



Autumn Term Newsletter No.13 (13.12.19)

Miss Pritchard started the week on Monday with a *Big Write* assembly based on Clement Clarke Moore's poem '*Twas the Night Before Christmas*'. The children have been challenged to write however they want around this theme without 'teacher constraints'. Keep an eye on the writing board in the corridor to see some of their work.

Year 5 News

On behalf of St Margaret's Academy I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Rogers who will be leaving us at the end of this term for new teaching pastures closer to home. Nick has worked here for over 4 years and has helped the school improve with its provision for Maths and Computing. We are very grateful to him for his work and wish him the very best for the future.

On Thursday this week we interviewed for a new Year 5 teacher. After a long day of tasks, including a grilling by our brilliant Student Council, I'm really pleased to inform you that we appointed two experienced and talented teachers to work as a job share in Holly Class: Lyndsey Kerswell and Wendy Kennedy. Wendy will be starting straight after the Christmas break, working temporarily with Hayley Matthews until Lyndsey joins us after the February half term.

Mr Masters aka Mr Tullier

After three years of hard work and dedication to his studies alongside work, we congratulate Mr Tullier who graduates with his Masters in Education at the University of Exeter this weekend. Continuing our professional development as a staff is important at every level and crucial to our goal of offering the best possible education and experiences for your children.

Curriculum News

There's lots of news in the Sports Blog this week. Read a round-up of the [boys' Y5/6 football success](#) this term. A massive thanks to Mr Robinson who gives up his time, rain or shine week on week to coach the team. Check out how our indoor athletics team [won the Torbay Finals](#) last week. They will now represent the bay at the South West Finals. A big thanks to Mr Mayling for his coaching! Find out how Year 3 got on with their [bikeability training](#) in the rain last week. Read in the [Arts Blog](#) about how a group of our talented young artists created a mural of Mount Everest at the local gym with our Arts Lead, Mrs Bindon. They've also made it on to the sport page of the Herald Express this week. Have a look in the [DT Blog](#) to see some lovely photos of Year 1's Christmas stockings.

Festive Joy for Others

On Thursday, Miss Pritchard took the [school choir](#) to perform for our friends at Dunboyne Court. Read more and see the pictures under our Well-being in Action tab. Have a read in the Student Council Blog to find out about the Mr Tullier's team making [soup for the homeless](#) at this cold time of year. Doing something for somebody else is one of our 5-a-day for mental health.

Christmaths

Check out the [Christmaths Competition](#) website is a great resource to use with your KS2 child. We love how many activities there are to choose from, including A Cartoon Christmaths, The Breindeer Christmaths and a personal favourite - Christmaths Crackers! Have a go over the holidays for some fun maths at home.

School Meals On-Line

From January we are changing our school meal booking system. You will have to pre-book on-line via the School Gateway. This will allow you to look at the options with your child. In school it will help with better management of the bookings and reduce waste as we can order in advance. It will help ensure individuals have the meal they ordered as we will be checking this off in the kitchen beforehand. You can find more information and the spring term menu under the Parent and Carer tab - [School Meals](#).

Christmas Stresses

We know that while Christmas is an exciting and happy time it can also bring along some stresses for children and adults alike. To help us parents manage this magical time, we would like to share this gentle guide of why children might behave in the way they do. You can find it under the Well-being in Action tab, in the *Supporting Families* folder, titled [Christmas Stresses](#).

Token Collection for Collins Big Cat Reading Programme

If you are a reader of The Sun or know someone who is, we'd really like your help. We're aiming to collect 3500 tokens which are printed in The Sun every day starting from Saturday 23.11.19 and running until Saturday 18.1.20. If we reach our target we have a chance to claim a whole school reading scheme from Collins called *The Big Cat Reading Programme*. This would really help boost our reading collection so if you think you can help please do collect those tokens and send them in.

Miss Palfrey and the Reading Ambassadors' Weekly Book Choices



Suitable for older readers: *The Snow Sister* by Emma Carroll

Suitable for younger readers: *Meerkat at Christmas* by Emily Gravett



Weekly Attendance Award

Congratulations again to **Beech Class** for winning the School Attendance Award with **98.6%** attendance. School target: 96% The whole school achieved **95.7% last week**



Stars of the Week

Beech	Oliver - for working so hard on designing and making his wonderful Christmas stocking. You followed your design carefully and the results are super!
Pine	River - for her amazing attitude towards her learning. She is really growing in confidence and producing fabulous work in phonics, maths and design technology. River you are a superstar!
Oak	Isobel- for her great aspiration when completing the math assessments and for saying her lines with confidence during the nativity. Well done Isobel!
Apple	Toby - for working hard and not just wanting the answer in Maths but showing his calculations to check he is right.
Birch	Bea - for always demonstrating our core values in everything you do. Your enthusiasm for learning is infectious and you are a fantastic role model for all!
Rowan	Isaac - for having a consistently high level of class contributions and giving 100% effort this week in every subject! Keep it up!
Cherry	Natalia - not only has she consistently produced some amazing pieces of writing over this half-term, but is always a delight to teach in the classroom. Well done Natalia!
Maple	Lyla - for working incredibly hard this half term which has resulted in some fantastic writing inspired by 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. Well done, Lyla!
Willow	Ethan has had a great week this week. He helped the school by interviewing candidates for our staff vacancy, performed his guitar to the rest of the class and was given a kindness values card for his thoughtfulness on the play-ground! What a great week!
Holly	Kye - for his excellent approach to learning this term. He always contributes in lessons, challenges himself and shows aspiration: well done!
Hazel	Kit for excellent partner work and great effort with concentration and focus. You've really impressed me with how you've listened to advice and made changes in your approach to learning. Well done!
Haw-thorn	Oliver—for such an aspirational attitude towards improving your presentation. You really deserved your handwriting award! Well done!

Diary Dates

Tue 17.12.19	6.00pm KS2 Carol Concert at Upton Vale Baptist Church
Tue 7.1.20	First day back for the children after the Christmas break

KINDNESS

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

ASPIRATION