



Autumn Term Newsletter No.14

Our school community was saddened to hear that our stunning cherry tree was at the end of its life and becoming a danger to the children and no-one wanted it to go. Alan Lock, who was Headteacher here for 22 years, passed away earlier this year and his wife and daughter read about the loss of the cherry tree and asked if they could contribute something towards redeveloping this area. Out of sadness comes something beautiful! We kept as much of the tree trunk as we could with a view to doing something with it and found a local tree carver who has crafted us a magnificent storytelling throne. The throne embraces all things St Margaret's— our love of learning in the form of two wise owls, our logo, and cherries carved into the sides to remind us of the tree! We can think of nothing more fitting than a storytelling throne made from the tree that Mr Lock loved so much and thank his family for their generosity in contributing to this beautiful piece of art.



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



Beech — Pepe has had a positive attitude in all aspects of his learning this week and been trying hard.
Pine — Kaylee has been working hard to follow instructions and she is always so helpful in class.
Apple — Charlie M has an excellent attitude to his learning and is always aspirational.
Oak — Vinnie shows fantastic attitude and participation in maths and excellent effort in handwriting.
Birch — Grace shows a wonderfully empathic quality and is a supportive friend to all.
Rowan — Milly has exceptional listening skills, always looking towards the front and sitting perfectly!
Cherry — Juliet continually works to achieve the best of her ability; an amazing learning attitude!
Maple — Millie could be given the star every week! She never gives up and is always enthusiastic.
Holly — Harrison has an amazing approach to aspects of his learning. Well done!
Willow — Ruby has had another great week of working hard and doing her best. Keep it up, Ruby!
Hawthorn — Lottie has an infectious enthusiasm and always makes an incredible effort.
Hazel — George makes an excellent effort and has made amazing progress with his handwriting.

Diary Date Reminders:

Tuesday 18th December - KS2 Christmas Service Upton Vale Baptist Church 6pm start.

Wednesday 19th December—Christmas Dinner Day. Wear a festive jumper or decorate your school jumper. All donations for Save the Children.

Thursday 20th December—last day of school for the children

Monday 7th January—first day of the Spring Term for the children



Attendance Award
Congratulations to
Birch Class
for winning the School
Attendance Award with
99.3% attendance.

The whole school achieved 96.4% attendance. Well done everyone!
Keep it Up.

Y5 and 6 Girls Football

On the 3rd December we played a football match against St Marychurch Y5/6 girls team. St Marychurch won the kick-off for the first half which was very competitive. We had many opportunities to shoot at goal but we were a bit off target. In the second half Honey scored the first goal beating two defenders. St Marychurch scored the next 2 goals. Then we got a late equalizer scored by Brooke leaving the final score a well earned 2-2 draw. Annabelle was awarded player of the match for her excellent goal keeping skills.

By Honey & Brooke Y6



St Margaret's 2 vs St Marychurch 2

Y4 Handball Competition



On Wednesday 28th November the Y4 Handball team went to St Cuthbert Mayne to compete in a Handball competition against other schools. We played against St Marychurch, Homelands and Priory. Mr Mayling said "It was the closest competition that school has competed in for a long time and the standard of play was very high". Three schools: St Margaret's, Homelands and Priory all won 2 games and lost 1. The 3 top teams all finished on 12pts, but unfortunately we were awarded 3rd place on goals scored. There were only 2 goals separating all 3 schools – it was very close!

We had fun shooting, scoring and playing other teams. Jonathan had a special mention for playing with lots of determination and resilience and received a medal. All the team played very well and we were very proud of ourselves.

By Ben & Codey Y4

Ukulele Performance. The Y3 children have enjoyed learning the ukulele this term with Mr Hopkins and on Thursday they gave a short performance to their families to showcase their skills. We hope they continue to love to play instruments as they grow older as it is a fabulous skill to have.



Christmas Dinner Day. There is a different menu for next week as our Christmas Dinner Day is on Wednesday. Please note there is no salad bar next week. We will be collecting for Save the Children if you wish to send a small donation in for this Christmas jumper day.

We hope you can join us for our **KS2 Christmas Service** at Upton Vale Baptist Church on Tuesday 18th December (6pm start).

Learning today to achieve our tomorrows.

School Performance Tables

Every year, data is published about the standards of education in schools to help parents stay informed about the performance of schools in their area. This information is based on the results from the SATS (national tests) that Year 6 pupils take in May. We are exceptionally proud of the results the children have achieved over the last three years and of how well the school is doing.

One of the measures is how much progress the children make in their time at our school and as the following table shows their progress is excellent. We are in the top 10% of all schools **nationally** for the progress in reading and maths and in the top 20% for the progress made in writing.

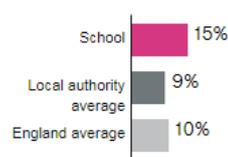


Another measure is the percentage of children who achieve the expected standard and a higher standard in reading, writing and maths combined. Our school, for the last three years, has been above the national average with 75% of children leaving the school achieving the expected standard compared to 64% nationally and 15% achieved the higher standard compared to 10% nationally.

Pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths

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Pupils achieving at a higher standard in reading, writing and maths

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Disadvantaged Pupils

The Government classes pupils eligible for Free School Meals at any point in the last six years and Children Looked After (in the care of the local authority for a day or more or who have been adopted from care) as disadvantaged. Evidence shows that, overall, performance of disadvantaged pupils is lower than that of other pupils. Schools are expected to tackle this difference and this measure is also reported nationally. 31% of our pupils are classed as disadvantaged compared to the national of 24%. Again, we are delighted that the disadvantaged pupils in our school are able to make accelerated progress and achieve better than other pupils nationally. This is quite remarkable and shows what can be achieved through hard work and excellent teaching across the school.

If you wish to explore the school's data more fully it is all published on a national website

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/136602/st-margaret's-academy?tab=primary>

To compare our results to other local schools please follow this link:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=phase®ion=880&geographic=la&phase=secondary&for=primary&datasetfilter=provisional&searchtype=>

I would like to thank the children, all the staff and you for your support at home as these results reflect a great team effort. The Governing Body are proud of all the school has achieved over the last few years and I am confident that the school will continue to flourish in the future.

Well done, everyone!

Mrs Stell