



St Margaret's  
Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Summer Newsletter #29  
22th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the final newsletter of this first half of the summer term, it has certainly been a jam-packed week filled with rich curriculum enrichment across the school. This edition celebrates the wide range of wonderful learning experiences, captured beautifully through photographs that bring these moments to life. You will also find important information about upcoming events, as well as updates on our developing whole-school priorities for the future.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support throughout the term. We wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the weeks ahead. Let's hope the sunshine stays with us, giving us plenty of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends.

### Year 1 Curriculum Enrichment— A Week to Celebrate

This week, our wonderful Year 1 children have fully embraced an exciting and enriching curriculum experience, packed with meaningful learning opportunities and real-life connections.

We were delighted to welcome Cats Protection, where the children learned about this fantastic charitable organisation and the important role it plays in supporting animals within our community. The visit helped the children to develop a deeper understanding of kindness, responsibility, and how we can all contribute to helping others, whether they have two legs or four!

Our learning then moved into the world of nursing and medicine through time, bringing our history and curriculum topics wonderfully to life. The children showed tremendous enthusiasm by coming to school dressed as doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals, it was fantastic to see such creativity and commitment to their learning!

We were also joined by real doctors and nurses, who generously gave their time to speak to the children about their roles. They brought along engaging props and "hooks" to demonstrate medical tools and explain how they care for people. This gave the children a valuable insight into the importance of helping others and how we can all look after one another.

Inspired by these experiences, the children eagerly immersed themselves in role play, taking on the roles of medical professionals. This led to some fantastic independent writing, where they created their own medical diagnoses and treatment plans; an incredible showcase of their imagination, understanding, and developing writing skills.

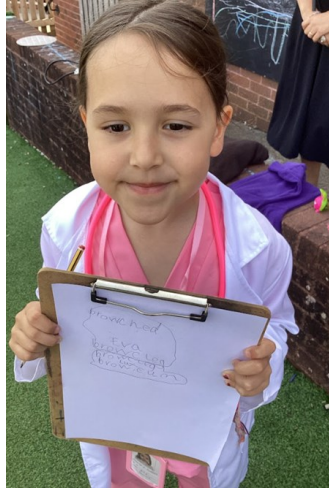
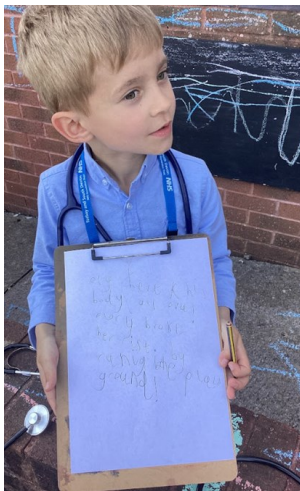
It truly has been a lovely, enriching experience for all, and we are so proud of how enthusiastically the children have engaged in their learning.

A huge thank you to all parents and carers for your support in helping the children prepare for such a special day. Your efforts made a real difference and helped bring the learning to life.





• Where can the bandages go ?  
• What would we do if stitch bump  
• What else could we do if stitch bu



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ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION

## Parking and Safety Reminder

We would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of parking safely and considerately near the school.

Recently, we have noticed an increase in cars being parked on zigzag lines, double yellow lines, and in other unsuitable areas. There have also been instances of vehicles being left running while children are dropped off and then making their way into school independently. These practices create unnecessary risks for everyone in our community.

Parking in inappropriate locations reduces visibility for pedestrians, particularly children and families trying to cross the road safely. It also increases the likelihood of accidents during what is already a busy and potentially stressful time of day.

We understand that mornings can feel rushed, and getting to school on time can be challenging. However, it is essential that we all make the effort to leave slightly earlier and use appropriate, designated parking areas.

Keeping our children safe is a shared responsibility, and your cooperation makes a real difference. We kindly ask all parents and carers to park responsibly and with consideration when dropping off and collecting children.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep our school community safe.



## Forest School Parent/Carer Day—Wednesday 3rd July (Forest School children only)

We are excited to invite parents and carers of our Forest School children to a special Parent/Carer Day on Wednesday 3rd July.

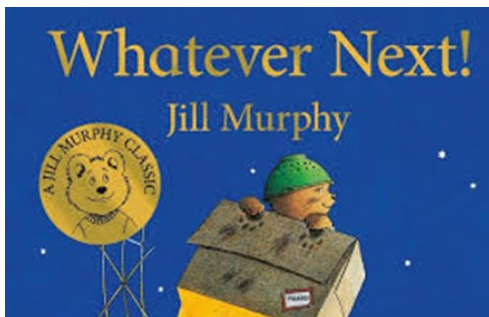
This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to share their Forest School experiences with you. For **Group A (morning group)**, please arrive at the school office by **10.10am** to join us from **10.15am–11.15am**.

For **Group B (afternoon group)**, please arrive by **12.25pm** to join us from **12.30pm–1.30pm**.

Please note that this session is **only for children currently attending Forest School and their families**. We hope you can join us for this special event!



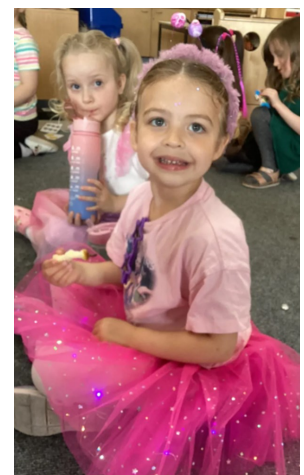
## Reception Class Weekly Update: Out of This World!



Our Reception classes have been out of this world this week as we explored Space! Linked to our story Whatever Next! by Jill Murphy, the children have loved learning all about gravity, planets and space travel, as well as building their own spacecraft and space vehicles using junk modelling. We even practised our very best "space walks" and enjoyed lots of exciting activities along the way!

We finished our fantastic week with a brilliant "Dress Up as an Alien" day. A huge thank you to all parents and carers for supporting us with such amazing homemade costumes. The children had a fabulous time showing them off!

What a wonderful week of learning, imagination and fun!



## Torbay Reads (Reminder)

We are excited to be taking part in Torquay Reads: The Great Book Escape - a fantastic opportunity to celebrate reading across our school community! We will soon begin collecting pre-loved books, so over the May half term we encourage all parents, carers and children to have a good sort-out at home.

When we return to school, please send in any books you are happy to donate. We will then schedule special Torquay Reads promotion days, where children can swap their donated book for another pre-loved one to take home and enjoy over the summer holidays. It's a fun, free way to refresh bookshelves and inspire a lifelong love of reading. Please note that books donated will not be returned, but your child will leave with a new book to enjoy—so only bring books you are happy to give away!

**READY FOR AN ADVENTURE?  
JOIN THE GREAT BOOK ESCAPE**

Step into **THE GREAT BOOK ESCAPE**, where you swap a story you've loved for a brand-new adventure. Bring a pre-loved book and exchange it for another to discover new worlds, mysteries, and magical journeys waiting just for you.

Every swap is your next big adventure—where will your story take you?  
Speak to your teacher to find out more.

**TORQUAY READS** EVERY CHILD A READER. EVERY BOOK A BEGINNING.  
www.torquayreads.org

## Have your Say: The Big Survey (Reminder)

The Children's Commissioner is asking all young people to take part in *The Big Future* survey — a national opportunity to share your views and shape the future.

Building on the Children Act 2004, this important work ensures that children's voices are heard and included in the decisions that affect their lives. The survey helps the Children's Commissioner understand what is working well for young people, what could be better, and what changes are needed going forward.

Your opinions matter. By taking a few minutes to complete the survey, you can help influence real change and ensure that key decisions reflect the experiences and needs of young people.



**Take the survey here:** <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.

**Find out more and view FAQs:** <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/>



## Outdoor Learning at its Best

This week in Forest School, our children fully embraced the wonders of outdoor learning as they created beautiful 'Tree Spirits' using clay.

The children loved exploring the orchard, carefully collecting natural treasures such as leaves, flowers, and stones to decorate their creations. Each Tree Spirit was unique, reflecting the children's creativity and connection with nature.

Once complete, the spirits were gently attached to the trees, where they will help to look after and protect our beautiful orchard. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to immerse themselves in the natural world, spark their imaginations, and develop a sense of care for our environment.

A truly magical and memorable experience for all involved! Thank you to the fabulous Forest School Team.



## School Development Update

We are excited to share some developments that will further improve our provision for all children at our school.

This year, staff have taken part in a wide range of training, including Outdoor Forest Skills training, which will allow us to expand our Forest School offer to more year groups from September.

We have also been reviewing how we support all pupils, particularly those with additional needs. As a result, we are introducing two new in-school provisions from September.

These will support children who sometimes find it difficult to learn in the classroom without extra help or adjustments. They may access this support for parts of the day or week, with a more personalised approach to learning.

Importantly, this is to enhance our current curriculum, not replace it. All children will remain part of their own class, with their friends, teacher and class identity. The new provision will simply support specific parts of their learning when needed.

Our aim is to help every child feel happy, safe and successful, while making strong progress in their learning.

### What happens next?

After half term, members of the leadership team and our SENCo will contact families if they feel this provision may benefit their child.

We are fortunate that changes in pupil numbers have allowed us to create dedicated spaces within school for this exciting new offer.

We look forward to sharing more information soon and are confident this will make a positive difference for our children.



## Year 3/4 Football Team Success at Torbay Finals

We are incredibly proud to share some fantastic news about our Year 3/4 football team, who had a truly memorable experience on Wednesday representing the school at the Torbay Schools Finals, held at Torquay United.

The team's hard work and determination throughout the season paid off as they were awarded the League Cup Trophy, finishing top of the league — a tremendous achievement!

In the cup competition, the team showed remarkable resilience and teamwork, securing a 2–1 victory in the semi-final. The final proved to be an incredibly close and exciting match. After a spirited and determined performance, the team narrowly missed out, losing in the most dramatic of circumstances — 6–5 on penalties.

Despite the result, the boys demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship, courage, and teamwork, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts. Their new trophy will be proudly displayed in the reception area, celebrating this well-deserved success.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the parents and families who have supported the team throughout the season — your encouragement has made a real difference.

*See the photograph below capturing this proud moment for our team.*



## Year 3/4 Football Team Success at Torbay Finals

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all the boys who have represented the school 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. All kits must be returned to the school please, if you haven't already done so, thank you.

I am sure you'll agree that it was a tough season for the team and the standard of football played was exceptionally high across the league. But we managed to stay up in the A league for the whole season this year and we did finish with some success which meant the boys could play at the Torquay United stadium in the finals of the Bewley Cup. They were up against the league champions Sherwell Valley and despite the result, the boy's performance could not be faulted. Many chances were created and there were many excellent performances including some great saves by Michael the goalkeeper. They should be very proud of that and their efforts as we are of them. Well done!



## World Cup Dress Down Day (Reminder)

We are delighted to announce an exciting World Cup Dress Down Day taking place on Friday 12th June! All classes (including non-class-based staff) have been entered into a *lucky dip spinning draw* and have each been allocated to a different country. Pupils and staff are invited to come to school dressed in colours that represent their class country – the brighter and more creative, the better!

To support our upcoming Summer Fair, we kindly ask if you are able to donate any items that match your child's allocated team colours. These will be used to create our fantastic Rainbow Raffle Hampers. We greatly appreciate your continued support and generosity, and we're looking forward to a fun and colourful day for everyone! Please see the poster, along with the Country Colour & Class Allocation Grid, below for full details.



COUNTRY	COLOUR	CLASS
Argentina	Blue	Apple
Australia	Yellow	Cherry
Brazil	Yellow	Beech
England	White	Willow
France	Blue	Oak
Germany	Black	Holly
Japan	Blue	Maple
Mexico	Green	Pine
Netherlands	Orange	Birch
Portugal	Red	Elm
Saudi arabia	Green	Hawthorn
Scotland	Blue	Rowan
Spain	Red	School Staff
Sweden	Green	Hazel
USA	Blue	Ash

I would like to wish everyone a wonderfully restful break. This is a valuable time to recharge, relax, and enjoy meaningful moments with family and friends. I am very much looking forward to returning to school following my recovery from a shoulder fracture—I have truly missed meeting and greeting everyone and am eager to catch up and see how you have all been doing.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the final half term of the 2025–2026 academic year, as we continue to work together towards a strong and successful finish.

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer

Headteacher



# SUN SAFETY

**✓ APPLY SUNSCREEN**  
Please apply sunscreen to children before school. Children can bring sunscreen into school to reapply throughout the day.

**✓ WEAR A HAT**  
Children to bring a hat into school. Remember to label it!

**✓ HYDRATE WITH WATER**  
Please ensure children bring a water bottle into school each day. Children can refill bottles in the classroom as and when.



Family Advice - Communication - Education

Please see FACE's June 2026 Timetable

All regular sessions are delivered live online via zoom and are 90 minutes long.

These sessions are £24 each and can be booked online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](https://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)



## June 2026 Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

**£24 each or FREE with School Membership**

Book online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](https://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Recordings available for 48 hours

Understanding Anger	1 June 10am
School Anxiety	1 June 7pm
Facing Defiance	2 June 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	2 June 7pm
Anxiety Explained	8 June 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	8 June 7pm
Introduction to OCD	9 June 10am
What is ACT?	9 June 7pm
Decreasing Depression	15 June 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	15 June 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	16 June 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	16 June 7pm
Improving Family Communication	22 June 10am
Autism-Improving Communication	22 June 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	23 June 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	23 June 7pm
ADHD and Homework	25 June 7-8pm

St Margaret's Academy PTA

# Summer Fayre

4th July 2026  
11am - 2pm

Free Entry  
All Welcome

Raffle · Games · Food · Bar · Ice Cream · Tea  
Rooms · Bouncy Castle · Giant Inflatable Assault  
Course · Live Performances · Craft Stalls ·  
Preloved Uniform  
St Margaret's Academy, Barewell Road, Torquay, TQ1 4PA

**SIRONA**  
Therapeutic  
Horsemanship  
Registered Charity No: 1169709

# OPEN DAY

Saturday 25th July  
• 2026 •  
11am - 3pm  
Dartington Estate

Come to our centre on the Dartington Estate to meet the team, the horses and other animals.

Pony Demo with Young People

Raffle | Bric a Brac | Plant Stall Games | Children's Art Activities

Refreshments | Cakes | Tea & Coffee

Entry by Donation - No Dogs Please

Help us make a difference!

Buckhams Stables,  
Old School Farm, Dartington Hall,  
Totnes, TQ9 6EB  
info@sironaequine.org.uk www.sironaequine.org.uk

Follow -US-

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



S O L I H U L L A P P R O A C H

10:30am – 12:30pm for 10 weeks at The Windmill Centre,  
Pendennis Rd Torquay, TQ2 7QR

On the following Tuesdays 2026

21<sup>st</sup> April, 28<sup>th</sup> April / 5<sup>th</sup> May, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> May /

2<sup>nd</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 30<sup>th</sup> June

***We cover many topics including***

- Feelings
- Importance of Play
- Effective Communication



To book a place please contact  
Andrew Wright or Gabrielle Dale on  
[andrew.wright@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.wright@torbay.gov.uk)

07776495028

[gabrielle.dale@actionforchildren.org](mailto:gabrielle.dale@actionforchildren.org)  
.uk

07866 997870

Understanding your child is  
a course for all parents,  
grandparents and carers of  
children ages 6 months to 6  
years.

Familyhub  
TORBAY

# Diary Dates

W/C 25th May 2026	Half Term Break
1st June 2026	Cherry Class Swimming First Day back to School
2nd June 2026	Bikeability Level 1
8th June 2026	Cherry Class Swimming Bikeability Level 2
10th, 11th & 12th June 2026	Whole School Art Project with Local Artist
11th June 2026	Class Photo Day
12th June 2026	World Cup PTA Event
15th June 2026	Hazel Class Swimming
18th June 2026	KS2 Primary Athletics
Friday 19th June 2026	INSET Day—School Closed to Pupils
22nd June 2026	Hazel Class Swimming Y3 Beach Water Confidence
29th June 2026	Hazel Class Swimming
1st July 2026	Year 5 activities day at Torquay Academy
3rd July 2026	Year 4 Beach Water Confidence

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Ash	Charlie	Well done Charlie! Your super sentence was out of this world! I loved your snappy fingers, and the way you Fred talked and sounded out each of the words . You worked so hard and kept going even when it was tricky. You should feel very proud. What a space-tastic superstar!
Elm	Thomas	This week's Star Of The Week is Thomas for his creative drawing club ideas, pictures and engagement when writing his speed sounds. - Well done Thomas! Miss Tolley is proud of you! :)
Beech	Grace M	For showing responsibility in her decisions and a positive attitude towards peers.
Pine	Myla	Myla has truly impressed us over the last few weeks. Acting with so much maturity and making great choices. She stepped up to say someone else's lines for our Music and History show too- Well done Myla!
Apple	Millie	I don't think this will be a surprise to Millie as we have been saying how amazing she is all week. If you need to know anything about quarters, Millie is the person to ask! She has been so aspirational with her maths learning, always putting up her hand to join in and always doing her best. Well done Millie!
Oak	Stanley	Stanley is our star as lots of adults have noticed his effort and listening in the lessons this week. He has also shown responsibility and resilience when faced with tricky challenges. Stanley has also shone in the computing lesson, taking and editing some fantastic photographs. Well done Stanley, you are a star!
Willow	Ella	Ella is Willow's star of the week for consistently demonstrating all of the school values and is always eager to participate in the classroom. We are so lucky to have her in our team - well done Ella, we're all super proud of you!
Holly	Teddy	Teddy is this week's star. He has really impressed the adults by taking incredible responsibility for the classroom environment by being so helpful with tidying and handing out books. Well done!
Cherry	Luna	We are so lucky in Cherry to have Luna join us this week. She has brought so much to the class already, showing how much of a responsible learner she is and a very respectful person. Well done Luna on a super start at St Margaret's Academy.
Hazel	James	Hazel's star this week is James. James has showcased his excellent aspirational skills this week, trying his best to stay focused and get all of his work completed. He has challenged himself a little more each day and we are very impressed! Well done, James! Keep up the good work!
Rowan	Elaine	Elaine is the star of the week in Rowan class for demonstrating our school values so consistently. She is a super learner and always works with focus and aspiration. She also shows great kindness to others everyday. Thank you Elaine.
Birch	Olivia FA	Olivia FA is the star this week! She has come in and got on with her learning and worked really hard in her History lesson. You've really impressed the adults in Birch-How responsible!
Hawthorn	Owen	Owen has worked so hard this half term, this week he has produced a superb piece of writing which he has up levelled and improved to a brilliant standard! Well done Owen!
Maple	Mariella	Mariella is our star of the week. She quietly completes her work to a high standard, and is a real role model to her peers, exhibiting our School value of kindness. Well done, Mariella!