



St Margaret's Academy

ST MARGARETS ACADEMY

Autumn Newsletter #8 7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half term break. It's lovely to see everyone back, refreshed and ready for the exciting weeks ahead!

This is such a special time of year in school life — a season filled with joy, creativity, and community spirit. As we move towards the festive period, we're thrilled to share some of the fantastic events coming up that we'd love you to be part of.

From Parent Consultations at the end of the month (invitations will be sent out next week), to our much-anticipated KS1 Christmas productions, and a variety of class-based workshops and celebrations, there will be plenty of opportunities to come together and celebrate the wonderful learning and achievements of our children.

We can't wait to welcome you into school and share these magical moments with you.



Pupil Wellbeing Survey—We Value Your Support

We kindly ask for your support in helping your child access and complete our [Pupil Wellbeing Survey](#) at home over the weekend or early next week. Their voice matters, and the feedback they provide is incredibly valuable in helping us continue to strengthen the ways we support wellbeing across the school.

This is an important opportunity for us to gain insight into how our pupils are feeling, the strategies they use to support their wellbeing, and any areas they may find challenging.



Survey Link: Click here to complete the survey—[Pupil Wellbeing Survey](#)

The results will be reviewed by our Trustees during their visit to school on Thursday 13th November. They will be working closely with staff to identify areas for further development and ensure we are providing the best possible support for all our pupils. **Together, we can make a difference.**

ACTIVE THINKING

RESILIENCE



MOTIVATION

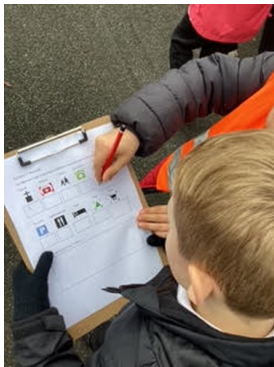
Year 2 Geography Field Trip—Exploring Our Local Area

On Thursday, Year 2 took their learning beyond the classroom and out into the local community as part of their Geography topic. The children explored the area around our school, observing different types of land use and recording their findings using tally charts.

They successfully identified all the physical features listed on their recording sheets and will now use this data to create graphs back in class — a fantastic way to bring their learning to life!

All of the children represented the school brilliantly, showing curiosity, enthusiasm, and excellent behaviour throughout the walk. They truly demonstrated our school values in action. Thank you to the parent volunteers that supported us on the Year 2 venture out.

Well done, Year 2 - we're proud of you!



Odd Socks Day—Power for Good

We're excited to be taking part in **Anti-Bullying Week 2025**, which runs from **Monday 10th to Friday 14th November**. This year's theme is "**Power for Good**", celebrating the positive influence we can all have in standing up against bullying and supporting one another.

To kick off the week, we'll be joining schools across England, Wales and Northern Ireland in celebrating **Odd Socks Day** on **Monday 10th November**. It's a fun and simple way for children (and adults!) to express what makes them unique — all you need to do is wear **odd socks** to school!

We'd love for all our pupils to take part, and we encourage you to get involved at home too. Odd Socks Day is not about fundraising — it's about celebrating individuality and spreading kindness.

Let's work together to empower our children to use their **Power for Good**.

For further information on how you can get involved at home use the link:
<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2025/parents-and-carers>



Reception's Wonderful Week of Learning

Reception have had a busy and exciting week full of creativity and curiosity! The children have been learning about the importance of Remembrance Sunday, showing great sensitivity and understanding as they explored this significant event.

They also enjoyed creating vibrant firework art, inspired by Bonfire Night, and had lots of fun exploring and building with the Tinker Trays, developing their fine motor skills and imagination.

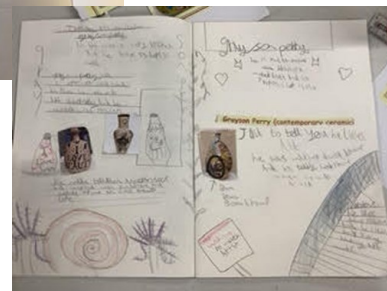
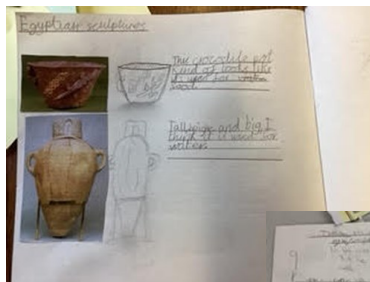
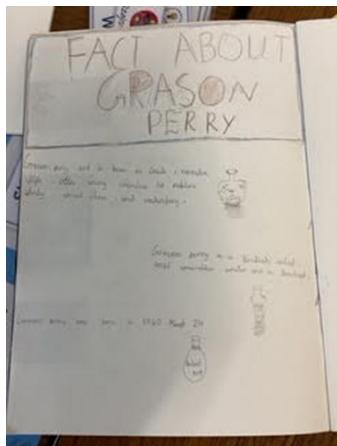
We hope you enjoy the photographs capturing these special moments — it's been a joy to see the children so engaged in their learning!



Year 4 Get Creative with Canopic Jars!

This week, Year 4 have been busy planning their exciting new Art project inspired by Ancient Egyptian canopic jars. The children have been exploring the history and purpose of these fascinating artefacts and are now designing their own versions with great creativity and imagination.

We can't wait to see their final pieces and look forward to sharing their amazing work with you soon!



Christmas Carols in Signing Club

Children in Years 3 to 6 have been working hard in Signing Club, practising Christmas carols in preparation for our upcoming concert on Friday 15th December, 1:30–2:30pm.

We are so proud of their dedication and enthusiasm — they've been learning not only the words but also the signs to bring the songs to life in a truly inclusive and heart warming way.

Well done to all involved! We can't wait to enjoy your performance and share the festive spirit with our school community.

we are super proud of you, the hard work and commitment has really paid off.



Year 6—Immersed in History and Storytelling

This week, Year 6 have been deeply engaged in their English and History learning through the powerful text *Star of Fear, Star of Hope*. The children have shown great empathy and maturity as they explored the themes of the story, speaking with pride and sensitivity about the characters and their experiences.

To bring the story to life, they even role-played a French café scene from the book, using it as inspiration for their independent writing. It was a joy to see their creativity and understanding shine through.

A special thank you to Ellis, Lennon, Oscar, Zane, and Hughie for sharing their wonderful learning with me — you spoke with such confidence and insight. Well done, Year 6!



ACTIVE THINKING



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MOTIVATION



Raising Concerns—Working Together

We always welcome open communication and are here to support you with any questions, concerns, or queries you may have. To help us respond effectively and ensure the right support is in place, we kindly ask that concerns are raised through the appropriate channels:

- You can speak in person with a member of the admin team or a staff member on the gate, who will ensure your message is passed on for follow-up.
- You are also welcome to email or call the school office, and we can arrange a phone call or meeting with the appropriate member of staff.

If your concern relates to your child's learning or wellbeing, we ask that you first speak with their class teacher. If further support is needed, please contact the relevant Key Stage Leader:

- Mrs Tandy – EYFS & Key Stage 1
- Mrs Kerswell – Key Stage 2

If the matter still requires further clarification or support, it can then be escalated to Mrs Turner or myself.

Thank you for your continued support and for working with us to ensure the best outcomes for all our children.

Exciting Art Competition!

This week, Miss Pritchard shared details of a fantastic art competition open to all children:

How to Enter:

- Create a piece of artwork on A6 or A5 card/paper (portrait or landscape)
- Use any materials you like — paint, collage, drawing, digital print — whatever inspires you!
- Write your name and age on the back of your artwork.
- Hand it in to your teacher or Miss Pritchard by Friday 12th December.



Judging & Prizes:

There are three age categories:

- Early Years & KS1
- KS2
- KS3 & KS4

A winner from each category will receive a set of art materials.

The Overall Winner will receive a half-day creative workshop with a professional Daisi artist, delivered in their school or youth group — worth approximately £400!

More information can be found here:

[Little Works, Big Difference – Participation Pack](#)

We can't wait to see the creativity and imagination our pupils bring to this exciting opportunity — good luck to everyone taking part!



Thank you for making it to the end of what has been a long — but wonderfully celebratory — newsletter! It's been a joy to share so many of the fantastic things happening across our school. We are incredibly proud of our pupils and grateful for your continued support.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend!

Take care,

Mrs Nikki O'Dwyer
Headteacher



A Reminder: We Are a Nut-Free School

Please remember that we are a nut-free school. For the safety of all our pupils, we kindly ask that you do not send your child into school with any nuts or nut-based items in their snacks or packed lunches. This includes products such as peanut butter, Nutella, and cereal bars containing nuts.

We'd also like to thank you for the great start we've made in encouraging healthy eating habits. Please continue to support this by sending your child in Key Stage 2 with a healthy snack to enjoy at snack time after morning break.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in keeping our school a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

Book Fair Reminder

Don't Forget the Book Fair is coming to School from Monday 17th to Friday 21st November from 3pm.



School Dinners Ordering School Dinners



We kindly ask for your support in ensuring that your child orders their school dinner in advance, preferably the day before, or first thing in the morning during class registration if needed.

We are currently experiencing a high number of children forgetting to place their lunch orders, which means our catering team is not always able to prepare enough meals in time for service. This can cause delays and disappointment at lunchtime.

Your help in reminding your child to order their meal will make a big difference and help us provide a smooth and enjoyable lunchtime experience for everyone.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



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	15.30—16.30 Year3/4 Football Vs Barton (Home)
24th November 2025	Pupil Progress Meetings Y6 Maple Swim Session
26th November—28th November 2025	Pupil Progress Meetings
28th 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	Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Dinner Day Y5 Birch Swim Session Year 4 Torquay Museum Trip
9th December 2025	Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Dinner Day
10th December 2025	Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Dinner Day
11th December 2025	14.00—15.30 KS1 Christmas Nativity Play 13.15—14.15 Year 3/4 Football vs Sherwell Valley (Away)
15th December 2025	Y5 Birch Swim Session 13.30—14.30 KS2 Carol Service at Church
19th December 2025	Last Day of School Term
22nd December 25—4th January 26	End of Term Holiday
6th January 2026	First Day Back for Children



Stars Of the Week to Follow on Monday

