



St Margaret's
Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Autumn Newsletter #4

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe we're already at the end of September — where has the time gone?

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support in helping the children settle into school following the summer break. It has been truly wonderful to see our Reception children growing in independence and confidence as they come into class and engage with morning activities.

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and carers who have encouraged this transition and made use of the Sunshine Room when needed. It's been a valuable space for those feeling a little wobbly, helping them settle before moving into the classroom.

For children in Years 1 to 6, we kindly ask that parents and carers support a smooth start to the day by passing any messages to staff at the door and encouraging children to go straight into class. If your child is feeling unsettled, please use the outdoor area near the classroom door to offer reassurance. We ask that you refrain from entering the classroom, as this can disrupt the children already engaged in their morning routines.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation — it makes a big difference to the children's experience and helps us start each day positively.

Harvest Festival Appeal

In the coming weeks, we are preparing for our Harvest Festival, which will be led by Father Nick from *St Mary the Virgin Parish Church*.

As part of our celebration, we kindly ask for your support by sending your child into school with donations of tinned food, toiletries, pasta, or rice. These items will be donated to The Riviera Life Storehouse and Baby Bank, supporting families in need within our community.

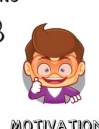
Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps us share the spirit of giving during this special time. Please can you bring your donations into school by from next week until Monday 13th October.



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MOTIVATION



The Big Butterfly Release—Year 6 Maple Class

We are delighted to share that **Year 6 Maple Class** celebrated their **Big Butterfly Release** this week! After weeks of caring for caterpillars and watching them transform through each stage of their life cycle, the children then released their beautiful butterflies into the wild.



This special moment marks the culmination of their learning in science and nature, and we are incredibly proud of the care, curiosity, and responsibility they've shown throughout the process.

Spectacular Coasteering—Year 6

What a fantastic adventure Year 6 had during their spectacular coasteering experience in the glorious sunshine this week. The children showed incredible courage, teamwork, and enthusiasm as they explored the coastline, climbed rocks, and leapt into the sea.

It was a brilliant opportunity to challenge themselves, build resilience, and make unforgettable memories with their classmates. A huge well done to everyone who took part — we're so proud of you! See our Seesaw [link](#) for photographs.

Deaflympics Celebration—Monday 6th October

We are thrilled to be hosting a Deaflympics event at St Margaret's on Monday 6th October, organised by our Teacher of the Deaf Mrs Saunders. This exciting event will bring together deaf children from Years 3 to 8 across several schools: St Margaret's, Spires, Eggbuckland Vale in Plymouth, and Countess Wear in Exeter.

We're expecting around 20 additional children and staff to join us on site, along with 19 extra staff members, including sports coaching students from South Devon College, who will be leading a range of inclusive and engaging sports activities throughout the day.

This promises to be a joyful and empowering celebration of sport, inclusion, and community. We're incredibly proud to be part of such a meaningful event and grateful to Jo and the team for bringing it all together.

Year 5 Science—States of Matter

In Science, Year 5 has been investigating states of matter and the difference between mixtures and solutions. We had a mixture of different solids and had to separate them effectively using different utensils!



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St Margaret's Supports #HelloYellow—Friday 10th October

We're proud to be taking part in #HelloYellow to support Young Minds and raise awareness of children's mental health.

On Friday 10th October, pupils are invited to wear a yellow item alongside their school uniform — a scarf, T-shirt, or accessory — to show that no one is alone with their mental health.

We'll be exploring ways to support healthy minds and bodies throughout the day.

Donation buckets will be at the gates, or you can donate directly via our [fundraising page](#). All proceeds go to Young Minds.

Let's wear yellow and make a difference!



Wishing you all a lovely, restful weekend. We hope Storm Amy passes smoothly and quickly for everyone- stay safe and take care.

Kind regards,

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer

Headteacher

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St Margaret's
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OPEN DAYS

What to Expect:

- A warm welcome from our Headteacher and the Team
- Guided tour with our newly appointed School Council
- Refreshments and a chance to ask any questions
- Discover our values-led approach and nurturing environment and great facilities.

MONDAY 13TH
OCTOBER
9.30-10.30AM

THURSDAY 16TH
OCTOBER
9.30-10.30AM

FRIDAY 17TH
OCTOBER
9.30-10.30AM

Please register your interest and book via the link or QR Code

<https://forms.gle/1Q4VYrWVgSvjMSLd9>

Website: <https://www.stmargaretstorbay.org.uk/web/>



Parent & Carer Support and Advice Line

From 31st July, a Duty Family Support Worker will be available to provide support and advice on parenting

Parenting can be hugely rewarding but it can also be challenging especially if you think your child is unhappy or you are concerned about them and their behaviour.

We can provide advice on parenting including signposting to wider support services. Please click on the [link](#) to access more information.

Familyhub
TORBAY

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Understanding your Child—Solihull Approach

In person events as well as online available via the Torbay Family Hub, Please click on the [link](#) to access more information



Support for Parents and Carers—Solihull Approach

For emotional health and wellbeing for all children and their parents so that they can thrive as kind, sociable and emotionally aware people throughout their lives.

[Inourplace](#) online courses are developed by psychologists at the Solihull Approach in partnership with health experts, schools and psychotherapists as well as parents.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA Sports FC 26

It's kick-off time again EA FC 26 is out now. With updated teams and familiar gameplay, it's sure to be top of the wish list for many football fans, but beneath the slick presentation are some pitfalls that parents and educators should know about – especially in the game's online and spending features.

Our #WakeUpWednesday guide this week gives you the latest on EA FC 26's Ultimate Team feature, how scammers can target young players, and what tools and settings can help keep children safe. Whether you're a seasoned gamer or a complete novice, it's worth a read! Click on the [link](#) to access key information or pop into school where we can support you in person.

Help with Rising Costs—Signposting for more information

Riviera Life Church Food and Baby Bank – [link here](#). We can make a referral for you or phone 07486 402493

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/>

Try here for cheaper broadband: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>

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Kingskerswell Amateur Theatre Society
Proudly Presents

Cinderella

Contact
kingskerswellats
@gmail.com

Follow us on 
facebook.com/kingskerswellats



Tickets Available
Via



Written by Alan P Frayn
Directed by Heather Jenkins & Nathan Swain-Sachs

1st - 7th December 2025
Kingskerswell Village Hall



*With Live
Music!*

Performed under licence by Stage Right Creative



HALLOWEEN DISCO 2025

TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER

RECEPTION - YEAR 3: 5:00 - 6:00

YEARS 4 - 6: 6:15 - 7:30

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO BUY FOR £4 CASH OR
CARD

(SIBLING DISCOUNT - £3 FOR SUBSEQUENT CHILDREN)
FROM 3:15PM ON FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER & MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER
WOODEN GAZEBO AT THE TOP OF THE SLOPE

Tickets will also be available to buy on PTA events for
£4 each up until 16th October.
Tickets bought via PTA Events will not be eligible for
sibling discount as this is unmanageable on this
platform.



ENTRANCE TO THE DISCO WILL NOT BE PERMITTED WITHOUT
PREPAYMENT. PAYMENT ON THE NIGHT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Diary Dates

6th October 2025	Y6 Hawthorn Swim Session
13th October 2025	Y6 Hawthorn Swim Session
17th October 2025	Y3 Mini First Aid Workshops
20th October 2025	Y6 Maple Swim Session
21st October 2025	Halloween Disco After school—Information to follow
24th October 2025	Y6 Mini First Aid Workshops Last Day of School Term
27th October—2nd November 2025	Half Term Holiday
31st October 2025	Deadline for Y6 applications for secondary school
3rd November 2025	First Day Back for Children for back Y6 Maple Swim Session
10th November 2025	Y6 Maple Swim Session
13th November 2025	Individual School Photos
17th November 2025	Y6 Maple Swim Session

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Pine	Pietro	Pietro has amazed us over the last week. We have all noticed how much he is joining in with the class conversation and he has become much more independent. Well done Pietro.
Beech	Luna-Rae	Our star in Beech this week is Luna-Rae, she has been so responsible with her learning, taking her time to double check her work and remember our learning skills. Well done Luna-Rae!
Apple	Hugo	Hugo is our star this week. He has shown such resilience in everything he has done, coping with changes and tricky situations calmly and being really responsible in his learning. Well done Hugo!
Oak	Harper	Harper is the star of the week as she has shown excellent listening and focus in all lessons. Her participation and effort has been amazing and she has completed her learning jobs independently. Well done Harper!
Willow	Libby	Willow's star of the week is someone who has really pushed themselves out of their comfort zone. They have shown incredible aspiration in their learning and as a result, they have achieved wonderful things! Keep up the great choices Libby!
Holly	Archie	Archie is the star of the week in Holly class this week. He is consistently showing respect for others around him and is responsible for his own learning and belongings. Archie has shown so much kindness since the start of the term - keep it up Archie!
Cherry	Tzuriel	Tzuriel is such a responsible member of Cherry class - he will take it upon himself to hand out word mats to help other children and has tidied the shed up every lunch time. He is also so motivated to learn in every subject. What a star!
Hazel	Hugo	Hugo has really impressed us with his super start to Year 4. He has shown plenty of active learning and an aspirational approach to all of his tasks. We also love hearing his knowledge of various topics he has an interest in. Well done Hugo, you are a great role model to the rest of Hazel.
Rowan	Teyla	Teyla is the star of the week in Rowan class for her wonderful contributions in class. She has been a super scientist during our science lessons explaining her understanding. Well done Teyla.
Birch	Evelyn	Our star of the week goes to someone who puts maximum effort into everything she does. Evie is always one of the first ready for her learning, she goes above and beyond to challenge herself and will present every piece of work to the highest standard. Keep it up Evie!
Hawthorn	Emily	Emily is Hawthorn's star for the aspiration and resilience she showed during our coasteering experience this week. She overcame her initial nerves and challenged herself, which she said was in preparation for achieving the leap of faith at our Y6 residential! Well done, Emily, for showing great courage.
Maple	Jacob	Our star of the week is someone who showed great bravery and resilience during our coasteering experience this week. They are always respectful in the classroom and have shown wonderful aspiration this year in their desire to improve their handwriting. Well done, Jacob! Keep up the wonderful work.

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