



St Margaret's
Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Summer Newsletter #32
26th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding week, I would like to take a moment to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our staff for their continued dedication, support, and hard work. Despite the very, very warm conditions we have experienced, it has been wonderful to see how well everyone has adapted to ensure that school life has continued smoothly and safely for all.

Our team has taken great care to prioritise the children's wellbeing-providing regular hydration breaks, ensuring appropriate clothing for time outdoors, and limiting exposure to the sun with shorter periods outside. It has been lovely to see the emphasis placed on shade under trees, rest, and comfort, helping everyone to stay safe in the heat.

A particular highlight of the week was the visit from the ice cream van, very kindly organised by our PTA on Thursday. This was a real treat for the children (and adults!), and I think it's safe to say we have enjoyed more ice lollies and cold drinks than usual - but they were certainly well deserved!

I would also like to commend the children for their sensible attitudes throughout the week. They have listened carefully to staff, followed instructions, and shown great responsibility in helping to keep themselves and others safe.

It has been another very busy week in school, with so many wonderful learning experiences and activities taking place. This newsletter celebrates just some of those moments, alongside key events and important dates for the weeks ahead.



Art with Nic George

We are delighted to share a poster showcasing some of the key highlights from the fantastic art workshop our children enjoyed with Nic George a couple of weeks ago.

The artwork produced is truly beautiful, so colourful and a wonderful celebration of St Margaret's. During the workshop, children created stunning pieces linked to our theme of class trees. These are currently being carefully varnished and will soon be mounted on the outside of the school building, where they will proudly display the children's creativity.

This project not only celebrates their artistic talents but also reflects the spirit of St Margaret's and the wonderful community we serve. It highlights the rich and engaging opportunities our children have to take part in such inspiring experiences.

A huge thank you to Miss Pritchard, Nic, and all the parents, carers, children, and staff who contributed to making this project such a success.

ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION





St Margaret's
Academy

Whole School ART Project!

with artist Nic George



Healthy Eating Project



"As part of our ongoing focus on healthy eating, we held another Healthy Eating Day where the children had the opportunity to try a range of healthy snacks. It was lovely to see them tasting foods they hadn't tried before and being open to new flavours and experiences.

A big thank you to Lidl for providing us with a voucher, which helped make the day possible."



Learning Outdoors



Outdoor learning in Year 1 has been a joy this week. The children have been consolidating and independently practising their understanding of one more and one less, building confidence with numbers in a meaningful way. Being outside in our wonderful surroundings at St Margaret's has added so much value, not only enhancing engagement but also allowing us to bring maths to life through active, hands-on experiences.

ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



Forest School Fun

I'm not sure whether the adults or the children enjoyed it more this week! Our forest school session was full of fun and much-needed relief from the lovely warm weather we've been having. There was plenty of exploration and outdoor learning taking place, but the real highlight had to be getting the hose pipe out. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the chance to cool down, and it added an extra layer of excitement to an already fantastic time outdoors.



Y3 Water Confidence Trip

St Margaret's Academy spent some of the PE; Sport Premium on an outdoor adventure programme with Reach Outdoors. It offers our children across the school enhanced learning opportunities in outdoor education. Year 6 children started the programme back in the Autumn term with an amazing coasteering trip off Ansteys Cove. Last week Y3 experienced water confidence at Goodrington Beach. They were accompanied by experienced guides and the conditions were a bit choppy. Therefore, they spent less time in the sea, but they still got to enjoy some bodyboarding.

Living on the UK coastline necessitates a strong awareness of water safety due to the inherent risks associated with the sea, even for those who don't intend to enter the water. Drowning is a leading cause of accidental death in the UK, and a significant portion of these incidents occur near water rather than from swimming. Understanding potential dangers like cold water shock, rip currents, and unstable cliffs, along with knowing how to respond in emergencies, is crucial for coastal residents. Building water confidence at the beach for Y3 involved starting with simple activities in shallow water and always prioritizing safety. The children learned that it's crucial to stay calm, know your limits, and they all enjoyed the water activities through play and exploration in a safe way led by the instructors.

This experience also allowed the children to get a real understanding of the Devon coastline and experience nature in a way that would be impossible otherwise. The great thing about the trip was that it was a lot of fun, and all the children got over hurdles that they met, from getting themselves changed, to not knowing what was under their feet, to getting splashed in the sea. It was a way to push their limits and step out of their comfort zone. Essentially, the children did what they were comfortable with and physically capable of. Y4 are going on their water safety trip next week



ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



Primary Athletics Competition

On Thursday 18 th June, St Margaret's Academy took part in an athletics competition at St Cuthbert Mayne. Children from years 3-6 competed in a variety of different running, throwing and jumping events including: sprinting, hurdles, long distance, relay, long jump, shot putt and javelin.

This year, we competed against St Marychurch and Shiphay. It was a very good competition and the children did very well. Year 3 were year group winners and Y4, Y5 and Y6 came 2nd in their year group. It was a very close result, with just 8 points between 1st and 2nd .

Well done to St Marychurch who retained the overall winners cup.

At the competition, the Sports Leaders from St Cuthbert Mayne were very encouraging and helped the children achieve their best! Many of our children had a special mention for demonstrating excellent sporting values. The children had lots of fun and were very tired by the end of the competition.

We are very proud of the athletics team, their skill level was very high and they all put in a special team effort to do their best and not to let their team down. Addison Y3, achieved a new competition record for the 80m hurdles. Well done to them and to all of the competitors.



Summer Fayre

To make our Summer Fayre on Saturday 4th July a fantastic success, we need as many helpers as possible.

Whether you can spare a little time or a bit more, every contribution really makes a difference. Please take a moment to sign up for a slot that works for you.

We would also really appreciate you sharing this with other parents so we can gather as much support as possible.

Sign up here:

<https://volunteersignup.org/WEK8Q>



Staffing Updates

We would like to share some important staff news with our community.

Firstly, a huge congratulations to Miss Scaife, who will be commencing her Teacher Training in September so she can work towards becoming a fully qualified teacher. Miss Scaife has been a wonderful support to children across the school. We wish her every success in the next stage of her career. I am also really proud to announce that Miss Yas Scaife also achieved an amazing 1st in her dissertation that she has been working on this year alongside working at St Margaret's - truly aspirational.

We also say both a big congratulations and a fond farewell to Mrs Heaviside, who will be leaving us next week as she relocates across the country with her family. Michelle has given many years of dedicated service to St Margaret's, and we are incredibly grateful for her support and commitment. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the very best for the future.

A sincere thank you also goes to Mrs L Down, who will be leaving us at the end of the summer term. Lou has provided invaluable support across the school, particularly in her specialist role within the hearing support. We are very grateful for her contribution and wish her well in her next steps.

We also want to wish Miss Logan well in her next adventure, thank you for all your support and care this year.

Finally, we would like to thank Mr Booth, who has been supporting St Margaret's and is now moving on to a new role. We appreciate his contribution during his time with us and wish him every success moving forward.

We extend our thanks to all of these staff members for their dedication, support, and service to St Margaret's, and we wish them every success in their new ventures.

Take care everyone and have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer

Headteacher



ST MARGARET'S ACADEMY PTA

DRESS DOWN DAY

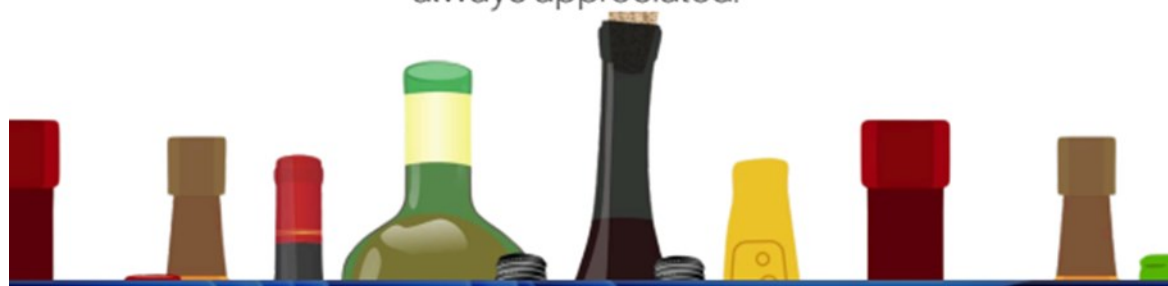
THURSDAY 2nd JULY

We are looking for Donations of 'a bottle of something' in exchange for a dress down day on Thursday 2nd July. We will be using the bottles for the bottle tombola at our Summer Fayre!

YEAR 6 DRESS DOWN AND BOTTLES ON WEDNESDAY 1ST JULY
DUE TO SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSITION DAYS

**PLEASE BRING IN YOUR BOTTLES ON
THE DAY AND GIVE THEM TO THE CLASS
TEACHER**

As always with your PTA, this is not mandatory - but your support is always appreciated.



ST MARGARET'S ACADEMY PTA

WANTED



UNWANTED SOFT TOYS

Having a clear out?

As part of our summer fayre planning, we are looking for donations of any good condition soft toys.

Please drop donations in to the school office by Wednesday 2nd July



SUN SAFETY



✓ APPLY SUNSCREEN

Please apply sunscreen to children before school. Children can bring sunscreen into school to reapply throughout the day.

✓ WEAR A HAT

Children to bring a hat into school. Remember to label it!



✓ HYDRATE WITH WATER

Please ensure children bring a water bottle into school each day. Children can refill bottles in the classroom as and when.



St Margaret's Academy PTA



Summer Fayre

4th July 2026

11am - 2pm

Free
Entry

All
Welcome



Raffle · Games · Food · Bar · Ice Cream · Tea
Rooms · Bouncy Castle · Giant Inflatable Assault
Course · Live Performances · Craft Stalls ·

Preloved Uniform

St Margaret's Academy, Barewell Road, Torquay, TQ1 4PA

Diary Dates

29th June 2026	Hazel Class Swimming
1st July 2026	Year 5 activities day at Torquay Academy
3rd July 2026	Year 4 Beach Water Confidence
Saturday 4th July 2026	PTA Summer Fayre
6th—12th July 2026	National School Sports Week
6th July 2026	09.30—12.00 KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Sports Day 13.30—15.00 EYFS (Reception) Sports Day Hazel Class Swimming
9th July 2026	Year 6 Rounders Event HSC Staff and KS2 Children at Eggbuckland
10th July 2026	Annual Reports Out
13th—14th July 2026	17.45—18.45 Year 6 Production
14th July 2026	14.00—15.00 Transition to New Class
16th July 2026	09.30—12.00 Upper KS2 Sport Day (Year 5 & Year 6) 13.00—15.00 Lower KS2 Sports Day (Year 3 & Year 4)
17th July 2026	13.30—14.30 Transition to New Class
Tuesday 21st July 2026	Last day for Pupils 09.30—10.15 Leavers Assembly 15.00—15.15 Leavers Tunnel

ACTIVE THINKING

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MOTIVATION



Ash	Charlie	For his super minibeast writing - great snappy fingers, fantastic robot arm and wonderful letter formation - Mrs Harrison is so proud of you and you should be too - Well done Superstar!
Elm	Remi	For being a brilliant role model this week by showing respect and responsibility every day. You have been so kind offering to hold the door for your friends and you have shown us lovely sharing in the garden area.
Beech	Luna-Rae	Well done for becoming more independent in your writing! I was especially impressed with your fantastic writing about a whale. You have also worked incredibly hard in phonics and should be very proud of your progress.
Pine	Kaleb	Kaleb is our star for always being so focussed. For joining in with every class discussion and for his continued enthusiasm towards his learning.
Apple	Alfie	Alfie thoroughly deserves this as he has been such a good role model to others this week, showing all of our school values. He listens so well in all lessons and has been trying hard to use really adventurous word choices in his letter writing. Amazing Alfie!
Oak	George W	George is our star this week as he has shown such grown up behaviour in his phonics and writing lessons. He is sooo close to becoming a free reader and he has been listening and joining in with his learning really well. Keep up the great effort George!
Willow	James	Willow's Star of the Week is James. James always works with quiet confidence, has an aspirational attitude and tries his best in every subject. You really are a joy to teach James! Keep up the good work!
Holly	Ella	Ella is our star of the week for always showing kindness to all those around her. She has done an amazing job looking out for her peers this week and helping those who were struggling in the hot weather. Well done Ella, you're a pleasure to have in the classroom!
Cherry	Archie	For your great enthusiasm during our History topic. You have great knowledge of the Anglo Saxons which you love to share with the class and even did an extra information poster about King Alfred at home! How aspirational.
Hazel	Ollie C	Ollie C is our star this week for his excellent responsibility, in and out of the classroom. He has really impressed us with his aspirational work ethic this week, too. He has grown and matured so much over the last few weeks and we are incredibly impressed! Well done, Ollie. We are very proud of you!
Rowan	Erin	Erin is so ready for year 6. She is kind and responsible and tries hard in all she does. The Rowan team are proud of you !
Birch	Lexi U	Lexi is Star of the Week for showing outstanding responsibility in the classroom. Lexi has demonstrated just how focused she can be during lessons, with her eyes always on the speaker and attention fully on the learning. Lexi consistently shows respect for her classmates by listening carefully when they are speaking and setting a fantastic example for others.
Hawthorn	Emily	She's an all around amazing girl who is always someone to rely on. She has also put all her effort into learning her lines and singing - Well Done Emily
Maple	Emelia	Emelia has blown us away with her confidence on stage! She has taken her responsibility very seriously and learnt all her lines and songs, and performs these beautifully! Well done Emelia.

