



St Margaret's Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Autumn Newsletter #15 16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a truly fabulous week it has been at St Margaret's! The school has been buzzing with creativity, energy and enthusiasm as our pupils immersed themselves in the wonderful world of writing.

From mischievous dragons and daring adventures to historical tales with a creative twist, classrooms have been alive with imagination. Stories have whisked us across the seas, through time, and into amazing challenges, showcasing not only the children's creativity but also their growing confidence as writers.

It has been a joy to see pupils so engaged—planning, drafting and proudly sharing their work—and a reminder of the incredible power of storytelling to inspire learning. A huge well done to our pupils and staff for making it such an exciting and enriching week for everyone.

We look forward to seeing where their imaginations take them next.



Effective Communication: Working Together for you Child's Success

At St Margaret's Academy, we believe that strong communication between home and school is the foundation of every child's success. When we work together and share information clearly and respectfully, we are best placed to support your child and secure the very best outcomes.

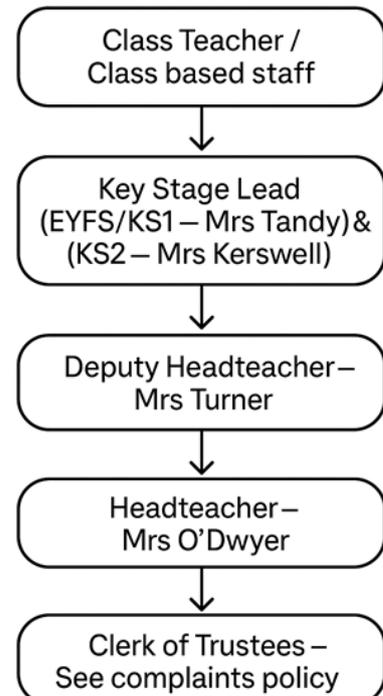


To help make communication as straightforward as possible, we have outlined the most effective ways to get in touch with us - particularly when you need to share important information, raise a concern, or require a response to a query relating to your child.

Please note that your first point of contact will always be your child's class teacher for matters relating to learning, friendships, or behaviour. Class teachers are best placed to support you and your child on these day-to-day matters.

If, after seeking support from the class teacher, you feel that your query or concern has not been fully addressed, you are welcome to follow our agreed escalation process. This ensures that concerns are dealt with promptly, fairly and at the appropriate level.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. By working together, we can ensure that every child thrives at St Margaret's Academy.



ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION

Head Lice Alert—Please Check Over the Weekend

We have had several reported cases of head lice in KS1 this week. We kindly ask all parents and carers to check their child's hair over the weekend and treat if needed.

What to Look For:

Head lice are tiny insects (2–3mm) that live on the scalp. Their eggs (nits) are small, oval, and yellow or white, often found close to the scalp—especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck.

Recommended Treatment:

The NHS recommends wet combing with a fine-toothed detection comb and conditioner. Comb through the hair in sections from root to tip on days 1, 5, 9, and 13.

If required, medicated lotions or sprays (e.g., Hedrin, Full Marks, Lyclear) are available from pharmacies and supermarkets. Some treatments need a second application after 7–10 days.

Please also check and treat all household members if lice are found, and avoid sharing combs, hats, or hair accessories.

Thank you for your support in helping us address this common issue quickly and effectively.

Rowan Class—Computing: Programming 1

Rowan Class have made an excellent start to their new Computing unit of work, Programming 1. Pupils explored how to use Microbits, working with iPads and the Microbit resources to pair devices successfully and begin experimenting with simple coding.

The children approached new challenges with enthusiasm and determination. Even when things felt tricky, they demonstrated great resilience, persevering and learning through trial and error.

Well done, Rowan Class, for such a positive and hardworking start to your learning!



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MOTIVATION

Fitness Challenge Results from Mr Mayling

At the end of last term, a group of Year 6 pupils visited St Cuthbert Mayne to take part in a Fitness Challenge against other schools within our sports partnership. The children completed a circuit of fitness activities, with their results recorded by the sports leaders.



All of the children gave 100% effort, and there were certainly a few sore muscles afterwards! Below are the Fitness Challenge results. Each school has its own tab, highlighting the top individuals for each activity in yellow. Certificates were awarded to these pupils in recognition of their achievements. The final tab shows the overall class averages. Well done to St Margaret's, who topped the scoreboard in every activity! It was a very close competition between Shiphay and St Marychurch, with both schools achieving four second places and four third places.

The real challenge will come in the summer term, when the event is repeated and we see which school has made the greatest progress!



We wish all members of our school community a fabulous weekend and hope the sunshine continues so everyone can enjoy time outdoors. Take care.

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer
Headteacher

ACTIVE THINKING



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MOTIVATION



FREE DROP-IN SUPPORT

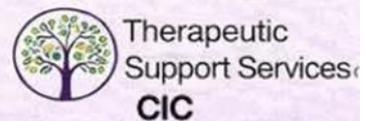
Supporting parents, carers & guardians of children aged 8+ who are struggling with mental health.



THURSDAYS · 1:30–3:00PM
ACORN CENTRE, TORQUAY

- Create a self-care toolkit
- Talk through any concerns about your child's wellbeing
- Receive support and advice

● **Specialist session on self-harm**
last Thursday of the month



ACTIVE THINKING

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MENTORING WITH LIFE CHANCE TRUST

Are you a young person 16-25 who is struggling with education, anxiety, employment, or something else? Do you feel like you just need some extra support?

Life Chance Trust offer a FREE 12 week mentoring programme with a mentor who is specifically matched to YOU.

“Without the support of my mentor, I wouldn't have had the confidence to apply for jobs, build a relationship with my support network and reach out to old friends”.

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SCAN THE QR
CODE TO GET IN
TOUCH AND FIND
OUT MORE

lifechancetrust.org.uk

Torbay School Nursing Team



School Nursing Service Parent and Carer Drop in

A member of the school nurse team will be attending your child's school on:

Date: Friday 13th February 2026

Time: 1.30pm - 2.30pm

We will be able to offer support and advice for:

- Bowel and bladder
- Diet and nutrition
- Sleep
- Emotional wellbeing
- Behaviour (if there is an associated health need)

**No booking needed,
just turn up!**

Contact Us

T: 0300 333 5352 (Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm)

E: tsdft.0to19torbay@nhs.net

A: 0 to 19 Torbay, St. Edmunds, Victoria Park Rd, Torquay TQ1 3QH

W: torbayfamilyhub.org.uk

Chat via the Torbay Family Hub App



Torbay and South Devon

Piano, Violin and Singing lessons now available.

Lessons take place during the school day and are charged at:

One to one:
30 minutes £20
20 minutes £13.50

Groups:
from £7

for more details contact:
Laura @ Blossomsmusic.co.uk
07515 805 812

Blossoms
Music @
St Margaret's

Lumi-Nova—What's it all about?

You may have seen reports on BBC Spotlight recently about a new app called Lumi Nova.

Lumi Nova supports children to build confidence and learn lifelong skills to manage their fears and worries through an intergalactic adventure game.

It's been used by more than 1,100 children in Devon and more than 90% saw their condition reliably improve or stabilise after using it.

Lumi Nova is available to families in partnership with Children and Family Health Devon (CFHD).

Powered by science and backed by the NHS, Lumi Nova is:

- Designed for children aged 7-12 years
- Suitable for children with mild to moderate fears and worries
- Safe and secure
- Recommended by the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE)

In particular, children with SEND have seen significant improvements after using the service – 97% experienced reliable improvement or saw their condition stabilise.

Digital therapy enabling children to self manage their worries.

- ✓ For ages 7-12 yrs
- ✓ Suitable for children with mild - moderate anxiety*
- ✓ NICE recommended

Get free Access

luminova.app/get-access

LUMI NOVA
TALES OF COURAGE

*Not recommended for use with children who have severe anxiety, are at crisis, have suicidal thoughts or are at risk of self-harm without clinical supervision. See instructions for use: 04333002000020



Diary Dates

19th January 2026	Birch Class Swimming Lesson
20th January 2026	Girl's Football (Y5/6) at Home
26th January 2026	Birch Class Swimming Lesson Girl's Football (Y5/6) at Home
29th January 2026	13.00—15.00 Y3/4 Multi-Games Festival @STCM
2nd February 2026	Birch Class Swimming Lesson
3rd February 2026	Space Dome for Y5
6th February 2026	NSPCC Number Day
9th February 2026	Birch Class Swimming Lesson Children's Mental Health Week
10th February 2026	PTA Disco Afterschool—Details to Follow Safer Internet Day
13th February 2026	Whole School Non-Uniform Day for Children's Mental Health 13.30—14.30 School Nurse Drop in Session for Families
16th February 2026— 22nd February 2026	Half Term
17th February 2026	Pancake Day—Shrove Tuesday
23rd February 2026	First Day Back for Children

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Ash	Charlie	"Fred is so happy! Charlie is such a great help to Fred, you said the whole word just after he made the sounds!" "Give yourself a silent 'Fred Frog hop' for being so quiet and listening to every sound."
Elm	Alayna	Alayna for always trying your best to write your super speed sounds! - Miss Tolley is very proud of you.
Beech	Ava	Ava always tries really hard and never gives up, especially in her writing. She keeps going even when it's tricky and should be very proud of herself. Well done, Ava!
Pine	Ruby	Ruby is our star for her effort and enthusiasm in numeracy this week. She has been working hard to count her numbers correctly. Well done Ruby!
Apple	Gabriella	Gabriella is such a good role model for all of our school values. She is always kind and polite and has a fantastic learning attitude. This week, we have noticed that she is putting her hand up to share her ideas more often in class and has just done everything that is asked of her across all areas of the curriculum, particularly in her writing. Amazing Gabriella!
Oak	Eliza	Eliza is such a helpful member of Oak class, we would be lost without her! I have been impressed with Eliza's effort and stamina when completing her writing jobs this week. She included lots of the skills in her sentences and didn't give up when checking her work. Well done Eliza, you are a star!
Willow	Ethan	Willow's star of the week is Ethan. He has shown incredible responsibility for his choices both in class and during break and lunches. He has worked incredibly hard during learning, always giving his best and challenging himself.
Holly	Amelia	Amelia is our star this week! She has shown fantastic aspiration by always putting her hand up to offer her ideas out to the class. She shows kindness every single day and is always there to be a helpful hand to those who may need it.
Cherry	AJ	AJ is our handwriting star this week. You have worked so hard to improve the size of your writing and you are even starting to join! You should be really proud of yourself.
Hazel	Theekshi	Theekshi is truly a pleasure to have in class. She is always doing the right thing and always tries her hardest with her work. Theekshi has been incredibly aspirational this week in her maths work. We are very impressed with your progress Theekshi - keep it up!
Rowan	Archie	Archie is the star of the week in Rowan for his awesome resilience and problem solving skills using the microbits and for his helpfulness in class. Well done Archie.
Birch	Allanna	Allanna is our Star of the Week for her curiosity in Science and reading this week. She has not only been asking thoughtful questions, but also challenging others during our space unit in science, as well as in our reading book about a rover that travelled to the red planet, Mars. Well done, Allanna—keep up the fantastic curiosity and enthusiasm for learning!
Hawthorn	Lennon	We have seen a mature attitude from Lennon, he is ready to learn and has been very responsible for his learning and keen to work independently. He has also been a good role model to his friends when they have been in tricky situations. Well Done Lennon!
Maple	Olivia	Olivia is our star of the week. She is a fantastic role model in the classroom, and has really impressed us with her aspirational qualities in maths. She is always listening and is keen to share her ideas with the class and participate in class discussions. Well done Olivia, keep it up!