

St Margaret's Academy

A shorter, but very busy week, this one. I hope you all enjoyed the Bank Holiday coronation. I'm a bit of a royalist and hope the event can help strengthen our UK community in these often-challenging times. Back to the standard weekend now and getting used to a 5-day week again!

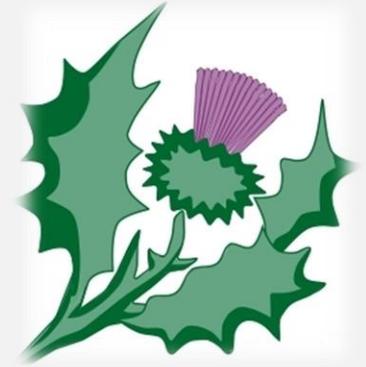
Year 6 News

Year 6 have been very busy with their statutory tests this week, which by all accounts look to have been particularly hard in the Reading this year. A really big well done to them. They really stepped up and gave it their best.

A really big thank you to all the staff for their hard work in preparing the children for these tests, helping them through it and juggling a myriad of other responsibilities to enable this to happen – this is staff right across the school including the kitchen for putting on the special SATs breakfast each day. Thank you to Mrs Kerswell for coordinating this huge logistical feat and thank you to all staff for their flexibility.

There is now just 9 more weeks left of their final primary school year. This is a very special time for Year 6 as they reflect on their journey of the previous 7 years and start to prepare for the big change to secondary education. Teaching staff have been planning ahead to ensure they enjoy a rich and rewarding final few weeks, helping to build more happy memories. Here is a taste of what they have lined up, much of which will be built into themed weeks:

- *Ancient Greek Art Week - drawings, paintings, Modrock mask sculptures*
- *Lights Camera Action – the Year 6 show with roles for everybody on-stage or behind the scenes*
- *DT Shining Bright Week – electricians of the future, terrific torches, designing and making*
- *The Apprentice Challenge – in collaboration with the PTA, start up a mini business and compete with others to make the most profit at the summer fair*
- *Evolution Experience Week – getting up and close with animal encounters*
- *Exploration of the Past – stepping back in time to empathise with our ancestors*
- *Making new friends in Finland – writing and chatting to school children in Helsinki*
- *Citizenship and Self-awareness – visits and chats with the police, sex education, transition events with secondary schools*
- *A host of sporting activities and tournaments in school and between schools, starting with competitive Rounders next week*



**The class with the highest attendance this week is
MAPLE CLASS
With 98.3%**

Message from the Attendance Officer

“There has been a significant increase in children arriving late to school. Please can you ensure that your child is in the classroom for 8.55am when registers are taken. Many Thanks for your support”

- *Special leavers' events: barbeque, games on the field, assembly and leavers' tunnel*

Reading all this back makes me feel like joining them in class!

If there are any parents or relatives out there who have any interest or expertise in any of the above areas who might like to get involved, please do let us know as you would be very welcome.



Curriculum News

Have a look in the History Blog to see how children and parents enjoyed the [Roman Day](#) in Year 3 last week.

There are more photos from last Friday's coronation on the SMSC Blog. You can see the work children shared in our [celebration assembly](#), as well as more about what happened in Reception, Year 1 and Year 4. The quality of some of the art work from our youngest children is really impressive and the gilded frames in Reception are a magical touch; such creative children and adults.



Singing Club

Spaces are available in our Singing Club after school on **Fridays 3.20-4.20pm** with our lovely singing tutor Amanda. Please contact Phillipa if you are interested on: office@educationbox.co

Free Event for Families with SEND Children

If your child has any SEND, there is a wonderful looking [Fair Play Day](#) taking place on Torre Abbey Meadows in the summer holidays. Besides fun activities there will be lots of experts on hand with advice. Have a look on our website under 'Parents' – 'Family Opportunities and Events' to find out more and to see how to book on.

Help with Rising Costs – Reminders

- **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>

Enjoy the short weekend.

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Beech	Kitty is our star of the week for massive improvements in her independent writing. She wrote some super facts about Florence Nightingale today which showed me that she had listened carefully. She is using her sounds to help her spell her words correctly and remembering to use finger spaces nearly all the time
Pine	Corey is our star of the week because we were so impressed with his knowledge and write up about Florence Nightingale, well done!
Oak	Bailey- since returning from the Easter break, Bailey has put great effort into being responsible for himself and his learning. He has made better choices and it has been lovely to see him share his knowledge with the class. Super effort- you are a star Bailey!
Apple	Our star this week is someone who definitely brings sunshine every day in Apple. He has a very bubbly personality and never fails to make us smile. Not only that but he has been working really hard recently in his maths and writing. Well done Guy - keep up the aspirational learning!
Birch	Hughie is our star of the week this week for having such a brilliant week and being a fantastic member of our class. Today he has been on ALL four values stars!
Rowan	Oscar is our star of the week for his increased independence offering answers during whole class discussions and for his responsible attitude and improved confidence towards his learning particularly in our writing and during PE. Keep it up Oscar!
Cherry	Amelia is the star of the week in Cherry class. She is an enthusiastic learner. She always has her hand up to answer questions or make suggestions and she works with determination and focus to finish tasks set. Well done Amelia- you show all our school values every day and we are really proud of you.
Hazel	Nevaeh is the star of the week for Hazel class. She is always respectful, hardworking and a wonderful friend to all. Thank you for putting 100% effort into everything you do and being a real role model to the other children in the class. Such a star!
Willow	Oscar is Willow's star this week. Oscar is always so aspirational and is always keen to challenge himself. We were particularly proud of his Maths achievements this week and was even labelled an expert! Well done, Oscar, keep it up!
Holly	Poppy is our star this week. She never fails to bring joy to Holly class, she works so hard in every task given to her and can always be found following the school values. Thank you for always being so incredibly helpful and we are so proud of you!
Maple	Our star of the week award goes to EVERYONE IN MAPLE this week! Well done for working so hard to complete your SATs. You have all tried your best and that is all we could ask for! We are so proud of you all.
Hawthorn	EVERYONE in Hawthorn is a star this week! Well done for working so hard to do your best in your SATs tests - you've shown fantastic resilience and concentration! We are very proud of all of you.



8th May 2023	Bank Holiday for King's Coronation
9th May-12th May 2023	Year 6 SATs
W/C 15 th May	Mental Health Awareness Week
22 nd May 2023	Foundation Stage Parents Evening
24 th May 2023	Foundation Stage Parents Evening
25 th May 2023	Foundation Stage Parents Evening
29th May- 2nd June 2023	Half Term