaret's, Miss Baker will be leaving us to explore new adventures. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has contributed to our school community. We wish Miss Baker all the very best for the future.

We are pleased to share that Miss Logan and Miss Hewitt have recently joined the St Margaret's team. We are thrilled to have them with us and know they will be a fantastic addition to our school community.



## Attendance & Wellbeing: Working Together for Every Child's Success



# YOUNG MINDS MATTER



Mental health and wellbeing support in Torbay

Self Help / Advice	Getting Help	Need Help Now!
<p><b>YOUNG MINDS</b> Online self help for young people</p> <p><b>THE MIX</b> Information and support for under 25's</p> <p><b>NHS Every Mind Matters</b> Simple and practical self help for anxiety, low moods and better sleep</p> <p><b>5 Ways to Wellbeing</b> Local wellbeing approach</p> <p><b>Mind</b> Mental health organisation</p>	<p><b>kooth</b> Anonymous, free and easy to use online support</p> <p><b>MHST</b> Mental Health Support Teams in Torbay schools</p> <p><b>YOUNG DEVON</b> Support for young people aged 11 to 25</p> <p><b>Checkpoint, Torbay</b> Phone, online &amp; face to face help for aged 8-18</p> <p style="background-color: #ffcc00; text-align: center;"><b>Getting More Help</b></p> <p><b>cfhd</b> Children &amp; Family Health Devon For support with severe ongoing mental health issues (CAMHS) - 03300 245321 (out of hours)/ 0300 555 5000</p>	<p><b>shout 85258</b> here for you 24/7 Need urgent mental health support? Text <b>Shout</b> to <b>85258</b></p> <p><b>NHS First Response</b> Are you in a mental health crisis? <b>Call 111</b></p> <p><b>Need to talk 24/7</b> Hopeline <b>0800 068 41 41</b></p> <p><b>PAPYRUS</b> "its ok to ask for help" <b>116 123</b></p> <p><b>SAMARITANS</b></p> <p><b>childline</b> Childline.org.uk <b>0800 1111</b></p> <p style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white; text-align: center;"><b>If your life is in danger call 999</b></p>

## TOGETHERNESS

An update on

### WELLBEING FOR EVERY SCHOOL PARENT

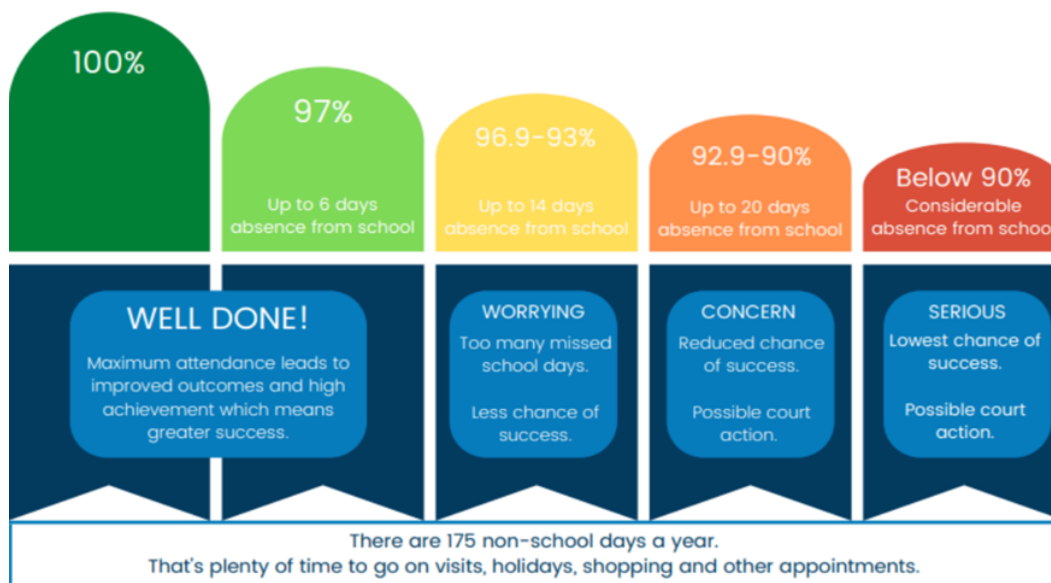
Your NHS learning space created by psychologists

We're delighted to share some helpful resources for parents experiencing all the big emotions of growing children. TogetherNESS the NHS emotional health digital learning hub funded in your area. Your family has free access to expert learning about childhood development, wellbeing, brain changes, and much more to help you to connect with your children. Here's a quick round up of what we think is great on TogetherNESS to help your children thrive.

Please click on the link to access this on the [school website](#).



## Attendance & Wellbeing: Working Together for Every Child's Success



At St Margaret's, we want every young person to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Good attendance and being ready for learning (including arriving on time) play a huge part in this. When pupils are in school regularly, they make stronger progress, feel more confident, and are better able to enjoy positive relationships with friends and staff.

Every day really does count. Even small amounts of missed learning can build up over time and make it harder for children to access future opportunities alongside their peers. That's why we work in partnership with families to support positive attendance and overall wellbeing.

We know that life isn't always straightforward, and sometimes barriers get in the way. Please remember: we are here to help.

### What you can expect from our team

- We will look into any unexplained or concerning absences so that we can understand what support might be needed.
- We will work closely with pupils and parents/carers to remove barriers to good attendance and punctuality.
- We will provide support to help pupils return confidently after any period of prolonged absence.

### What we expect from our pupils

- To attend school as regularly as possible and to arrive on time each day.
- To come dressed in the correct uniform and prepared with the right equipment.

### What we ask of our parents and carers

- Please ensure your child attends school punctually, in the correct uniform, and ready to learn, unless they are genuinely too unwell to attend.
- Avoid booking family holidays during term time.
- Let the school know straight away if your child is unable to attend.
- Try to schedule medical appointments outside of school hours wherever possible

### Working together makes the difference

We all share the same goal: for every young person to feel happy, healthy, and successful. When school and home work in partnership, children benefit enormously. Thank you for your continued support in helping every pupil at St Margaret's make the very most of each school day.

If you ever have concerns about attendance or need help, please get in touch; we're always here to support you.

## PTA Easter Bingo

A massive thank you to everyone for your kind donations of eggs for the PTA Easter Bingo.

Thank you to all who joined us for a fun family event, and a special thanks to Felicity and Laura for bringing it all together for our school community.

This amazing event raised over £600, which will go back to supporting the young people across St. Margaret's.



Wishing you all a very special and well-deserved rest this Easter break. Take time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the days ahead. We look forward to welcoming you back refreshed and ready for the summer term on Monday 20th April.

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer





# PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

PAY WHAT YOU CAN  
TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

Pre-loved uniform is always available from the  
PTA.

Please send us a message via our Facebook  
page and we can make arrangements for  
collection



## 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

21<sup>st</sup> April, 28<sup>th</sup> April / 5<sup>th</sup> May, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> May /

2<sup>nd</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:andrew.wright@torbay.gov.uk)

07776495028

[gabrielle.dale@actionforchildren.org](mailto: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

Friday 3rd April 2026	No School—Start of Easter Spring Term Holiday
3rd April 2026—19th April 2026	Easter Holidays
20th April 2026	Start of Summer Term Cherry Class Swimming
21st April 2026	Birch Class Kayaking—Goodrington
22nd April 2026	Animal Visit for Year 5
23rd April 2026	Author Visit Rob Holmes
27th April 2026	Cherry Class Swimming
28th April 2026	Year 5 Rowan Class—Kayaking
30th April 2026	13.00—14.00 KS1 Multi-Skills and Colour Run
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
25th May 2026	No School—Bank Holiday
1st June 2026	Cherry Class Swimming

ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



Ash	Rex	For trying so hard in everything he does. He has persevered with his writing and really impressed Mrs Harrison with his super sentence this week. You should feel very proud of your progress- Well done Rex!
Elm	Ezra	This week's star of the week is Ezra. He has shown great confidence in sharing his fantastic ideas with his friends! He has also been encouraging his friends to do the right thing at the right time. Well done Ezra! You are a super star Miss Tolley is proud of you!
Beech	Lavantheka	This week's star goes to Lavantheka for always trying to do the right thing and giving her best effort in everything she does. We're really proud of how hard she's working.
Pine	Athena	Athena is our star for her wonderful ability to <i>inspire others</i> . Her enthusiasm for playing the ukulele has encouraged others to join in during 'busy time' and we now have lots of little 'bands' on the go! Thank you, Athena!
Apple	Matilda	Matilda is someone who just quietly demonstrates all of our school values. This week she has been particularly aspirational in all of her work. Her hand has been up to share ideas and she has really listened and done everything that is asked of her. Her Fact File about trees is amazing! You thoroughly deserve this Matilda!
Oak	Oscar	Oscar is our star as he has impressed me with his effort in the writing lessons and with learning his timetables. He is a TTRockstar! Great work Oscar, you are a star!
Willow	Joey	Willow's STAR of the week is Joey. It has been an incredibly busy week for him both in and out of school. He has come in every day with a smile and a positive attitude to everything he does. He has tried his best and managed his choices by giving kindness to others, even when those around him haven't always done the same. Well done Joey!!
Holly	Finley	This week our star is Finley! He has been trying really hard to focus and show all our school values. Keep up the hard work Finley, it makes us all proud.
Cherry	Chanel	Chanel quite simply promotes our values all of the time. She shows great kindness towards her friends and is so responsible with her learning. Well done as well for your super effort in drafting your final writing piece, we can't wait to read the published version.
Hazel	Flynn	Flynn is our star in Hazel this week - again! Flynn has shown excellent kindness to his friends this week, helping one of his friends at break time when they were feeling very worried. He is an excellent, caring friend and we are very lucky to have him as part of our class! Well done, Flynn.
Rowan	Ethan	Ethan is the star of the week in Rowan class for being really independent on our trip and for being extremely encouraging and supportive of other children on the climbing wall. He has demonstrated patience and understanding in lego sessions and has also been doing some fabulous reading. Well done Ethan.
Birch	Finn	Star of the week is Finn for his hard work in writing, he has used all the skills we have been learning over the past few weeks and produced a good quality biography.
Hawthorn	Kaiden	Always being super helpful in class and working hard to make progress in his SATS practices. Well done Kaiden
Maple	Lois	For her aspiration and responsibility in her learning. Lois has been really diligent over the past weeks, making great choices which are helping her to make good progress.