



# St Margaret's Academy

## ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

### Autumn Newsletter #11

Dear Parents and Carers,

The festive season is upon us, and we are thrilled to celebrate with a full calendar of Christmas cheer! From joyful carol singing to heartwarming productions and community gatherings, this is a special time for our school family.

To make sure you don't miss any of the wonderful festivities, please check the school calendar and read the latest school messages regularly. These will include key dates, event details, and important notifications.

Let's come together to make this Christmas season truly magical for our children and community!

Thank you so much for your support in making sure our little ones have coats, gloves, and scarves as we head into the colder months. Regardless of the weather, we aim to give all children the chance to enjoy fresh air every day, so warm layers are truly important and greatly appreciated.

### Parent and Carer Consultations

I hope you found this week's consultation evenings informative, with more planned for next week. These meetings are a great opportunity to gain a clear understanding of the progress your child has made since returning to school in September—or since joining us. I've already received very positive feedback, so thank you for your engagement and support.

### Year 1—Design Technology

In DT, our Year 1 children have been busy designing and creating play equipment using everyday materials such as cardboard, straws, paper, tape, and sticks. Their creativity has been incredible! I've included a document with pictures showcasing some of the amazing designs they've produced—please take a look and celebrate their fantastic work.



## Christmas Cinema Treat for Years 2—6

We are excited to share that children in Years 2 to 6 will be taking part in a free Christmas treat courtesy of the PTA!

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, pupils will leave school after morning registration (approximately 9:10am) and walk in convoy with staff and parent/ carer volunteers to the cinema.

Once at the cinema, the children will enjoy a complimentary movie and popcorn. If you would prefer your child not to have popcorn, please inform the school office or your child's class teacher.

Please ensure your child brings:

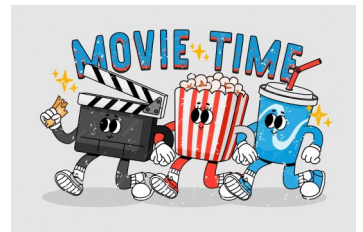
- A coat (to keep warm during the walk)
- A water bottle (as drinks will not be provided)

We will leave the cinema at 11:50am and walk back to school in time for the normal lunchtime routine.



While Years 2–6 are at the cinema, children in Reception and Year 1 will enjoy a complimentary Christmas movie (rated U) at school. Please see the attached poster for movie details.

A massive thank you to the parents and carers that have offered to support with the walk to and from the Cinema on Wednesday. If you are still interested in supporting, please let the school office know. Thank you.



## Christmas Dinner at St Margaret's Academy

We're excited for the festive Christmas dinners that our amazing catering team have planned for the whole school community!

Please check out the poster below for:

The date of your child's Christmas Dinner

The delicious menu options available throughout the



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### Christmas Menu

Roast Turkey served with Chipolata, stuffing ball, Roast Potatoes and seasonal vegetables  
Veggie option: Christmas Parcel served with Roast Potatoes and seasonal vegetables

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December**  
RECEPTION, YEAR 1 & 2 ONLY  
All other year groups can order a Tuna or cheese packed lunch only

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**  
YEAR 3 & 4 ONLY  
All other year groups can order a Tuna or cheese packed lunch only

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**  
YEAR 5 & 6 ONLY  
All other year groups can order a Tuna or cheese packed lunch only

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December -Normal Day**  
Sausage roll  
Veggie Sausage roll  
Organic ice lolly

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December -Normal Day**  
Fish Fingers  
Veggie Quiche  
Jacket Potato  
Dessert Buffet



## Effective Communication: Working together for Your Child's Success

At St Margaret's Academy, we believe that strong communication between home and school is the foundation of every child's success. When we work together and share information clearly, we can ensure the very best outcomes for your child. To make this as easy as possible, here is a simple guide to the best ways to get in touch with us:

### For General Inquiries

**Email:** Contact the school office at [adminteam@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk](mailto:adminteam@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk). We aim to respond within two working days during term time.

**Website & Updates:** For less urgent matters, please check our school website, calendar, or school messages, which are updated regularly.

### For Urgent Matters

- **Phone:** Call the main office on **01803 327090** during the school day.
- **Important Note:** Please do not use personal email accounts or social media for urgent requests, as these channels are not monitored for immediate response.
- **Safeguarding:** If your concern relates to safeguarding, email the school office and request contact with our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mrs Turner.

**Specialist Staff:** If you need to speak to a senior leader or specialist (e.g., SEND, Pastoral or Senior Leader), please indicate this in your email or phone call so we can direct you to the right person.

### Quick Reminders

We will continue to use school communication texts and emails for important, last-minute reminders about events such as class assemblies or parent-teacher meetings.

### Building Our Relationship

- **Informal Conversations:** Quick updates can often be shared at the beginning or end of the school day.
- **Longer Discussions:** To arrange a more detailed conversation, please contact your child's teacher via the school office or by using the class email address (e.g., [pine@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk](mailto:pine@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk) ).
- **Events:** We look forward to seeing you at parent-teacher meetings and other school events throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain open and effective communication. Together, we can ensure the best outcomes for your child.

## Promoting Kindness Across our School Community

As we approach the season of Advent, let us all make a conscious effort to promote and share kindness in every interaction. Advent is a time of hope, reflection, and generosity—what better way to prepare than by showing kindness to one another?

On Monday, I will be celebrating the importance of kindness in my assembly and encouraging everyone to notice, appreciate, and thank others for the kindness they show. Whether it's a smile, a helping hand, or a thoughtful word, these small acts make a big difference.



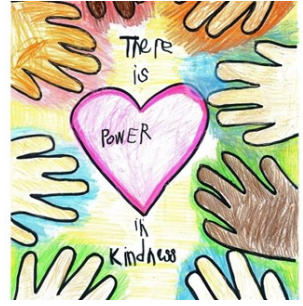
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## Why Kindness Matters

- It strengthens our community.
- It creates a positive and welcoming environment.
- It inspires others to do the same.



## Quote of the Week

*"Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give."*

Let's work together to make kindness the heart of everything we do this Advent season. Thank you for joining me in this effort to make our school an even stronger and more caring community.

Wishing all our families a wonderful weekend! Thank you for your continued support and partnership – we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday, ready for another great week of learning and togetherness.

*Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer*

*Headteacher*

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## Seasonal Events—Courtesy of Our Fabulous PTA

Please check out the poster below for all the exciting upcoming events that our amazing PTA has planned as we prepare for the season of joy, love, laughter, and Christmas! If any parents are available to support with walking to and from the cinema on Wednesday 3rd December, please can you let the school office know as we are just in the process of finalising details and risk assessments for the visit.

ST MARGARET'S  
ACADEMY PTA  
PRESENTS ...



*Santas Grotto*

WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS JUMPERS!

FRI 5 DEC.

DURING SCHOOL HOURS

THIS IS A FREE EVENT  
PROVIDED BY THE PTA

5th Dec

ST MARGARET'S ACADEMY  
PTA

# Annual Class Christmas Tree Competition

WHOLE CLASS TREAT  
FOR KS1 & KS2  
WINNERS!

Each class will be given a Christmas tree to decorate.

Decorated trees will form part of our Santas Grotto on the 5<sup>th</sup> December and will be judged by an impartial guest!

ST MARGARETS  
ACADEMY PTA

# HOME ALONE

*Christmas*

## Cinema Trip

Years 2 - 6

Wednesday 3rd December

During School Hours

New Central Cinema,  
Torquay

PG

THIS IS A FREE EVENT FOR THE CHILDREN, FUNDED & ARRANGED BY THE PTA.  
THIS FILM IS RATED PG. IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD TO WATCH THE  
FILM, PLEASE MAKE THE OFFICE STAFF AWARE ASAP.

ST MARGARETS  
ACADEMY PTA

## Shaun the Sheep

*The Flight  
Before  
Christmas*

### Reception & Year 1

*With Cookies & Milk*

Wednesday 3rd December

At School During School Hours

THIS IS A FREE EVENT FOR THE CHILDREN, FUNDED & ARRANGED BY THE PTA.  
IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD TO WATCH THE FILM, PLEASE MAKE THE  
OFFICE STAFF AWARE ASAP.

# Diary Dates

1st December 2025	Y6 Maple Swim Session
1st December—2nd December 2025	Pupil Progress Meetings
3rd December 2025	Year2—Year 6 PTA Cinema Trip
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
11th December 2025	11.00—11.45—EYFS Christmas Church Service for Parents 14.00—15.30 KS1 Christmas Nativity Play 15.15—16.15 Y3/4 Football Vs Sherwell Valley
15th December 2025	Y5 Birch Swim Session (Cancelled) 13.30—14.30 KS2 Carol Service at Church
19th December 2025	End of Term
20th December 2025—5th January 2026	Last Day of Term
Monday 5th January 2026	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 6th January 2026	First Day Back for Children

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Ash	Rex	For his fab Fred fingers and Fred talk this week! Fred and all of your teachers are so proud of you - Well done Rex
Elm	Albie	For fabulous focus and sitting in class. Using fantastic Fred Talk and spellings.
Beech	Alfie	Well done, Alfie, for showing great effort and amazing confidence in your learning! You have also been very responsible by talking to adults when you need help or support. Keep up the good work.
Pine	Oliver	Oliver is our star this week for his incredibly effort and enthusiasm when singing our Christmas Nativity songs!
Apple	Skyla	Skyla has amazed us with her aspirational attitude this week. She has tried so hard with her writing and has produced some fantastic pieces of work. Her hand is always up, asking relevant questions, showing just how much she is paying attention. Skyla, you are a star and really deserve this!
Oak	Mirielle	Mirielle is our Star as she is an amazing learner and she always helps others. She is motivated and ready to do her best in the lessons and she takes pride in the presentation of her work. You are a super star Mirielle - well done!
Willow	Everyone!	Willow's star of the week is everyone. Miss Scaife and I are so impressed by the responsibility shown by everyone. They represented St Margaret's perfectly and we can't wait to take them out of school again!
Holly	Harry	This week Harry has been trying his hardest in his maths work to challenge himself. Today at Kents Cavern he joined in with the learning and encouraged his friends to do the same. Well done Harry, keep it up!
Cherry	Jackson	Jackson has been extremely focused and motivated this week. In particular your writing has stood out this week and you tried hard to use possessive apostrophes in your sentences. Well done Jackson!
Hazel	Pippa	Hazel's star this week is Pippa. Pippa has worked incredibly hard this week on her responsibility and has made excellent progress - both inside the classroom and out! Pippa also showcases our kindness value all the time and we are so proud of you! Keep it up, Pip!
Rowan	Eva	Eva is the star of the week in Rowan class for her aspirational attitude in writing. She has been challenging herself to use ambitious vocabulary and has been developing her written ideas to engage the reader. Well done Eva.
Birch	Skye	Skye is our star of the week for showing fantastic willingness in writing lessons. We've seen a big improvement in your engagement and a growing sense of pride in your work. I was so excited to share this news at parents' evening — your parents are so proud of you as well.
Hawthorn	Lily	Lily is our aspirational star this week for showing focus on her tasks and determination to improve through checking and editing. Lily, Well Done you are showing a very mature approach and will be our newest member of the Super 6 club!
Maple	Ruby	Our star of the week is Ruby, who has shown great aspiration and resilience when tackling multiplying and dividing fractions. Well done, Ruby, keep going!