



**St Margaret's  
Academy**

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07/09/2018

## Autumn Term Newsletter No.1

Hello and welcome to the Autumn term! We hope you all had an amazing summer holiday and were able to spend quality time with your children. We were all excited to welcome them back on Wednesday—a school is just not the same without them and Monday and Tuesday seemed very quiet with just the staff on site preparing for the new term.

The children have settled in well to their new classes—please do come along to the ‘Meet the Teacher’ events scheduled over the next week or so as these will give you an opportunity to find out more about your child’s routines and how you can help at home. These are just brief meetings straight after school and we have spaced them out to allow families with more than one child to be able to attend them all:

Monday 10th—Y1 Pine and Beech Class

Tuesday 11th—Y4 Cherry and Maple Class

Wednesday 12th—Y3 Rowan and Birch Class

Thursday 13th—Y6 Hazel and Hawthorn Class

Friday 14th—Y5 Holly and Willow Class

Tuesday 18th—Y2 Apple and Oak Class

### **Cherry Tree**

There have been a few changes over the summer holidays with the most noticeable one being the loss of our Cherry Tree. We really did not want to lose this beautiful tree but it had become unsafe as its roots were dying and nobody would wish a tree that size to topple over or begin to lose branches that could land on the children. Anyway, we have kept the trunk and will have something created out of it to keep the legacy of the tree going for as long as we can. We cannot redevelop the area for at least 6 months to allow time for the ground to settle. Please can we ask that you do not allow your children to run through the bark chippings on the way in or out of school and ensure younger children are not playing with the bark whilst waiting for siblings at the end of the day.

### **Clubs**

Information about this term’s clubs has been emailed home and added to the website (in the Children’s Tab) - please pick up a booking form from your child’s class teacher if you wish your child to attend any of the clubs and return by Friday 14th September. Clubs begin in the week beginning the 17th September. There are also lunchtime sports clubs organised by Premier Sports but we have not added these to the clubs list as the children may choose to go or not and they are not limited in number. Class teachers and lunchtime supervisors remind the children about these clubs.

### **School Uniform**

The children look incredibly smart—thank you! If you need additional uniform please check the PTA Facebook page as many parents are offering good quality secondhand uniform for free. This is a brilliant idea so thank you to all the parents offering items that may be useful to others. Most children are forgetful at times so please do remember to check that you have named all your child’s uniform and belongings as then we can return them to your child when they leave them around the school!

*RESPECT*

*RESPONSIBILITY*

*ASPIRATION*

## Nurture Update

Our Treehouse Room is open! Through the summer holidays, Mrs Essam and Mrs Lewis have been transforming the Forest Room into The Treehouse. This is our school's Nurture Room. A Nurture Group is a small classroom that has a structured environment with clear routines and is predictable. The children in the group are given opportunities to re-visit early 'nurturing' experiences. Positive relationships are modelled by the teacher (Mrs Essam) and teaching assistant (Mrs Lewis). There is an emphasis on developing language and communication skills. Children in the nurture group also learn how to understand and regulate their emotions with increasing independence. Children learn Literacy and Numeracy in the Nurture Room in the mornings and return to registration classes in the afternoons. The children learning in the Treehouse have done transition sessions this week and are starting fully on Monday morning.



### Information sharing between agencies supporting young people

A lot of work has been done within the Local Authority since September 2014 to develop co-operation between various agencies working to support children and young people in the Bay. Schools are now supported by the Torbay Education Safeguarding Service (TESS). Working closely with Social Care and other partners such as the police and health, this support is helping us to ensure we can support our pupils when there are additional needs, and ultimately improve outcomes for them.

In that context, TESS have provided the following paragraph to let you know of the main aspects of information shared

### Information from the Police and Social care

*"Torbay Education Safeguarding Service (TESS) is a social work led service working in partnership with schools and social care to promote the welfare of children and young people, and to ensure they are safe from harm.*

*As part of their work they will receive information from partner agencies, such as the police and social care. The police send a daily Child at Risk Alert (CARA). This is generated if there has been an incident when the police are called to any household where a child is resident. It may be that the incident relates to only one of your children, however, it is likely that any police involvement with one member of the household may affect all of the siblings. For this reason, the CARA will be sent to all of the schools attended by the child/young person of the family.*

*There may be occasions when you have not consented to the sharing of the information. For minor incidents, if you withhold consent to share information TESS will not receive an alert. However, incidents graded medium or high are shared with schools as these are deemed potential child protection matters. This principle is similar to that employed by the police for Operation Encompass, an initiative managed by the police and nothing to do with TESS.*

*If information is shared, this will be in accordance with the key principles of the Data Protection Act and be on a need to know basis, and will only occur to help schools protect and promote the welfare of your son or daughter. When there is any sharing of information, schools should discuss this with you to enable a partnership approach to meeting the needs of your son or daughter.*

*If you have any questions about the service please ask your school, or telephone Sarah James, TESS Team Manager: 07525 815441*  
September 2018

Our newsletter will be back to its usual format next week with dates for your diary and Stars of the Week!