



St Margaret's Academy

HANDS – FACE – SPACE ----- ACT AS IF YOU'VE GOT IT

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new half term. The sun is shining, the days are longer, spring approaches and, as I'm sure you already know: *school will be fully open for all pupils from Monday 8th March*. There is very little change in the guidance for primary schools so it is essentially back to business as we were in the autumn term before Christmas. We are obviously still in the middle of this pandemic so we are continuing to be stringent in our safety procedures. Please continue to help and work with us to keep everybody safe. So far we have been lucky and have not had to close any bubbles. We want to do our very best to maintain this. **I have identified some of the key areas in bold below that you can specifically help with.** Thank you for your understanding and support working with us to get this as safe as possible for everybody

How you can help us all to Stay Safe

In line with Public Health guidance, the top 2 things you can do to help us all stay safe:

1. Please keep your child off school if they have any of the symptoms and to not enter the school site yourself if you have symptoms. I would encourage you to keep your child off even if you have a suspicion of them having symptoms and to get a test as soon as possible. Let us know at the earliest opportunity that your child will be absent due to having symptoms. *Their absence will not be counted against them in COVID-19 related circumstances.*
2. Wear face masks yourself and keep 2 metres from others when on the school site.

Start and End of the School Day from 8th March

Please help us with social distancing by keeping to the times below and following the one way system. If you need child care before your child's start time or after their collection time, please book a place in our Breakfast Club or After School Club. **Please continue to wear a mask**

BIKE & SCOOTER PARK

For those of you in school this week, you will have noticed that we now have a snazzy parking area for bikes and scooters inside the entrance to the school grounds at the top of the sloped path. So, if your child is in Years 1 to 6, they are very welcome to come to school on their bike or scooter and park them at school. They can be locked to the park and I recommend you bring a padlock to do so.



on the school site. These measures will be especially important with all pupils back and so many more adults accessing the site. **Please respect other people's space.**

Please also help us by not waiting on the school site either at drop-off or after school to collect older siblings. **Please do a slow walk round following the one-way system and re-enter school at the correct time.** The noise from little ones playing can be very distracting for older pupils still working in Year 5 in particular and Year 4. Thank you for your understanding with this. A member of staff will be on duty in these areas to help with gentle reminders. **Only one parent / adult to be on the school site when dropping off and collecting.**

Uniform from 8th March

Children need to return in their uniform. If you are worried your child might have grown out of their uniform and the cost of buying another one with only half a school year left, help is at hand. One of our wonderful teaching assistants, Mrs Baker, has notified me that a shop in Union Street called *Punk Against Poverty* offer free uniforms to anybody in need and that they have St Margaret's in stock as well as ones for other schools. You can contact them on 07828 829903 or email punkapic@gmail.com.



If you are worried about cleaning of uniforms, the government guidance says that they do not need to be cleaned "more often than usual" or by "using different methods".

Year Group	Earliest Time to Enter School Grounds	Lessons Start (Late mark recorded after this time)	Collection Time at the End of the School Day
Reception	8.20am	8.30am	2.40pm
Year 1	8.20am	8.30am	2.40pm
Year 2	8.25am	8.35am	2.45pm
Year 3	8.30am	8.40am	2.50pm
Year 4	8.30am	8.40am	2.50pm
Year 5	8.35am	8.45am	2.55pm
Year 6	8.35am	8.45am	2.55pm

Curriculum News

Have a look in the [Maths Blog](#) to see Year 4s' active learning about perimeters this week. In the [Science Blog](#) you can see some of Year 1s' lovely early spring work combining skills in art and computing. You can also see Year 2s' [fantastic bread making](#) in action in the Science Blog.



Are you struggling to put food on the table or find the money to turn on the heating?



If you have answered yes to this question, please do get in touch with the school office. Torbay Council is using the Covid Winter Grants Scheme to help. We can refer in on your behalf. This offer to families is in addition to the normal support and if eligible you will receive a one-off payment of £77 per household. Payments can be in the form of vouchers, or directly onto your smart meter account or online billing account.

The DfE guidance for parents on remote learning has recently been updated. If you are interested in reading more, [click here](#).

Parent Working Group

Staff and governors are currently working on an updated Behaviour Policy that we want to have in place for the 8th March. The children will be working on a child friendly version via the school council with Mr Tullier when they come back. We would really like to get your views and as such would like to have a meeting with any of you who would be willing to share your ideas. Mrs Pike, Mrs Essam and I will host a virtual meeting on Wednesday 3rd March at 6.00pm. Hopefully this time will help give those of you who might be working in the day an opportunity to join if you want to. If you would like to attend, please email me directly on thughes@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk by Monday at 4.00pm. At that point I will email you a draft copy of the policy and an invite to the meeting. Thank you for your time.

Reminder: Support from Torbay Children's Services

Hopefully you managed to read the message from Children's Services before half term. I've added the letter to our website on the '[Supporting Families](#)' page under 'Well-being in Action' for your reference. Some headline reminders from the letter:

- For online help and anonymous support head to www.kooth.com
- If you feel a child is in immediate danger, please call 999
- If you are worried about a child please call the Torbay Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on 01803 208100 or email mash@torbay.gov.uk. Out of hours please call 0300 4564 876
- Alternatively you can contact Torbay Community Helpline 01803 446022
- If you are a young person worried about your own safety or that of a friend call 01803 208100. If you need someone to talk to call Childline on 0800 1111

If you are pregnant or have a child under the age of 4 you might be eligible for these vouchers from the local authority. Check out the link here: <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/news/pr8286/>

HANDS – FACE – SPACE and ACT AS IF YOU'VE GOT IT – useful mantras to keep us all safe.

Have a great weekend and enjoy the lovely sunshine



Tim Hughes
(Headteacher)

ONLINE SAFETY REMINDER

I raise this important point again because there are increasing concerns given the amount of time young people are now spending on the World Wide Web. Four points to help you:

- *Think You Know* website (linked to our school website home page)
- Kara, Winston and the SMART Crew on www.childnet.com
- www.saferinternet.org
- Being curious about your child's on-line world is really good way of helping stay in touch with what they're up to. Try open questions like, "do you ever come across anything that worries you online?"

