

St Margaret's Academy

Dear Parents,

I can't quite believe that we're back here in this challenging situation of only being partially open and back to home learning. It must be a real challenge for you and your children. While it has been lovely for us to see some of the children back this week, it is certainly overshadowed by the sadness of not seeing everyone back.

If your child is learning from home, you should by now have had the initial teacher briefings and hopefully you're up to speed with our plans and how you can support at home. You should also have heard from your child's teacher directly to further facilitate good communication during this time. I'd like to thank the teachers at this time as I know they've been burning the candles at both ends to make the home learning happen, communicate with you and set up the in-school lessons to make sure they link with home – all at very short notice, having already planned for a normal return – a really incredible effort and response.

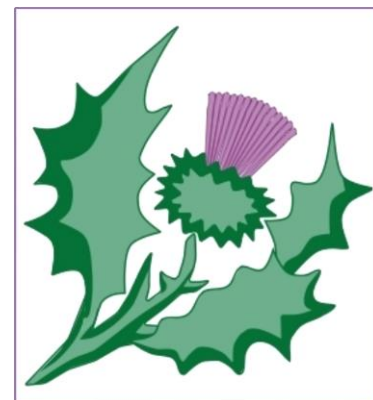
Senior Leadership Team and Chair of Governors

As you might recall from my communication before Christmas, we have started this term with a new staffing structure to the school. A part of this is the new-look SLT. As a reminder, this comprises of myself, Mrs Pike (Deputy Head Teacher), Mrs Turner (Assistant Head Teacher, heading up FS/KS1), Mr Marchant (Assistant Head Teacher, heading up KS2) and Mrs Colmer who is our Business Manager. One of us is on the gate in the morning or after school during the week if you need an informal chat. We can also be contacted via the school office if you need a longer meeting or you're not around in the mornings or afternoons.

We also have our excellent Chair of Governors, James Bennett, who works closely with us and as a parent of two children in the school himself, is able to give us a good view from the parent perspective. I know James is also very happy to be available should you want to speak to him and again, you can make contact with him via the school office

Home Learning

We are keen to make the home learning provision as effective as possible particularly because we don't want to lose the excellent momentum in learning we built over the autumn term. To this end it would be really helpful to hear your views. Mrs Turner and Mr Marchant have created a survey to facilitate this. They will repeat this in a few weeks' time and again



Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to a free school meal, we are anticipating that the voucher system will resume at some point. In the meantime if you are struggling at all in anyway, please do make contact with us and we will help you with food packs.

Given the cold weather, we will be offering hot meals to those in school, starting from Monday 18th January. More information will follow next week.

Singalong

If you enjoy a good singalong look out for weekly live singing from home at 9.00am every Tuesday. Just follow [this link](#).



when we come out of lockdown. You should have received the links below already but if you haven't yet had a chance, please can you complete the survey by clicking the relevant link below before 5.00pm on Monday 11th January. Thank you. At the time of writing this, we have already had a great response which is very helpful.

For years Reception, 1 and 2: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZBQRGCX>

For years 3, 4, 5 and 6:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5DXH9XR>

IT Support

If accessing home learning is tricky because of issues with devices or the internet, you should hopefully by now have informed us if you need a device or you need to get internet access or if you just need an increased data allowance. (Please do contact your internet provider at home as many, if not all, are offering unlimited data during this new lockdown.)

We are collating this information so we can provide you with what you need. The DfE has just released our allocation of Chrome Books so all being well we should be able to start getting these out to those of you who need them towards the end of next week.

In the HOME LEARNING section of our website (under 'Curriculum Information') you can find a useful page called '[Support for IT](#)'. Here you can find a guide to getting on to RM Unify and there is a guide to how you can use your Smart TV, X-Box and Play Station to access Google Classroom which might be especially helpful. Remember that if you need some IT support from our excellent IT team, you can email them directly IThelp@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk

We have updated our website with home learning information. You can find it under 'Curriculum Information' – '[HOME LEARNING](#)'. This is a work in progress so keep an eye on this space. Currently there are a range of resources in there to support you as parents. For example, there is excellent, easy to digest, information on how you can best support reading at home as well as the very useful guides to IT mentioned above.

Here's wishing everybody a safe spring term. Stay well



Mr Hughes Head Teacher

Important Information

If you have booked your child to attend a key worker session at school and they are unable to attend due to sickness or any other reason please call the absence line as normal to inform the office.

Keyworker Sessions

If you book your child into a keyworker/vulnerable child session and no longer require the session please cancel it yourself through the school gateway. This will enable the sessions to free up quickly for other parents that need them.

Office Hours

Office hours next week are 8.15am until 3.30pm due to reduced staffing levels.

Breakfast Club & After School Club

These will continue as normal for those children in school – please book via the School Gateway