



ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Autumn Newsletter #7

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the first half of the autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the fabulous learning and enrichment that has taken place across our school. From magical potion-making in Reception to exploring human and physical features in Year 2, and engaging First Aid sessions in Years 3 and 6, just this week - our children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, curiosity, and joy.

It has been a pleasure to see such creativity, collaboration, and kindness throughout the school. Our staff continue to inspire and nurture, and our families and PTA have offered incredible support—thank you all.

Wishing everyone a restful and well-deserved half-term break. We look forward to welcoming you back soon for another exciting half term of learning and growth.

A Huge Thank You to Our PTA!

We'd like to say a massive thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising such a fantastically spooky and entertaining Halloween Disco! The children had an absolutely brilliant time—dancing, laughing, and showing off their amazing costumes. The creativity and enthusiasm on display were a real delight, and it was heartwarming to see everyone enjoying themselves so much.

Events like these bring our school community together and create lasting memories for the children. Thank you again to everyone who helped make it such a success!

In addition to organising the wonderfully spooky Halloween Discos, our amazing PTA have also funded Mini First Aid sessions for Year 3 and Year 6. These sessions have been truly invaluable in helping our children understand what to do in an emergency and where to seek help and support.

It was a real joy to be part of the Year 6 session today and witness the thoughtful questions posed to the trainer, as well as the personal reflections and experiences shared by the children during the demonstration activities. Their engagement and curiosity were inspiring, and it's clear that these sessions have made a meaningful impact. We are incredibly grateful to the PTA for making these opportunities possible.



Pupil Wellbeing Survey Link

We kindly ask for your support in helping your child access and complete the [survey](#) at home over the next couple of weeks. Their feedback is incredibly valuable and will help us continue to improve the ways we support wellbeing across the school. This is an important opportunity for us to gather insights into how our pupils are feeling, the strategies they use to support their wellbeing, and any areas they may find challenging. *Together, we can make a difference.*



Magical Moments in Reception

Reception has been swept up in a world of mystical, magical fun this week! The children were thrilled to receive a special letter from *Meg the Witch*, who needed their help to create a powerful potion in her bubbling cauldron to break a mysterious spell.

With imagination and excitement, the children got to work mixing ingredients, making predictions, and using rich descriptive language to bring their potions to life. This enchanting experience sparked creativity, storytelling, and lots of giggles—what a spellbinding way to learn!



Y4 Indoor Climbing and Bushcraft Trip

St Margaret's Academy is spending some of the PE & Sport Premium in our partnership with Reach Outdoors. It offers our children across the school enhanced learning opportunities in outdoor education. Year 6 children started the programme with Giant SUP at Goodrington and Y4 have just experienced Indoor Climbing at the Parkfield Centre and Bushcraft at Whitehill Country Park.



Indoor climbing is a sport where participants scale artificially built walls with various handholds and footholds in a controlled, indoor environment, often a climbing gym. It replicates the experience of climbing natural rock faces but is more accessible and offers various disciplines, including bouldering (short routes without ropes) and top-roping (a rope secured at the top). The children enjoyed developing their physical strength, balance, and technique, alongside mental skills like problem-solving and focus. They helped to support each other and some even achieved the highest routes.

Bushcraft is a set of practical skills and a way of life centred on using natural resources to survive and thrive in a wilderness environment with minimal tools. Key bushcraft skills include shelter building, fire-craft, foraging for food and water, tool making from natural materials, natural navigation, and understanding local flora and fauna. The practice emphasizes self-sufficiency, respect for the environment, and a deep connection with nature. The children loved being outside in nature and they will always have a fun memories of the smells and taste of roasting marshmallows on the fire.

Year 2 Explore Our School Grounds

This week, Year 2 have been making the most of our beautiful school grounds to deepen their understanding of geography. As part of their topic on *Human and Physical Features*, the children explored the environment around them, identifying natural elements such as trees, grass, and soil, alongside human-made features like buildings, fences, and playground equipment.

Through hands-on activities and guided discussions, pupils developed their ability to observe, describe, and classify the world around them. It's been a wonderful way to connect classroom learning with the real world—and to appreciate the unique setting we're lucky to have here at St Margaret's!



ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



Staff Updates—Best Wishes and Welcome

As we approach the half-term break, we say a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to Mrs Staveley, who will be leaving St Margaret's to begin an exciting travelling adventure with her husband. We are incredibly grateful for the care, dedication, and warmth she has brought to our school community—both in the After School Club and in the school office.

Mrs Staveley has been a valued member of our team, always ready with a smile and a helping hand. She will be greatly missed by staff, pupils, and families alike, and we wish her all the very best for the journey ahead.

As we say goodbye, we also look forward to welcoming Ms Cheeseworth, who will be joining our front office team after the half-term break. We're excited to have her on board and know she'll be a wonderful addition to our school.

As Mrs Westwood begins her maternity leave, we send her our warmest wishes and heartfelt congratulations. We hope this special time is filled with joy, rest, and wonderful memories. We can't wait to share the news when your little one arrives in the coming weeks.

We're also delighted to welcome Mr Johnson, who will be joining Birch Class after the half-term break. We look forward to having him as part of our St Margaret's community and wish him every success in his new role.

Living Out Our Aspirations

Please remember to share with the school your child/ren personal achievements, which demonstrates our school values for life in action. We would love to hear more! If your child has received personal recognition, achieved something special in the community, or has a story they're proud of, please do share it with us. We'd be delighted to celebrate these moments together at school.

This week we celebrated Fletcher from Year 6, who represented Devon, competing against gymnasts from 11 other counties from the South West. He performed two separate tumbling runs that included tuck backs, forward flicks, and round offs, and we're thrilled to share that he won gold - his first independent gold medal since joining the Torbay Olympic Gymnastics Squad in 2023. Well done Fletcher we are super proud of you, the hard work and commitment has really paid off.



A Christmas Clear-Out for a Good Cause

As you begin sorting out at home over the half-term break in readiness for Christmas, we'd be so grateful for any donations to support play and learning across the school.

We're currently looking for:

Small world toys (e.g. figures, animals, vehicles)

Pots, pans, and utensils for our **mud kitchen**

Props for the home corner (e.g. pretend food, dress-up items, household items)

Children's story books in good condition



If you have any of these items to spare, please feel free to drop them off at the school office after half term. Your generosity makes a big difference—thank you so much for your continued support!

Join Our Team at St Margaret's!

We're pleased to share that we currently have **vacancies** at St Margaret's Academy. If you're passionate about education and would like to be part of our dedicated and supportive team, we'd love to hear from you!

For more information and to view the available roles, please visit the [Vacancies](#) section on our school website.

Poppy Appeal—Supporting Remembrance Together

We're pleased to share that the poppy merchandise has arrived in school, ready for distribution after the half-term break. To support this important cause, we'd love to involve our School Councillors in helping to distribute the items.

We're planning for sales to take place during the last hour of the day on:

Wednesday 5th November
Thursday 6th November
Friday 7th November



This is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to take part in a meaningful initiative and support the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. Thank you for your continued support.

I wish you a wonderful half term break to rest, recharge and spend quality time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 3rd November.

Take care,

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer
Headteacher





Carers' Celebration Event

• Celebration • Support • Information •

Saturday, 22 November 2025

10.00am – 2.00pm. Paignton Library.

Two out of three of us will be a Carer for family, friends or neighbours at some time in our lives. Most of us do not think of themselves as Carers, and most do not realise the support that is available, until it gets to crisis point.

You may already be caring and need to look after your own health, or you may want to plan for the person you care for.

Find out more about the support available to you.

Information, Advice & Guidance

Family Friendly activities

Free Tea/Coffee and Cake

and much, much more.

Website: www.tsdfc.uk/Carers

Facebook: TorbayCarers

Tel: 01803 208455

Torbay Carers | Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

Kingskerswell Amateur Theatre Society
Proudly Presents

Cinderella

Contact
kingskerswellats@gmail.com

Follow us on 
facebook.com/kingskerswellats

Tickets Available
Via


Written by Alan P Frayn
Directed by Heather Jenkins & Nathan Swain-Sachs

1st - 7th December 2025
Kingskerswell Village Hall

  *With Live Music!*

Performed under licence by Stage Right Creative

ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION





'I had never climbed before. I was scared of heights. But I climbed and rang the bell all by myself and felt really proud of myself'

Poonam



Brownies



**Girls have nonstop fun,
learning and adventure**
for ages 7 to 10

At Brownies, we welcome all girls to explore their creative side, get out into the great outdoors and start to learn to look after themselves, others and the world we live in.




Registered charity number: 306016

Join a local Brownies group girlguiding.org.uk/joinus



Girlguiding

**We help all girls know they
can do anything**

Volunteer with Girlguiding

It's totally flexible and there's no commitment too small. You can volunteer in a group or use your skills behind the scenes, you don't need any guiding experience and everyone is welcome!

Find out more
girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer

Registered charity number: 306016



Girlguiding contact information:

Name: LESLEY NARSH
Email: lwnash1951@hotmail.com
Call: 07522 789153








3 hours of Spooky Tennis fun during October half term!



Wednesday 29th October



9am to 12 noon (drop off from 8.45am)



Ages 5 to 11



Cary Park Tennis Club



Halloween costumes are encouraged, but not required!

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BradleyBrownCoaching/Coaching/Camps>

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27th October—2nd November 2025	Half Term Holiday
31st October 2025	Deadline for Y6 applications for secondary school
3rd November 2025	First Day Back for Children Y6 Maple Swim Session
5th November—6th November 2025	Poppy Merchandise for Sale at School
6th November 2025	Year 2 St. Marychurch Walk—Field Trip
10th November 2025	Y6 Maple Swim Session
13th November 2025	Individual School Photos
17th November 2025	Y6 Maple Swim Session
17th November –21st November 2025	Book Fair in School Hall 15.00
18th November 2025	Y3/4 Football Vs Barton—Home
24th November 2025	Pupil Progress Meetings Y6 Maple Swim Session
26th November—28th November 2025	Pupil Progress Meetings
29th November 2025	Y3 Trip to Kent's Cavern
1st December 2025	Y6 Maple Swim Session
1st December—2nd December 2025	Pupil Progress Meetings
5th December 2025	PTA Santa's Grotto
8th December 2025	Y5 Birch Swim Session Y4 Trip to Torquay Museum Reception, Y1 & Y2 Christmas Dinner Day
9th December 2025	Y3 & Y4 Christmas Dinner Day
10th December 2025	Y5 & Y6 Christmas Dinner Day



Beech	Otis	A huge well done to Otis for an amazing week of learning! You have worked so hard in all your subjects, showing great focus and enthusiasm. We are especially proud of your fantastic writing in Drawing Club, it's been so lovely to see your wonderful ideas come to life on the page!
Pine	Violet	Violet has really impressed us over the last few weeks. She has made a superb change in attitude towards her work, especially trying really hard with her writing and believing that she CAN DO IT! Well done Violet.
Apple	Finley	Finley has had such a fantastic week. He has impressed us with his responsibility in class. We have noticed how focused he has become, setting a good example to those around him, and he has produced some amazing writing during our independent write. Keep this up Finley!
Oak	Hattie	Hattie is a fantastic learner as she is always motivated to do her best and be ready for each learning job. Her listening and participation in the maths lesson has been amazing. Well done Hattie, you are a star!
Willow	Aditi	Willow's star of the week is Aditi. She has shown fantastic determination during her maths learning this week. Although she has found things tricky, she never gave up and has shown some brilliant improvements. Well done Aditi.
Holly	Jess	Our star this week is Jess. She is always showing kindness and respect to those around her. She has been really trying her hardest this week and keeps up the positivity even when she is finding something challenging. Well done Jess!
Cherry	Emerson	For your fantastic adventure story about 'Milo and the Savannah Rescue!' You used all of our mastery keys in your writing and more - so aspirational! Well done Emerson
Hazel	Cain	Cain has really impressed the adults in Hazel this week with his responsibility and aspiration. Cain always wants to be challenged with his learning, he is always doing the right thing and sets a very positive example to his peers. We are so proud of you, Cain. Keep it up!
Rowan	Lewis	Lewis is the star of the week in Rowan Class for his wonderful work in geography. He has displayed a great understanding of oceans and currents and was able to share this confidently with the rest of the class. Well done Lewis.
Birch	Logan	The star of the week in Birch goes to somebody who has been trying their absolute hardest to make the right choices and show aspiration in class. Logan, you have impressed me so much this week with your attitude at school. A special mention from Mrs Morgan as well who was amazed by your effort in Geography. Well done!
Hawthorn	Darcy	Our Star is our newest member of the Super Six - Darcy - For showing excellent aspiration with her learning and striving to always achieve her best! Well done Darcy!
Maple	Felix	Our star of the week has tried really hard this first half term and adapted really well to life in Year 6. He has worked very hard on his reading, even completing his star test twice due to computer issues! Well done, Felix!