

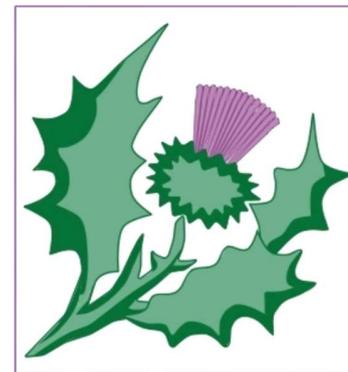
St Margaret's Academy

Dear Parents,

We started this week with a wonderful assembly from our Writing Lead, Miss Pritchard, who used the occasion to launch our *Big Write* project. Miss Pritchard shared the John Lewis Man on the Moon film to help demonstrate how Christmas can be a lonely time of year for some people. With this inspiration in mind, the children have been writing to our friends at Dunboyne Court who will receive their letters to read on Christmas Day.

Christmas Festivities

Christmas festivities have started to emerge this week. On Thursday, Reception had a special visit from the big man himself. He landed on the field and made his way down to see the children with a sack full of presents for an outdoors celebration for one and all. Thank you so much to him for making the time in his busy schedule. The little ones – and staff - were enraptured. After this they enjoyed the first of our covid-style Christmas dinners in the hall with their friends and staff. After which they enjoyed party games in the hall. Today, Year 1 enjoyed their Christmas lunch and games with festive jumpers as well.



Upcoming Events

December 14

- Year 2 Christmas Dinner

December 15

- Year 3 Christmas Dinner

December 16

- Year 4 Christmas Dinner

December 17

- Year 5 Christmas Dinner

December 18

- Year 6 Christmas Dinner
- Whole school Mufti for cued speech (donations welcome)

January 4

- Non-Pupil day

January 5

- Children return to school

Curriculum News

During the autumn term all of the children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 performed a range of gymnastics routines in their PE lessons and some of their sequences were entered in to a virtual gymnastics competition. Four of our school entries made it through to the Devon



Autumn Virtual Games final. The gymnasts attended the virtual finals on Tuesday via a zoom meeting. The finalists all performed their sequences very well and after a tense few days waiting for the results I'm pleased to say the girls exceeded our expectations. From over 1700 entries, we had first and second place winners across Key Stage 2. Huge congratulations to Olivia-May, Tamsin, Ellie and Lilly-Ella. Read more in our [Sports Blog](#).

Have a look in our [Religion Blog](#) to see how Year 1s enjoyed learning about Christianity first hand with a video call interactive lesson with the Reverend Nathan from and his Jump team from Cuthbert Mayne.

Thank you to all the teachers at this busy time of year who are also busy bringing together subject leader reports and assessments in preparation for governors' scrutiny.

Important COVID Update for Christmas

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school i.e. by Sunday evening 20th December, please let us know by emailing admin@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk

If your child tests positive having developed symptoms from Monday 21st December, please do not contact us. Instead, follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

COVID Precautions in December

- Christmas cards: children must please not share cards with each other; they must be given direct to the teacher. **The last day that your child can bring in a card is Tuesday 15th December.** Any cards that come in after this will not be given out until January.
- Please don't bring in gifts for your child to give to another child.
- Continue to follow the rules – **hands – face – space** is a good mantra to hold on to. Any confirmed case after 10.12.20 will result in isolation on Christmas Day so stay safe now.
- If you have any illness that has symptoms similar to COVID-19 such as a chest infection, please do make sure you isolate and get a covid test to be on the safe side.
- Please follow the government's [guidance for the Christmas period](#) and the general [guidance for parents and carers](#)



MAIN COVID MESSAGES FOR CHRISTMAS

- Actions over December and the holiday will impact on January
- Be aware of who you are in contact with over Christmas
- Stay in your bubble
- Christmas doesn't change the transmission of the virus
- Hands, face, space – key message
- Keeping distance is key
- The spike in transmission in Torbay in October and November was caused by people mixing with friends in pubs and then taking the virus home

Non-uniform Day on the Last Day of Term

This non uniform day will be on Friday 18 December. Children can wear something festive and Christmassy. Any contributions, however small, will be gratefully received in aid of the Cued Speech Association who support school's work with our deaf children and their families. Thank you.

Fancy a Frozen Meal from a Cruise Ship?

If you are registered for free school meals, the cruise ships in the Bay have frozen meals that obviously aren't being eaten that they would like to donate to schools. If you would like to take up this offer, please contact the office.

Parking Concerns Again

Please consider carefully where you park at drop off and collection. We continue to have calls from neighbours who are unable to leave their house or return because their drives are blocked. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Whole School
Attendance

97.1%

This week's class
attendance star goes
to.....

PINE CLASS

This is now your 3rd star which
entitles you to a non-uniform
on Monday 14th December

Well Done!

Compared to local schools,
St Margaret's has the joint
highest level of overall
attendance so thank you very
much to everybody for making
an effort with this. It also helps
show how much your children
are enjoying coming to school.





Beech	Rory has overcome some big worries this week. Your writing has improved so much and it was lovely to see you take part in our Christmas dance. Well done Rory
Pine	Mariella tries hard in everything that she does, she especially loves singing and dancing and gives 100% effort at all times. Well done Mariella for being so aspirational!
Oak	Maisie- for having a great attitude to coming into school and eating her lunch. Also for her fantastic effort with using Numbots to practice number facts at home. Well done Maisie!
Apple	Isabella has worked hard to design and make a trolley for The Jolly Postman. She paid attention to every bit of detail and her painting was very neat.
Birch	Miley - For performing a beautiful solo with confidence in our class Christmas song. You should be very proud of yourself!
Rowan	Mason - for brilliant coding in computing, making a great motif in art and improving his French vocabulary lots! Also much improved sitting and listening - well done!
Cherry	Larisa- for being a responsible and helpful member of Cherry class. She has worked consistently hard in lessons over the whole of the Autumn term and always makes good choices both in her learning and how she behaves. Well done Larisa.
Hazel	Charlie H- has really tried to apply himself in his Art this week. He has concentrated, persisted and produced some sketches that he should be very proud of. Well done Charlie!
Willow	Sky- for making excellent progress in maths and super effort all week. Well done Sky!
Holly	Justin - for the great effort he has made to focus on his work and join in with lessons and for his increasingly mature attitude both in the classroom and playground. Well done Justin.
Maple	Millie - for such an excellent attitude towards all areas of learning. You've listened brilliantly to advice, improved your participation dramatically and really stepped out of your comfort zone. You are an amazing asset to Maple Class!
Hawthorn	Serina- for stepping out of your comfort zone and speaking clearly in class. You should be very proud of yourself. Well Done!