

St Margaret's Academy

HANDS – FACE – SPACE ----- ACT AS IF YOU'VE GOT IT

Dear Parents,

You've made it! For those of you who have been slogging it out at home teaching your children, it's time to hand back the baton and take a deserved break. We've been using this week to prepare for welcoming everybody back. There is a lot of information in this newsletter to help keep you informed so take a deep breath and happy reading.

Start and End of the School Day from 8th March

Year Group	Earliest Time to Enter School Grounds	Lessons Start (Late mark recorded after this time)	Collection Time at the End of the School Day
Reception	8.20am	8.30am	2.40pm
Year 1	8.20am	8.30am	2.40pm
Year 2	8.25am	8.35am	2.45pm
Year 3	8.30am	8.40am	2.50pm
Year 4	8.30am	8.40am	2.50pm
Year 5	8.35am	8.45am	2.55pm
Year 6	8.35am	8.45am	2.55pm

Plans for the 4 Weeks before Easter

When we come back on Monday, teaching staff will be focussing on supporting a successful return to school and celebrating being back. We know many children might be feeling both anxious and excited so there will be a big emphasis on PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education). One of the earliest activities will be creating a class charter of expectations with the children based on our school values: *kindness, respect, responsibility and aspiration*. Teaching staff will be sharing our updated Behaviour Policy with their class and Mr Tullier's school council will be working on creating a child-friendly version to be in place before Easter.

As always, promoting and nurturing strong relationships will be at the heart of all we do. This will be especially important for supporting all of us whose mental health has been affected again by this lockdown and pandemic. Mrs Wills in our Nurture team has found this article that might

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The school calendar has now been updated with all the holiday dates on the website until the end of August 2022. You can also find a downloadable pdf for the academic year 2021-2022 on the parent and carer page; quick link [here](#).

Friday 19th March is Red Nose Day in aid of Comic Relief. Any donation however small is much appreciated. Advance notice that we are asking children and staff **not** to wear a red nose to help support good hygiene. Instead, it's wear something red.

Thursday 1st April, we are having a dress-up day as a book character. This is a bit of fun as we haven't been able to do it this week for World Book Day. We will use the opportunity to raise the profile and love of reading. Our school library and class collections of books are looking quite thin so we are politely asking if you might have some good quality reading books at home that you wouldn't mind donating on this day. I'll put a reminder out about this closer to the time.

help you prepare your child for returning

https://www.traumainformedschools.co.uk/images/preparing_your_child_for_the_return_to_school.jpg

Our '5-a-day' for mental health might also help. *HI FLK* stands for **H**ealthy (exercise feels good), **I** (time for yourself feels good), **F**riends (staying connected and having a chat feels good), **L**earning (it feels good to learn new things) and **K** (doing kind things for others feels good)

Once children have settled and everybody is clear about the expectations for working and interacting with each other, we will be putting a big emphasis on reading. From Monday, in-class lessons and interventions are already planned to start. For many children, especially our youngest, the curriculum will be adapted to enable a greater focus on speech and language, and teaching social interaction skills. Teaching staff will be assessing and addressing gaps so that by Easter we once again have a clear understanding of where we all are.



Home School Agreements

The *Home School Agreements* have been revised and agreed with governors. These will be discussed with children in class. Two copies will then be coming home early next week. Please can you discuss it with your children, keep one at home for reference, and sign and return one copy to the class teacher.

Clubs

School activity clubs planned for this spring term will be starting again on Monday and are open for booking from now until 8.00pm on Sunday evening, 7th March. If you previously booked a place before this lockdown started, your child's place is still secure.

Breakfast and After School Clubs are still running as they have been through lockdown. Breakfast Club is available from 8.00am and After School Club runs until 5.00pm currently. These are available to support your working pattern. If there is a demand to run the After School Club until later, we are happy to consider this. Please do let us know your thoughts so we can assess if it is viable.

If you would like to book your child into any of these clubs please do so through the School Gateway.

Upcoming Events

Given that there has been significant communication between teachers and yourselves during this lockdown and you report being very happy with this in your feedback, there will be no scheduled Parents Evenings this term. However, if you would like to make an appointment to talk to your child's class teacher you are very welcome to do so by contacting them directly by the class email and they will be happy to set up a phone call or video call.

On Wednesday 24th March 6.00-7.00pm you are invited to a video-call meeting on our updated Behaviour Policy. We have been doing a lot of work in school developing this policy with all staff and governors. Your children will be involved in this to produce a child-friendly version when they return. We are keen to get your views also and hope you will be able to attend this meeting with myself, Mrs Pike and Mrs Essam. It will be a chance for you to hear about our approach and for you to ask questions and contribute to the policy. If you would like to attend please email adminteam@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk and give them an email address for the video link to be sent to.

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Smiles and Curriculum News

How time flies, so the cliché goes. We now have 12 months of smiles pages full of smiles. These started back in March 2020 with the intention of helping to raise coronavirus spirits in this tough time. We hope they have helped in some small way. If you want a smile, they are still there for you to review. They provide a nice time line for some of the smiles that have kept us all going over the year. Click [here](#) to start at the start and look back.



Have a look in 'Smiles in February 2021' to see the results and mouth-watering photos from [Year 5s' amazing bake off challenge](#).

Have a look in the Design Technology Blog to find out how Year 1 got on with their [pizza muffin making](#) last week. In the 'Smiles in March 2021' you can see some fun pictures of [Year 3 indoors and out](#).



World Book Day

Look in our [Reading Blog](#) to find all the stories and photos from World Book Day this year. You will need to download the PowerPoint presentation that Mrs Turner has created to see the brilliant characters made from toilet rolls. It is well worth a look and it will certainly bring a smile. Well done to everybody who contributed.



Top Dog! Well done to Ella - a very talented artist - in Year 4 who crafted Odd Dog from toilet rolls as part of World Book Day; certainly one of the best.

Cuthbert Mayne Music Video

Please can I remind you about the Cuthbert Mayne music video. The Rev. Nathan has had only one entry from St Margaret's but there is still room for many more (vocals are especially needed!). Please find the letter from our Music Lead, Mrs Posey, which was sent previously with all the information on. Thank you.

Thanks to the Hearing Support Team

Lockdown has not always given us challenges, it has also provided opportunities. For example, many of our Hearing Impaired children have thrived during this time in developing their communication, social skills and education. This is thanks to our wonderful team headed up by our Teacher of the Deaf, Mrs Saunders. Thank you to them all for their

IMPORTANT

UNIFORM

Children need to return in their uniform. If you are worried your child might have grown out of their uniform and the cost of buying another one with only half a school year left, help is at hand. *Punk Against Poverty* on Union Street offer free uniforms to anybody in need and that they have St Margaret's in stock as well as ones for other schools. You can contact them on 07828 829903 or email punkapic@gmail.com.

ATTENDANCE

The government has made it clear that all primary-aged pupils are expected to return to full time education on Monday 8th March. Normal attendance procedures will resume from this time, including the expectation that children attend punctually. If your child arrives after the start time of their lessons, they will have a 'Late' mark. If they arrive 20 minutes after the start of their lessons, they will have an unauthorised absence recorded. Unauthorised absences can lead to a financial penalty. We will resume tracking and promoting good attendance in school. I am very keen to work with you on this so please do get in touch if you have any concerns. I do appreciate the many pressures we face as parents. Thank you again for your support.

flexibility, hard work and extra hours to make this happen: Mrs Down, Mrs Doolan, Miss Lees, Miss Brennan and Mrs Williams.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing at Home

You may be aware that last weekend the government announced they would be making LFD testing available for household and bubble members of children (primary and secondary age). *Note: this is not for primary-aged children.* Staff in school have been completing a LFD test twice weekly since 26th January. Now it's your turn. The Local Authority is setting up a test / collect system that will be ready from 21st March (more information to follow soon). In the meantime if you want to get going you can order your tests directly from central government: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. More information about this can be found in the letter from the Director for Public Health that was emailed out to you earlier today.

In case you didn't know, the LFD tests are for asymptomatic testing and are not the same as the PCR test which is used to test if you have symptoms.

How you can help us all to Stay Safe

1. 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.*
2. Wear face masks on the school site.
3. Keep 2 metres from others.
4. Only enter the school site at the correct time.
5. 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.
6. Please stick to the one-way system (no entry by the rear gate which is exit only)
7. Only one adult to collect or drop-off

PE Days

Children should attend school in their PE kits on PE days. To help you with this, here is a timetable for those days:

Class	PE Days
Reception – Ash and Elm	Monday
Year 1 – Pine and Beech	Tuesday and Friday
Year 2 – Apple and Oak	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 3 – Birch and Rowan	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 4 – Cherry	Monday
Year 4 – Hazel	Wednesday and Friday
Year 5 – Willow	Thursday and Friday
Year 5 – Holly	Wednesday and Friday
Year 6 – Maple and Hawthorn	Wednesday and Friday

Reminder - Are you struggling to put food on the table or find the money to turn on the heating?

If you have answered yes to this question, please do get in touch with the school office. Torbay Council is using the Covid Winter Grants Scheme to help. We can refer in on your behalf. This offer to families is in addition to the normal support and if eligible you will receive a one-off payment of £77 per household. Payments can be in the form of vouchers, or directly onto your smart meter account or online billing account.

Reminder - Online Safety Support for Families

I raise this important area again because there are increasing concerns given the amount of time young people are now spending on the World Wide Web. Four points to help you:

- *Think You Know* website (linked to our school website home page)
- Kara, Winston and the SMART Crew on www.childnet.com
- www.saferinternet.org
- Being curious about your child's on-line world is really good way of helping stay in touch with what they're up to. Try open questions like, "do you ever come across anything that worries you online?"

Reminder: Support from Torbay Children's Services

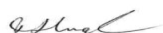
Hopefully you managed to read the message from Children's Services that went out in a letter yesterday. I've added the letter to our website on the '[Supporting Families](#)' page under 'Well-being in Action' for your reference. Some headline reminders from the letter:

- For online help and anonymous support head to www.kooth.com
- If you feel a child is in immediate danger, please call 999
- If you are worried about a child please call the Torbay Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on 01803 208100 or email mash@torbay.gov.uk. Out of hours please call 0300 4564 876
- Alternatively you can contact Torbay Community Helpline 01803 446022
- If you are a young person worried about your own safety or that of a friend call 01803 208100. If you need someone to talk to call Childline on 0800 1111

If you are pregnant or have a child under the age of 4 you might be eligible for these vouchers from the local authority. Check out the link here: <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/news/pr8286/>

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Enjoy your weekend.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)