



St Margaret's  
Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter #9  
21st March 2025



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the spring season. We started this week with our whole school assembly looking at the magic of spring. We explored the relative size of our home planet Earth to the size of the sun and the enormous distance between them. Then we looked at how we are slowly moving closer to the sun as our northern hemisphere tilt as Earth orbits the sun. And all this gives us the longer day light hours, more warmth and the gradual magic of spring growth in nature all around us. It's quite special. It's a time of new beginnings.

### St Margaret's Partnership with South Devon College (SDC)

As you might be aware, St Margaret's has developed a really productive relationship with SDC. Those of you with children in Years 5 and 6 will know about the work we've been doing over the last 2 years to help children be responsible citizens in the digital world. This year, this digital project is being produced by SDC students into an educational film for parents. It's very exciting and we hope it is going to have a long term lasting impact on the young people and families. You will all be invited to watch this film in the summer term following its premier in the SDC College studio.

On Wednesdays we often have a group of SDC students in with their tutors. This benefits them by giving them the industry experience that they must have in order to qualify while it benefits us with the students leading games, playtime activities and small group tasks. The SDC students always have their tutors with them on these Wednesdays, supervising and teaching them in the classroom and playground.

In addition, we also have some individual SDC students on placements as part of their course. Currently we have the following on placement with us:

**Filio** - studying Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner in her first year of study in placement Mondays in Year 1 Pine.

**Gracie** - studying Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner in her second year of study in placement on Wednesdays & Fridays in Year 1 Bech.

**Sonia** - studying T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Early Years in placement in Year 5 Birch on Wednesdays

If you have a child in these classes, you will soon receive a photo and short bio from the student introducing themselves to you.



## St Margaret's Partnership with SWIFT—South West Institute for Teaching

We also work with SWIFT. We use this teaching school for much of our teacher training and we also welcome student teachers for placement in school. Currently we have Mrs Barber who is a student teacher with us on her teaching practice placement in Year 6 Hawthorn Class.

## Asda Cashpot

Thank you to everybody who engaged with the PTA initiative with Asda. A fantastic total of £808.75 was raised for the PTA funds.



## The Hidden Language of Emojis

The digital world is evolving faster than most adults can keep up with. Online, young people are communicating in ways that most adults completely miss. What looks innocent could have a much darker meaning. Check out 'The Hidden Language of Emojis' on our 'Useful Resources for Parents'; quick link [here](#).

## 7 Ways to Help Understand your Child's Digital World

- Get Curious, Not Combative** – Ask open-ended questions: "I saw something about emojis meaning different things. Have you heard of this?" Keep the conversation light.
- Create a Judgment-Free Zone** – If your child feels like they'll be punished for opening up, they won't. Make it clear you're there to listen, not just lecture.
- Decode Together** – Ask them to explain their digital world. What do different symbols mean? Who are the influencers they follow? Don't assume, ask.
- Teach Critical Thinking** – Help them question online content. "Why do you think some groups push this idea? Who benefits?" Arm them with questions, not just rules.
- Monitor Without Spying** – Open conversations work better than secret surveillance. Make checking in on their online spaces a normal part of parenting, not a crisis move.
- Be Real About Manipulation** – Explain how toxic online groups groom young people by making them feel special, included, or like they have 'insider knowledge.'
- Build Their Offline Confidence** – The more they feel valued and confident in the real world, the less they'll seek validation in dangerous online spaces.

## Curriculum News

In the [PSHE Blog](#), you can see how Key Stage 2 enjoyed the visit from the RNLI this week to learn about beach and water safety. Check out the great picture of Mr Booth too, dressed as a lifeguard sailor; good sport.

Look out for invites from teachers for the end of term curriculum celebrations planned for Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Foundation Stage's will be on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

**Funding opportunities for young musicians in Devon**

Struggling with the costs of tuition?  
Need help to further your musical talent?  
Household income of less than £37,500?

There could be financial support available.

For more info  
Email: [hannah.stephenson@devon.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.stephenson@devon.gov.uk)  
or scan the QR code and complete the contact form

Young Sounds UK  
**Connect**

Devon Music Education Hub

Supported using public funding by  
Department for Education  
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

The poster features a background image of young musicians playing instruments like guitars and keyboards. It includes a QR code and logos for Young Sounds UK, Devon Music Education Hub, and the Department for Education and Arts Council England.

## Torbay Peadeatric Ward

On behalf of fd the Student Council and the school, Mrs Hollis received a lovely letter from Torbay Hospital's peadeatric ward thanking us for the £312.90 raised on 14<sup>th</sup> February. You can find the letter in our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) [Blog](#).

## Easter Holiday Club



## Happy Birthday Mr Hughes

A well kept (not so) secret is Mr Hughes's love for custard biscuits. As he celebrated his birthday this week, he received the biggest custard biscuit the kitchen have ever produced.

Rumour has it he did not share it, but ate it all down to the last crumb. An extra long cycle home was required last night.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MR HUGHES,

We hope you had a lovely day.



## Our Amazon Book Wish List

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

ACTIVE THINKING



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MOTIVATION

## 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>

Enjoy the early spring weekend



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)

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# Diary Dates

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
Tuesday 22nd April 2025	First day back for children
5th May 2025	Bank Holiday
W/C 26th May 2025	Half Term
Tuesday 3rd June 2025	First day back for children
16th June 2025	09.30—12.00 KS1 Sports Day
16th June 2025	13.25—15.00 EYFS Sports Day
19th June 2025	09.30—12.00 KS2 Sports Day
24th July 2025	Final day for the children



Beech	Luna is the star of the week for Beech class due to her outstanding writing and positive attitude towards learning. This was particularly demonstrated by her focus on using finger spaces in her writing.
Pine	Abigail is our star this week for her incredible effort with her writing. Well done Abigail!
Oak	Finlay is our star in Oak for his amazing resilience in writing this week. Your story about the 3 little pigs was so good and full of descriptive language. It was a pleasure to read and you should be very proud of yourself! Well done!
Apple	Chase is our star of the week for being so much more responsible this week. He has completed all his tasks and been noticed by his phonics teacher for improved resilience in those lessons as well. Keep it up Chase, we are proud of you!
Holly	Rinat is the star of this week, second time too. He has really impressed us with his calmness and joining in with lots of learning. He has come a long way since the start of year 3. Super effort, well done Rinat.
Willow	Martha is the star of the week in Willow Class. She has shown great resilience during our story writing; she even restarted it when she was not happy with the beginning of it. She has also worked hard to purple pen her writing. Well done Martha for your great attitude to learning.
Cherry	Cherries star of the week this week is Olly. He has shown some fantastic motivation in his maths learning this week. Even if he hasn't always felt confident it has been wonderful to see him putting his hand up and sharing his ideas with the class. Awesome work Olly!
Hazel	Elazora is the star this week! She has shown real motivation in all areas of her learning and was incredibly resilient in her climbing. Well done young lady!
Birch	April is our star for her motivation this week. She has gone above and beyond in her writing - Making sure she adds her target (relative clause) in every lesson and deepening the moment. Well done!
Rowan	This week's star is Aoife, for her incredible motivation in maths this week! She has impressed us so much with how hard she has worked and we are so proud of the incredible learning behaviours she has shown recently. Well done.
Maple	Isla is this week's star for her improved <b>motivation</b> at school. Isla has been joining in lots more in our class discussions in maths; she has worked hard to understand long multiplication and long division. Isla has also been incredibly helpful to the Year 3s in their dodgeball session. Well done and thank you Isla!
Hawthorn	Arlo is our star this week for his motivation towards his work in class which has seen him producing some incredible writing and in particular his aspiration within his maths learning this week! Well done Arlo

ACTIVE THINKING

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MOTIVATION