



St Margaret's Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Autumn Newsletter #13

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the Autumn Term, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support, care, and partnership. This term has been incredibly busy, filled with learning, growth, and memorable moments for our children.

We are finishing the term with a wonderful array of celebrations, and today we gathered for our end-of-term Celebration Assembly. It was a joy to recognise the children who have truly lived out our school values—an inspiring reminder of the positive impact these values have on our school community.

Thank you for everything you do to support your child and our school. We wish you a restful and joyful holiday season, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year for another exciting term.



Huge Congratulations to Our KS2 Team!

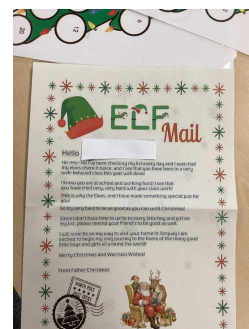
A massive well done to all our KS2 children and staff for the amazing Carol Concert on Monday. It was truly beautiful, featuring wonderful songs, heartfelt readings, and inspiring signing from our pupils.

We are all so proud of you! Your hard work and talent brought so much joy and really helped everyone who attended get into the Christmas spirit. Thank you for making it such a special occasion!



Early Years have been full of festive fun!

Our little elves have been busy writing letters to Father Christmas- and guess what? They've even had replies! The excitement in the classrooms is magical, and we think the children at St Margaret's must be on the *nice list* this year.



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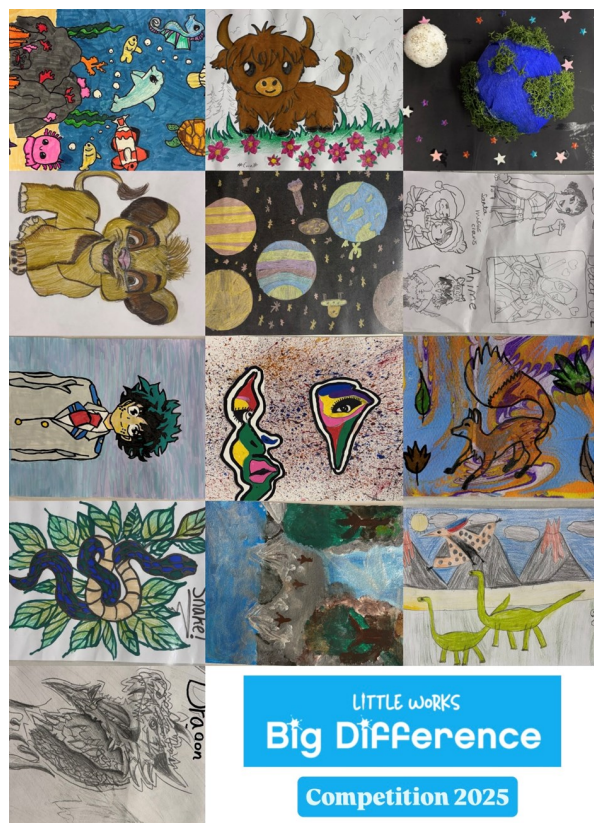
MOTIVATION



Art Competition

Well done to everyone who entered the 'Little Works Big Difference' art competition. There were so many fantastic entries that we couldn't put them all on the newsletter but here are just a few to show the quality of the art work - FANTASTIC!

Miss Pritchard has now sent all of the entries off for judging in and the judging panel will be in touch if any of our entries get chosen as a winner! Well done again



Blue Team Christmas Celebration

What a wonderful time we had at our Blue Team Reward Event today! The room was filled with festive cheer as everyone enjoyed Christmas crafts, indulged in delicious cookies, and sang along to joyful carols.



A huge thank you to everyone who joined in and made the day so special. Your creativity and enthusiasm truly brought the holiday spirit to life!



Year 4 Explore Ancient Egypt at Torquay Museum

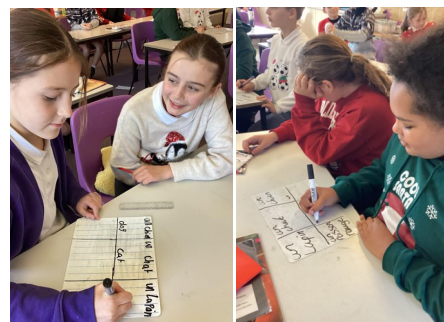
Year 4 had an amazing trip to Torquay Museum to celebrate and deepen their learning about the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt. The children were captivated by the incredible artefacts, including real mummies and ancient treasures, and enjoyed hands-on activities that brought history to life. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world experiences, and the excitement and curiosity sparked during the visit will inspire our upcoming history lessons!





Maple Class—French

Maple Class have been working very hard on their French skills, learning how to answer the question « *As-tu un animal ?* » (Do you have a pet?). This helps children build confidence in speaking and understanding everyday French phrases. To make learning fun, we played a lively game of bingo, which was a fantastic way to practise listening and writing while keeping everyone excited and involved. It's wonderful to see the children growing in confidence and enjoying the challenge!



Oak Class Celebration

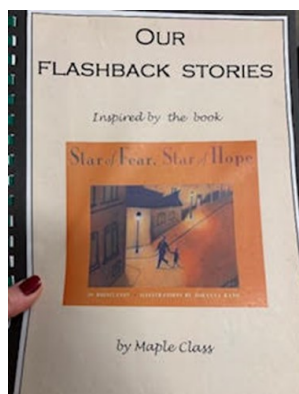
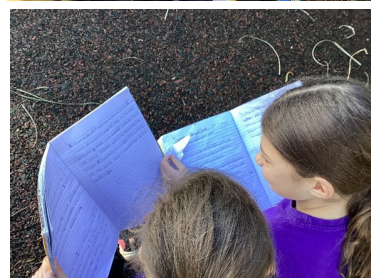
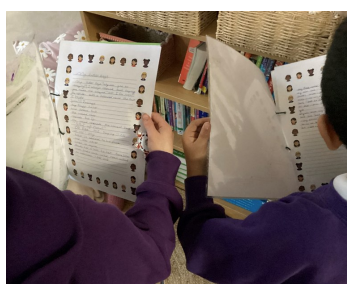
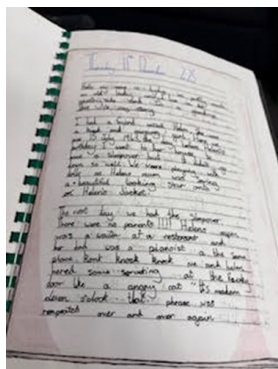
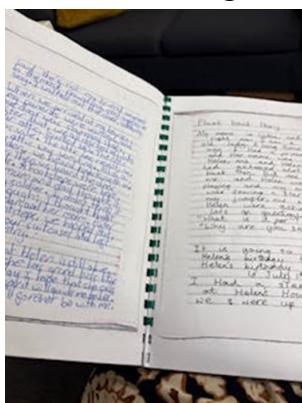
Oak Class thoroughly enjoyed their special treat after winning the Christmas Tree Decoration Competition! By majority vote, the chosen reward was a chocolate fountain—and the excitement was undeniable. Every child was eager to dive in and enjoy the delicious (and delightfully messy) experience.

A huge thank you to our amazing PTA for providing such a yummy treat and making this celebration possible



Writers and Publishers

What a tremendous term of writing across the school as we fully immerse ourselves in our new writing curriculum! The children have produced some fabulous pieces and have enjoyed publishing these and reading them aloud to audiences. Well done to everyone, and a special shout-out to Maple Class and Year 4 for sharing these wonderful photographs!



Mid-Season Football Update from Mr Mayling

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all the boys who have represented the school so far this year and also to all of the parents and for their efforts in getting the players to the fixtures on time and for washing the kits over the course of the season – please return the kit if you haven't already done so.

The current fixture situation is that we wanted to get the first set of fixtures completed by Xmas but for many schools the poor weather has prevented that from being a realistic target. Therefore, the Torbay Primary-Schools committee have extended the fixture deadline for a further 2 weeks, meaning games will now need to be played by the close of play on **Friday 16th**

January. The next game for the A team is against Barton on Friday 9th January. Also, over the weekend of 17th/18th January any changes to leagues and the cup draws will be released.

I am sure you'll agree that it has been a tough season for the team so far and the standard of football played in matches has been exceptionally high. The boys are playing together better as a team and after an improved performance against Sherwell Valley, we hope a win is in sight after Christmas. Heads up boys and you should be very proud of your efforts as we are of you.



Merry Christmas from St Margaret's Academy!

As we approach the festive season, I want to wish all our families, pupils, staff, and Trustees a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for the incredibly warm welcome—I have thoroughly enjoyed my first Christmas at St Margaret's and feel privileged to be part of such a wonderful community.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Tuesday, 6th January**, ready for an exciting new term ahead!

Enjoy the holidays and stay safe.

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer

Headteacher





Christmas TOMBOLA

Saturday 13th December
+ 19th* 20th* 22nd* 23rd* & 24th* (Christmas Eve)
*Santa will be with us at the Indoor Market

**Regular & Soft Toys - Seasonal Gifts for Adults
Ornaments, Collectables and Lots, Lots More**

£1 a Go - A Prize Every Time

ONLY
£3
To Meet Santa
in His Grotto

All proceeds go to



Registered Charity 1200973

**Meet Santa
Get a Gift**



Torquay Indoor Market
Entrances in Union Street & Market Street

Come and see us at the Indoor Market
There are numerous nice shops to see as well



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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:

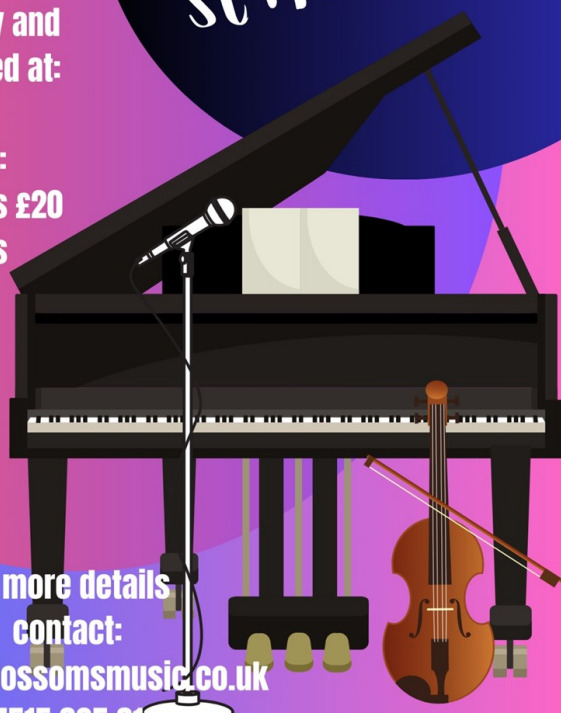
One to one:
30 minutes £20
20 minutes
£13.50

Groups:
from £7

for more details
contact:

Laura @ Blossomsmusic.co.uk
07515 805 812

Blossoms
Music @
St Margaret's



Useful Reminders and Sign-posting



If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 they should start school in September 2026.

What do I need to do?

Applying for primary school - it's as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Read the TIPS 8 guidance booklet on our website (printed copies available upon request)
2. Apply online from 1 November 2025 - [Apply for a primary school place - Torbay Council](#)
or
Contact us to request an electronic form - E: pupil.services@torbay.gov.uk; T: 01803 208908
3. Submit your application by 15 January 2026

You must complete an application even if:

- You already have an older child at your preferred school
- Your child attends a nursery attached to a primary school
- You have completed a registration form at a primary school
- You have sent in a supplementary form to a primary school



TORBAY COUNCIL

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.



Youth Mental Health Foundation

Need help supporting a child struggling with their emotions, behaviour or mental health?

A free coaching session takes place in the new year for parents and carers living in or sending their child to school in Torbay.

There are two information sessions for interested parents and carers on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th January.

Book a place on one of these sessions:

[Select a Date & Time - Calendly](#)



Book a quieter ice rink session

We're excited to announce that Torbay's much-anticipated festive ice rink will include some SEND-friendly sessions.

The quiet sessions will have no music and no flashing lights.

There are currently two sessions but more may be added if there's demand.

The ice rink is the newest addition to Torbay's festive offering, which also includes the 1.5 mile fully-accessible Bay of Lights illumination trail and Torre Abbey's Christmas market.

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Diary Dates

20th December 2025— 5th January 2026	Christmas Holiday
Monday 5th January 2026	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 6th January 2026	First Day Back for Children



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