



**St Margaret's
Academy**

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Spring Term Newsletter No.2

It has been another productive and enjoyable experience for me in my second week at St Margaret's. I am slowly learning all the staff's names and trying hard to remember as many of the children's as possible.

I started the school week with an assembly about the author, Julia Donaldson who I'm sure many of you will recognise as the creator of The Gruffalo. This fits with our initiative to help encourage children to read for pleasure. Amazingly, Julia has commented how it is sometimes hard for her to write which helps us to realise we can all be successful with a little bit of effort.

I've spent most of the week visiting classes with different members of the School Leadership Team to look at how the children learn. It's very reassuring to see a lot of excellent practice. Children are engaged and enjoy learning. There's a lovely buzz in classrooms and children are not frightened to make mistakes. They are curious and interested about their learning and the world around them.

The school governors' Education Standards Committee met in school on Tuesday this week. Mr Rogers and Miss Henley presented on their Maths research and how this is being used by teachers and pupils across the school. They are currently mid-way through a 2-year project with NCETM (National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Maths) and the school is benefiting from their new knowledge and skills as we look to develop best practice. Thank you to Miss Wooldridge, the school's Maths Lead, who is supporting Mr Rogers and Miss Henley in their middle leadership role. Governors found the meeting very useful in helping them keep up to date with teaching and learning. They also looked in books to see some of the innovative ways pupils learn and teachers mark.

Huge congratulations to Mr Rogers who achieved his NPQML (National Professional Qualification in Middle Leadership) last week. He's worked hard on this over the last several months, researching and implementing ideas and writing assignments; great professional commitment to his learning and beneficial to the school's continued development.

I have been enjoying some of the excellent school meals over the last two weeks. It's a super facility to have a kitchen with a talented staff who cook such amazing lunches. I learnt that we hold the Bronze Food for Life Award which is a tribute to the kitchen. I know they are next looking to achieve the Silver Award which is already under discussion.

Have a lovely weekend.

Tim Hughes

Polite Notice—Parking Outside School

Please can we remind parents and visitors to consider others when parking outside school. We have had a report of residents' drives being blocked and cars parked dangerously and illegally. We all want to ensure there is a safe school and safe local vicinity so thank you for your understanding and support.

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

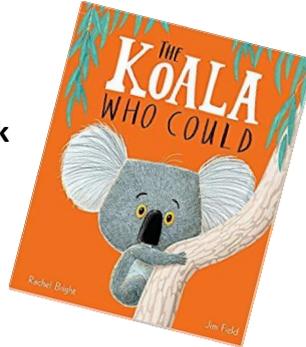
ASPIRATION



A very exciting adventure story of four children fighting for survival in the Amazon. Perfect for Years 4, 5 and 6 and links very well to current topics across KS2.

Miss Palfrey and the Children's Book Picks of the Week

If you enjoyed *The Gruffalo* and *Giraffes Can't Dance*, you will love this rhyming story which has a reassuring message about accepting change.



Weekly Attendance Award

Congratulations to **Hazel Class** for winning the School Attendance Award with **99%** attendance. School target: 96% The whole school achieved **96% this week**



This Week's Star Pupils!

- Ash — Myles: amazes everybody with his super building skills and thinking of new ideas to extend his projects every day
- ★ Nevaeh: always tries her best and is super at spotting new digraphs in lots of words
- Elm — Lily F: super determination and coming up with big smiles, ready for success
- Lita: a real *tryatops* learning 3 new digraphs and using them in her spelling
- Beech — Theo: amazing improvement in eating his lunch. Everybody is very proud of him
- Pine — Sienna: always coming to school with a huge smile and showing respect to everybody
- Apple — Ellie D: giving 100% in everything she does!
- Oak — Isla: an amazing attitude to all areas of her learning
- Birch — Teddy: impeccable behaviour and motivation for learning!
- Rowan — Ethan: best effort and best piece of literacy and maths!
- Cherry — Rufus: amazing determination and perseverance in maths!
- Maple — Alfie: extremely enthusiastic in all lessons and motivated to ask questions in lessons
- Holly — Summer: brilliant approach to her learning
- Willow — Chloe: new enthusiasm in class and going above and beyond in her home learning
- Hawthorn — Catherine: amazing contributions and always trying her best
- Hazel — Honey: excellent maturity and positivity with learning.

Writing Success

This term, in Year 5/6, we are learning how to write blogs. Last week, one of our homework tasks was to draft our own blog entry based on a day or event from the previous week. Dillon (Holly Class) has produced a superb piece of writing, using all of the toolkit features we are currently learning about. We are very proud of him and would like to share his learning.

Yesterday, I woke up as excited as a boy on his birthday: I was going to the cinema to watch Aquaman! When I arrived at the cinema, a grand TV smiled at me joyfully. While I was watching the amazing film, I felt like I was in the sea and nobody could stop it. The film seemed so real, almost in a different reality, a different life. It must have been more than 2 hours, but 3 days would have suited it better!

Well done Dillon, we have a blogger in our midst!



Holly Class Loving Maths

Children used Cuisenaire rods to reinforce concrete understanding of converting improper fractions into mixed numbers.



Diary Date Reminders

Mon 21.1.19	PTA meeting at school
Wed 30.1.19 3.05—3.30pm	Year 6 Skern Lodge residential meeting for parents and children in Hazel Class. Parental consent forms and a kit list will be distributed and opportunities given for any questions.
Thur 14.3.19 2.00-3.00pm	CAP (Child Assault Prevention) UK team parent workshop. A very worth-while event to attend. More details to follow.
Weeks beginning 18.3.19 and 25.3.19	CAP UK team will be in school delivering workshops to all the children. More details to follow.