

# St Margarets Academy

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

Dear Parents,

Welcome back everybody to the second half of the autumn term; one week in already and I hope your children have enjoyed their first few days after a good break. Christmas is coming!

Teaching staff have had a busy week as we've had a 3-day external review of all our core practice related to leadership, the curriculum, teaching and learning. We have joined with 500 other schools nationwide into a project called *Challenge Partners*. This is senior school leaders, led by experienced school inspectors, reviewing each other's schools across the country. It is a partnership model of evaluating schools and building improvement. It has been a very positive 3 days, giving us and you reassurance that we are doing a fantastic job for the children in our care. It makes me feel really proud to work here.

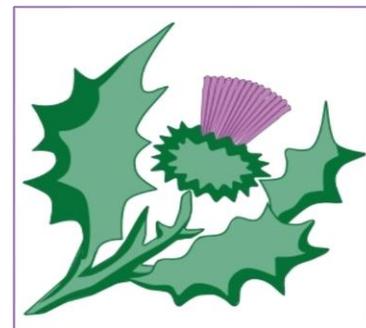
Senior leaders from St Margaret's are looking forward to joining their review teams in other schools over the year ahead.

## Odd Socks, Spots and Yellow

Anti-bullying week starts on Monday 15.11.21. To help us all remember to celebrate differences, we're asking everybody to wear odd socks all week. Then on Friday 19.11.21 it is *Children in Need* and for a small donation to this worthy cause we're encouraging everybody to wear something spotty or yellow.



Next Friday 12.11.21, the PTA is raising funds by us having a 'dress-down, non-uniform day'. Any donation, however small, is most welcome.



## Upcoming Events

### November 12

Muffin- Dress Down Friday PTA Donation

### November 15

Anti-Bullying Week- Wear Odd Socks all week

### November 17

Flu Vaccinations

### November 19

Children in Need- Wear something Spotty or Yellow

### November 22

Parents Evening Week

(More information to follow)

### November 25

Individual school photos

## Curriculum News

Congratulations to Oscar in Year 6 who joined the first ever virtual Children's Parliament on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October as part of COP26. Oscar was the Member for St Margaret's Academy and raised a question about fair trade. See some pictures and read his full question on the [Student Council Blog](#) which can be found under *Pupil Voice* under *Curriculum in Action*.

Oscar explained what he'd been up to in our whole school Monday assembly this week which was on COP26. During the week, teachers followed up in class, getting children to think about what they can do to make a difference to look after our home, Planet Earth. I'm collating all the children's ideas and sending them to delegates at COP26 via the WWF (World Wildlife Fund for Nature). You can view the slides from the assembly in our [Eco Blog](#) as well as see some of the ideas your children have for looking after our big home.

The school council have been busy preparing for the visit of our local MP next Wednesday afternoon and creating wreaths for the remembrance service next Thursday. See the website for our agenda and minutes from the meeting!

Check out the new [Digital Leaders](#) page on the school website under 'Curriculum in Action' – 'Pupil Voice'. Miss Pritchard is leading this team of pupils to ensure there is a child expert on hand in each class to help support others.

Today, children in Key Stage 2 listened to a classical performance of the cello and violin. If you are interested in your child having lessons, please have a look in the [Music Blog](#) for more information.



Anti-bullying Week starts on 15<sup>th</sup> November when we'll be asking children and staff to wear odd socks for the whole week in recognition of celebrating differences. Have a look in the [Writing Blog](#) to see Year 4 perform their anti-bullying poems. This week Year 6 visited Babbacombe Theatre to watch an anti-bullying show focussing on differences which was well-received by the children and found them reflecting deeply on what they had seen. Have a look in the [PSHE Blog](#) to see Harry's write-up.

## Staying Safe On-line – FEATURE #3 – Watching Videos

From animals doing funny things, to slime-making and game-tutorials, the internet has lots of fun videos for children to enjoy. But the amount and availability of content online means that children may see something inappropriate. To understand what type of content might not be suitable and advice on how to help your child watch safely, watch this short [video guide](#).

The internet is a public and open space where anyone can post and share content. This can be fun and entertaining for children, but it does mean your child may see something that is intended for adults. Find out what to do if [you're worried your child might see something inappropriate online](#) or what to do if they already have.

## YEAR 3 TRIP TO KENTS CAVERN



On Thursday Year 3 visited Kents Cavern to enrich their learning about the Stone Age

Here are some of the children's comments about their day:

*"It was the best trip ever!"* - Lilly F

*"It was the best time of my life"* - Max

*"It was amazing when it went pitch black!"* - Veronica

*"It was so fascinating learning new things about the animals and people who lived there"* -Noah



Children love to watch videos and YouTube is always a firm favourite! But sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them. [YouTube Kids](#) is a safer way for children to explore their interests. You can find more information about this on YouTube: what parents need to know.

Have a look at this useful website for ratings and content for what your child might want to watch (also includes games): <https://www.common sense media.org/homepage>

Remember, primary-age children should be supervised at all times when online.

Previous on-line safety features:

**Chatting, Being Kind and Making Friends Online** - found in the newsletter, dated 22.10.21

**On-line Gaming** – found in the newsletter, dated 15.10.21

## Super Helpful Good Parenting Website

Check out this really useful website: <https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/>

## Parents Evenings are coming

Advance notice that Parents Evening for children in Years 1 to 6 will take place in the week beginning 22.11.21. You will be notified when the times and dates are released for you to book a slot. In-line with the rest of Torbay schools, appointments will sadly be virtual once again. I hope that we can offer face to face meetings in the spring term.

## Are you a parent new to the school?

As some of our new parents missed school tours because of the pandemic, I have had a request to hold a tour for current parents of children in Reception. I've scheduled Monday 15.11.21 at 9.30am. If you would like to book a place, please contact the office.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.



Tim Hughes (Head teacher)



Beech	Skye - for being an amazing mathematician all week. You have been counting non-stop and loved exploring addition in all sorts of different ways.
Pine	Guy- For being so focussed and for trying so hard. He always makes us laugh and is a lovely member of the class. Great week Guy, well done!
Oak	Ellie- for trying her best in everything she has done this week and we have been really impressed with her working out in maths. Well done for being an amazing learner Ellie!
Apple	Evelyn has been encouraged to be as aspirational as she can be in her writing this week and she has responded brilliantly! Evelyn is also a great member of Apple and is always willing to help others with kindness.
Birch	Zoe - for excellent listening all week and interacting so well on our trip to Kent's Cavern. I really liked your questions you wrote at home for the group leader to answer!
Rowan	Myles is our star of the week this week for showing all of the school's values while we were on our trip to Kent's Cavern this week! Myles listened very carefully to the group leader the whole time and showed great aspiration by answering lots of questions about the Stone Age. Well done Myles!
Cherry	Izzie for the amazing responsibility she displays for her learning. She works with concentration to complete all tasks and always challenges herself. A true aspirational attitude Izzie. Well done.
Hazel	Pepe - For a vast improvement in your handwriting recently. We have been amazed by your effort and enthusiasm for writing - well done!
Willow	This week in Willow our star of the week goes to Vinnie! Vinnie has shown a much improved attitude towards his learning, particularly in his Maths. Well done Vinnie, keep it up!
Holly	Kumar shows all of our school values. He is very respectful and he works hard to produce some excellent work. He was also kind and helpful to others when making gas masks on our WW2 day.
Maple	Milly has worked so hard this week in maths, it has been a joy to see! She has shown the school value of aspiration in every lesson this week, always putting her hand up and wanting to further her learning at every opportunity. Well done Milly!
Hawthorn	Evelyn has worked super hard in science and completed some fabulous learning around animal classification. Well done Evelyn!