



St Margaret's
Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter #1
29th November 2024

Dear Parents,

Happy health 2025 to you all. I hope you've all had the best Christmas.

Routines

Supporting children to get back into a routine can be tricky. On our website under 'Useful Resources for Parents' you can find 10 helpful tips titled, '[Tips for helping with Routines](#)' that cover *start small and early, revisit the schedule, create a sleep plan, encourage friendships, grant responsibility, focus on nutrition, reconnect with learning, prep together and be patient and flexible.*

New Head Teacher News

I'm excited to be able to update you with news of my successor. We were very fortunate to have a strong field of interested candidates from local schools and out of area. Three strong candidates from this field were shortlisted and attended for a two-day interview shortly before the Christmas break. After a full programme of tasks over the two days, I am really pleased to inform you that trustees chose Mrs Nicola O'Dwyer to take over from me at the start of the summer term. Mrs O'Dwyer is currently a Head Teacher in Shropshire with the passion and experience to develop close community links and a strong curriculum. She is a great fit for our school and I am really confident and happy to be handing over the reins to her. I'm sure she will maintain that essential relational approach that is so important to us here and will help the school to further improve.

Parent Survey

Thank you for your feedback in the parent survey in December. We have digested your views and discussed at our training on Monday. It is really good to know what you think we are doing well and what isn't working as well. If you raised some individual constructive suggestions / concerns you should see some changes where necessary.

High Aspirations

During the week beginning Monday 27th January, we are planning various events for the children to give them different insights into possible careers of the future. While it might seem a distant future for them, our research into helping raise children's aspirations, shows that the primary ages are good years to get children dreaming big and thinking about their futures. Across the week we have visiting guests (in person and virtually) talking about their jobs and how they got there. It's very exciting.

The conclusion to the week – on Friday 31.1.25 – is an 'Aspirations Day' when we are asking all the children to come to school dressed as somebody they might be in a job in the future.

Curriculum News

In the Arts Blog you can see how [Year 3](#) have been inspired in their printing by the artist, Ruth Thomas.

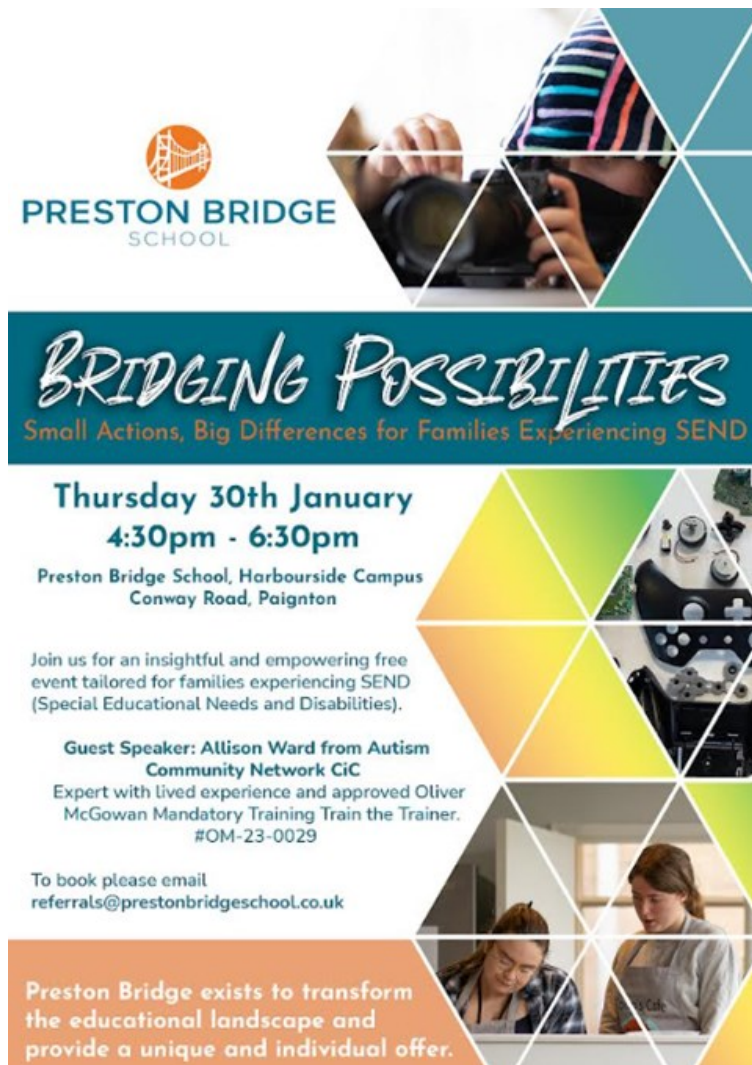
Piano and Singing Lessons

If you are interested in your child having private lessons for piano or singing, check out the offer from Blossoms. More info on our Parent Resources page: click [here](#).

SEND Neurodiversity Support for Parents

The SEND Family Voice Torbay service is available to parents to book on various events to help with support for autism, communication and positive relationships, sensory difficulties and transitions. You can find all this on our [website](#) under 'Parents' – 'Useful Resources for Parents'. Well worth a look.

Free Event for SEND Support



PRESTON BRIDGE SCHOOL

BRIDGING POSSIBILITIES

Small Actions, Big Differences for Families Experiencing SEND

Thursday 30th January
4:30pm - 6:30pm

Preston Bridge School, Harbourside Campus
Conway Road, Paignton

Join us for an insightful and empowering free event tailored for families experiencing SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

Guest Speaker: Allison Ward from Autism Community Network CiC
Expert with lived experience and approved Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training Train the Trainer.
#OM-23-0029

To book please email
referrals@prestonbridgeschool.co.uk

Preston Bridge exists to transform the educational landscape and provide a unique and individual offer.

ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



Our Amazon Book Wish List

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/FOD16NCSLQOX?ref_=wl_share

Help with Rising Costs - Reminders

Riviera Life Church Food and Baby Bank – [link here](#). We can make a referral for you or phone 07486 402493

Household Support Fund – if you are on a welfare benefit / tax credit or have a disposable income of less than £50 per week:

[Household Support Fund - Torbay Council](#)

Do you need help with child care? If so, try this website: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>
Help for households – very useful government website: <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

This community kitchen has some very affordable meal options and is well worth a look: <https://www.turningheads.org.uk/community-kitchen/>

The PTA has lots of quality school uniform for a small donation – see their FB page
Martin Lewis: <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/>

Free uniform and help with rising costs: <https://www.punkagainstopoverty.org/>

Try here for cheaper broadband: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy 2025.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)

ACTIVE THINKING



RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION



Diary Dates

31st January 2025	Aspirations Day—Children come dressed as someone they might want to be when they're older
W/C 17th February 2025	Half Term
24th February 2025	First day back for children
W/C 7th April 2025	Easter Holidays
22nd April 2025	First day back for children
5th May 2025	Bank Holiday
W/C 26th May 2025	Half Term
3rd June 2025	First day back for children
24th July 2024	Final day for the children