



Autumn Term Newsletter No. 14



Our Junior children led the Christmas Carol Service at Upton Vale Baptist Church on Monday and spoke with clarity and expression. The singing was joyful and our signing choir was very accomplished. It was a beautiful service!

The PTA worked incredibly hard last Friday to set up the grotto and the stalls for our Christmas fair. Their efforts paid off as they made a profit of £705.81 so thank you for supporting the school by sending in cakes, bottles or toys and by turning up on the day to spend your money! The PTA have donated the leftover presents from Santa's grotto to the children's ward at Torbay Hospital who were very grateful.

Our Reception Children have also been thinking of others and have sent beautiful Christmas paintings to a local Residential Home to add some festive cheer. Children's art work is always special and we are glad it is now being appreciated by all the residents.



Thank you to the Reception Children's families who joined in with our Craft Afternoon this week. The children always love having their families come in to school! Glitter, glue and tinsel everywhere but all cleared away - thank you!



This Week's Star Pupils:



Beech — Cherry
Pine — Isabelle
Apple— Codey
Oak— Tjay
Birch— Alfie C
Rowan — Austen
Cherry— Hannah B
Maple — Noah
Holly— Rose
Willow — Lilly-Ella
Hawthorn — Caleb
Hazel — Isaac

Diary Date Reminders:

Tuesday 3rd January—Non Pupil Day
Wednesday 4th January—First Day Back for Children



Attendance Award

Congratulations to Cherry Class for winning the School Attendance Award with 99% attendance.

The whole school achieved 94.7% attendance this week which is below our target of 96%.

Our attendance for the Autumn term stands at 96.2% so hopefully we can keep it this high for the rest of the year.



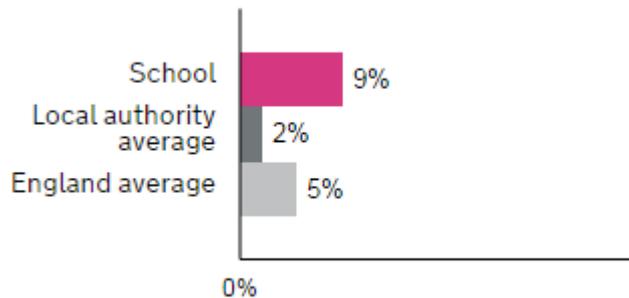
Don't forget to follow us on Twitter to see photographs and updates about school life.
<https://twitter.com/StMargaretsTQ>

School Performance

You may have seen on the news yesterday that the data on school performance has been released. This compares schools locally and nationally to each other with regard to the end of Key Stage 2 results. We are really proud of how well the children in the school have tackled the new curriculum with its increased expectations and how our new initiatives are having an effect on raising standards. The staff have worked hard to ensure the children are aspirational and have a growth mindset so that they don't just give up when they encounter difficulties in their learning. The results reflect this as our school had more children than locally or nationally achieving the expected standard, as the following graph shows:

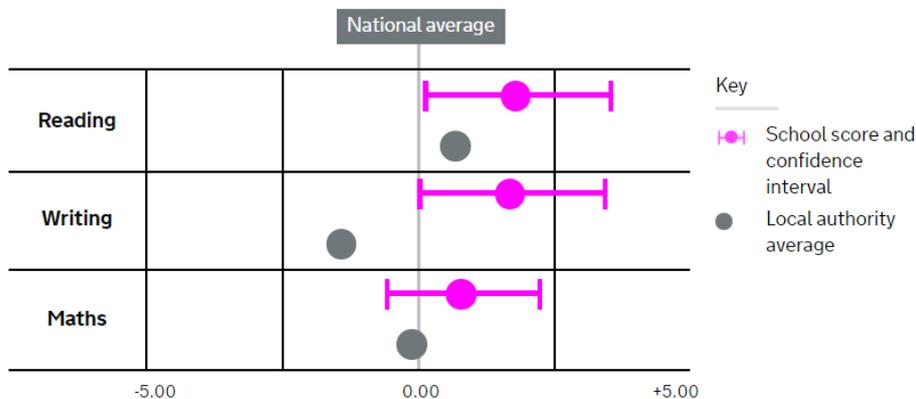


We are even more proud of the difference this has made to children being able to achieve at a high standard, despite the curriculum having become more difficult. The following graph shows the percentage of children achieving at a high standard:



The school is judged also on the progress the children make from their starting points and again, we are proud that in our school children make better than expected progress in reading, writing and maths as the chart below shows:

The chart below shows how this school's progress scores compared with the England and local authority averages. The England average is based on state-funded mainstream schools in England.



Your support is crucial to the children achieving as well as they can and we thank you for forming strong parent partnerships with the school. We know there is always more to improve and we are determined to keep building on this success so even more children achieve well and develop a love of learning.



Year 3 Intra Football Competition

Last week Rowan and Birch class had a football tournament with the help of our Sport Leaders: Fraser, Georgia, Holly and Taylor. Each class was split into 6 teams of 5. The teams were: orange, blue, red, green, pink and yellow. The winning team from each class went on to play in a final. Firstly, the children warmed up so that they wouldn't pull any muscles. Once they'd finished, Mr Mayling organised who was playing who and where they were playing. The first three matches began. After all the amazing football was played, Mr Mayling announced the winners from each class. The Green team won from Rowan and the Pink team won from Birch. They both went head to head in a final to see which team from Y3 was the best. The Pink team: William, Laila, Connor, Katie and Ryan won 1-0. William was the goal scorer. Mr Mayling's said, "The children from Y3 have been developing their football skills over the last 6 weeks. Their level of skill has ranged from the beginner to a highly developed skill level, but all of the children have showed an improvement. They were all really excited to take part in the competition and teamwork and sportsmanship was at the heart of each game".

By Fraser Y5 & Taylor Y6

The 'A' Games

On Tuesday 13th December a group of Year 5 children went to St Cuthbert and took part in the 'A' Games. The 'A' Games is an annual alternative event which is organised by the Young Sports Ambassadors at St Cuthbert Mayne. The aim of the event is to increase participation, encourage healthy lifestyles and inspire all young people to benefit from the positive values of physical activity and sport.

The children took part in a fun morning of alternative activities including Trampolining, Table Tennis, Orienteering and Wave boarding with an emphasis on enjoyment and discovery and not competition. Kyan Dunn received a special mention for his perseverance on the wave boards.

All the children received a certificate, water bottle and a fruit kebab from the event and hopefully they left with an understanding that physical activity doesn't have to mean the usual team ball games like football and netball and can be found in other enjoyable forms.

Children's comments:

"Best thing I have done with sports all year!" (Mackenzie S)

"I did not know how much fun sports can be, I had lots of fun on the trampoline". (Jack R)



Girls Football - Mid Season Round-up

We're at the half-way stage in the Large School North League this season and we've seen some promising performances so far. We've had four games with another potential four games in the Spring Term. St Margaret's Girls started the season losing to Sherwell Valley, which was not a complete surprise as Sherwell Valley are the top team in the league so far. For a team formed only this term the girls put up a brilliant fight in their first ever league game before a 5-0 defeat. The girls struggled against a dominant performance by Sherwell.

However, they all kept their heads up and never gave in. St Margaret's Girls second game was an improving performance against St Marychurch. Despite a spirited challenge by the girls, the visitors came out on top 1-0.

The girls have improved game by game and in a competitive encounter against Shiphay, with both teams battling hard, ended in a 1-1 draw. Scarlett grabbed the equalizer in the last minute and earned the girls their first point of the season. In the Presidents Cup the girls have managed a victory against Galmpton, Gracie scoring the only goal of the game. A draw against Preston in the quarter-final will face them in the Spring.

Well done girls!



Have a lovely Christmas and Best Wishes for 2017 from the staff at St. Margaret's Academy!