



Autumn Term Newsletter No.15

This feels a little strange; writing my last newsletter! Thank you so much for all your kind words on the playground and your emails, cards and gifts—I have been overwhelmed many times in the last few days. The children have been amazing at keeping a secret about their farewell assembly and they made me cry many times this morning! You have the most wonderful children and they have created some fantastic memories which I shall treasure forever.

St Margaret's is a special place and it will continue to thrive as there is such a strong community spirit. The staff do a wonderful job of caring for your children and giving them the best education and I have enjoyed working with such a talented group of people. The New Year will bring a new start for the school and for me and I wish you all the very best wishes for the future.

The school has been a joyful place to work this week with all the Christmas festivities. The Junior Christmas service in Upton Vale Baptist Church was lovely; led by the children with readers telling the story of the First Christmas and as the children sang with enthusiasm led by the singing and signing choir.

Wednesday was another festive treat with around 360 Christmas meals being cooked and eaten. The Bistro was decorated beautifully and the children enjoyed popping crackers and singing along to some Christmas songs in between mouthfuls of turkey and sprouts! The kitchen staff worked miracles to produce so many delicious meals.

There have also been Christmas parties going on and some classes have been dancing the days away. We know the children are super excited by Christmas and imagine they will burst out of school like the bubbles in a bottle tonight! Hopefully you can contain their excitement for a few days more yet!

We are very proud of this week's Star Pupils!



Beech — Neave tries so hard to improve her work and always behaves amazingly well.

Pine — Joe is our Christmas star for always being ready to learn and being kind and helpful.

Apple — Oliver has an excellent attitude to learning and is a super friend to all.

Oak — Isaac makes a great effort in his learning and is kind towards others.

Birch — Ethan is impeccably well behaved, extremely hard working and is a fantastic role model.

Rowan — Olivia always has a big smile and makes Mr Tullier smile every day. She is such a kind girl!

Cherry — George consistently works hard at every challenge he is presented with.

Maple — Laci is a star for all the courage she showed to stand and sing a fantastic solo.

Holly — Oliver showed brilliant teamwork and leadership skills in DT this week. Well done!

Willow — Marlena has had a great term of working hard and always wanting to learn.

Hawthorn — Jess is supportive of others and an enthusiastic superstar!

Hazel — Zoe has made outstanding effort and progress. She is an excellent role model.

Diary Date Reminders:

Monday 7th January—First Day back for the children

Friday 11th January—deadline to sign up for clubs. Please see the Spring term clubs we are offering in the booklet attached to the newsletter email.



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

The whole school achieved 95% attendance. Let's see if we can beat our target next time!

New Golden Mile Running Track and Outdoor Fitness Equipment

The new Golden Mile (GM) Running Track and Outdoor Fitness Equipment has been installed and it occupies a prominent position on our school field and it also blends in with the outdoor space too.

The prevalence of obesity among children in Torbay has increased sharply in recent years. At St Margaret's we believe that it's important to make certain that the all children are given the opportunity to participate in as many outdoor activities as possible as a way of dealing with obesity. Studies have shown that a third of children are overweight or obese by the time they leave school. We are really lucky at St Margaret's to have an all weather running track on our school field. This means during the school day the children get to have a brain break by running a few laps. The children also get to run around the track at Mr Tullier's GM running club. We record this on the Golden Mile website which records how many miles they have done and they can receive awards and medals for their efforts. The plan is to improve fitness levels, cognitive behaviour and wellbeing of all the children in school.

Our stunning running track is 161m long (10 laps = 1 mile) and is constructed using a bound rubber chip, which is very safe and comfortable surface to run on. To make it even more fun and interesting for the children, 3 pieces of outdoor fitness equipment have been installed next to the track. The children can use these to develop their fitness, strength and balance.



How was it funded? The majority of the funding came from the PE and Sport Premium, with additional support coming from the GM fundraiser and Tesco Ground Works community fund. We thank the children so much again for taking part in the fun run and raising lots of money. Also, we thank Mrs Scaife for her hard work securing the grant from Tesco. We really appreciate your support in helping our school raise lots of money for the Golden Mile track and the track will create a lasting legacy at St Margaret's, facilitating an active lifestyle for all children. Thank you, from Mr Mayling.

**And finally, we wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and send our best wishes for the New Year.
From Mrs Stell and all the staff at St Margaret's Academy.**