

St Margarets Academy

Hands-Face-Space- FRESH AIR-Act as if you've got it

Dear Parents,

It seems a long time ago now that Boris made his 12 hour notice of a new school lockdown back at the start of term on 4th January. To use a cliché, it has certainly been a roller-coaster adventure of a term.

The Impact of Lockdown

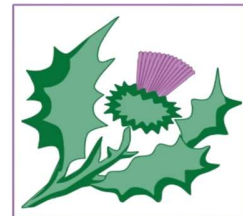
Across Torbay, the impact of this lockdown on pupils, families, staff and schools as a whole has been much more significant than anybody imagined. The Local Authority has recognised how challenging the last 4 weeks of return has been by announcing additional funding for all schools to help support the reintegration of our most vulnerable pupils. I don't know how much we will receive yet but it will certainly help towards the additional staffing costs that are needed.

We have been using the last 4 weeks to progressively return to a full curriculum. Teachers have been using this time to assess individuals' needs and provide learning that matches. We have been working to develop their personal and social education, plug gaps and move children on. For the younger children, the priority has also been on developing their language and communication skills.

With an ability to read fluently being one of the most important indicators of future success in life, we have been particularly working hard in this subject across the school. Today's dress-up as a story character helped support this. Thank you for your kind donations of books to spruce up our library. I will share photos of today after the Easter break.

Another impact from lockdown we have noticed has been the need to increase our online safety lessons for the older children which clearly reflects their increased interaction in the virtual world. You can keep up to date with everything you need to know by following the links on our home page or using this direct link to the very useful *Think U Know* website: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

The Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, has written to all the children in the country about the impact of the pandemic. If you would like to share this with your children, you can find it [here](#).



Upcoming Events

April 19

Summer Term Begins



Whole School
Attendance

97.3%

This week's class
attendance star goes
to.....

**BEECH & ROWAN
CLASS**

WITH 98.7%

WELL DONE!

Teachers have been completing assessments this week so we have new covid baselines to build on in the summer term. You will obviously be given the full detail about their achievements in the end of year reports in July and have a chance to discuss this with the teacher. As always though, please do contact the teacher if you have any concerns or would like an update in the meantime.

Creative Writing

During lockdown, I had the privilege of working with three Year 4 children (Joshua, Ruby-Lee and Leo) on a creative writing project. We met virtually up to 3 times a week, learning writing skills and getting really excited by the power of words. They were a delight and inspiration to work with – certainly my highlight from lockdown. Have a look in the [Writing Blog](#) to see their final story: *Teddy and Lacey's Big Adventure*. It's a great read. They are planning a virtual tour to read their story to all the classes.

Have a look in our [SMSC Blog](#) to see some super photos and the stories from *Red Nose Day* in Year 2.

Sad Goodbye to Mrs Brightman

Today was Mrs Brightman's last day at St Margaret's Academy. Mrs Brightman has been with us for 5 and a half years and is now off to a new adventure. You may not have come across her very much as she worked part time as one of our school administrators. However, if you did, you would have been well-supported and helped with your enquiry in a friendly manner. She always brightened up the office with her sense of humour and good banter. She will be much missed. We all wish her good luck and much fun in the future.

After School Clubs

After school sports clubs are now available to book via the school gateway. This service allows you to book a place and get an instant on-screen confirmation of your booking. Places are limited; all are first come, first served, so if the club is full, it will not allow you to book a place. Bookings close on MONDAY 19TH APRIL 12pm.

Day	Club	Year	Time
Monday	Rounders	Y6	2.55-3.55
	Forest School	Y5	2.55-3.55
Tuesday	Tennis Club	Y4	2.50-3.50
	Netball Club	Y5	2.55-4.00
Wednesday	Wake & Shake	Y5	8.00-8.45am
	Multi Skills	Y2	2.45-3.45
Thursday	Cricket Club	Y6	2.55-3.55
	Girls Football	Y5	2.55-3.55
Friday	Golden Mile	Y3	8.15-8.30am

SIMs Parent App Lite

We are trialling a new system that allows parents to edit and amend information that is held by the school electronically rather than sending out Data Collection sheets as we have in the past. You should have now received an email with an invitation to check and amend your child's details. Please could this be completed as soon as possible. Data Collection is a legal requirement and must be completed annually. This system will reduce the amount of paper sent home as well as administrative hours updating information. Many Thanks in advance

Medical Questionnaire

We are updating the information that we hold on your child and would appreciate it if you could complete a short medical questionnaire using the link below if you have not already done so.

<https://forms.gle/kWuvr7YEw5EvjSmz8>

The information will be used in our new Medical Tracker system which will go live in school after Easter. Medical Tracker is designed to manage and record illnesses, injuries, medication and medical conditions in a centralised online system that also has the ability to notify parents/carers and staff. Please complete one form per child. Thank you in advance for your support

Reporting a Positive Case over the Holiday

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 in the holiday, you will still need to notify school if their symptoms developed within 48 hours of attending school. If this occurs, please email admin@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk as soon as possible. This email address will be monitored up to the end of the day on Wednesday 7th April.

Reminder - how you can help us all to Stay Safe

Please keep your child off school if they have any of the symptoms and to not enter the school site yourself if you have symptoms. I would encourage you to keep your child off even if you have a suspicion of them having symptoms and to get a test as soon as possible. Let us know at the earliest opportunity that your child will be absent due to having symptoms. *Their absence will not be counted against them in COVID-19 related circumstances.*

1. Wear face masks on the school site.
2. Keep 2 metres from others.
3. Only enter the school site at the correct time.
4. If you have siblings please don't wait on the site. Instead, after dropping or collecting one of your children, please walk round and enter at the correct time.
5. Please stick to the one-way system (no entry by the rear gate which is exit only)
6. Only one adult to collect or drop-off

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Have a lovely Easter holiday and I look forward to seeing everybody again for the summer term adventure that starts on Monday 19th April.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Beech	Henry - for a great improvement in all areas of your learning! You've obviously worked really hard during lockdown and continue to show an aspirational attitude everyday. You should be very proud of yourself.
Pine	Jackson, for being such a superstar all the time! He has settled into our class so well, he is extremely polite, kind and thoughtful, how lucky we are!
Oak	Lily.D- for putting such great effort into both her home learning and learning in school, particularly in maths (Numbots). Thank you for having a fantastic attitude to your learning Lily. Well done!
Apple	Kaja for fantastic effort in so many areas. She tried so hard in her reading comprehension this week and her attention to detail when making her Easter card was fantastic. Well done!
Birch	Darcy for coming up with some fantastic design ideas in D&T this week!
Rowan	Angel - for doing lots of work this week in class and being a pleasure to have in the classroom
Cherry	Kye- for always doing his best. His determination to complete all tasks has been really impressive. Well done Kye. What a super end to your first term at St. Margaret's.
Hazel	Jaya has really shown our school values of responsibility and aspiration this week. She has taken responsibility for her learning and really challenged herself in her learning. Well done Jaya.
Willow	Saphia for her fantastic effort in all of her learning! She has been a super mathematician this week and also earned her pen license
Holly	Archie - for his increased focus and aspiration in lessons, which has been shown in his determination to do his best, especially in writing and maths tasks. Well done Archie.
Maple	Orah - for consistently showing the school values and for her determination to always try her best in all areas of learning. Well done!
Hawthorn	Poppy- An excellent effort in everything she does and her constant positive attitude to her learning since we have been back in school. Well done young lady!