

Barewell Road
Torquay
Devon TQ1 4PA
admin@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk
01803 327090



20th November 2020 – End of Week 10 - Autumn Newsletter #12

Dear Parents,

This week we've had a school focus on anti-bullying that started on Monday with 'Odd Socks Day' to help us see that it's good to celebrate differences. Over the week, children and staff have been filling each other's buckets with words and deeds of happiness. Today we finished with 'Friendship Friday' and shared examples of this in our star assembly.

Thank you to those who have already completed the parent survey. If you haven't yet done so, if you could spare 5 minutes to do so, it would be much appreciated as it helps us to understand what we're doing well and what we need to get better at. Here's the link again:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/33XNK7B>

Curriculum News

New on our 'Curriculum in Action' page are the [poppy reflections of our Year 1s](#) and their lovely art work in our SMSC Blog. In our Forest School Blog you can see happy [Year 4s cooking eggs](#) on their open fires. In the Music Blog you can see a [virtual guitar lesson](#).

Year 3 has lots to share with you this week. Have a look at the amazing photos of all their work from the last few weeks. In the History Blog, you can see them exploring [Kents Cavern](#) in person and exploring [Stonehenge](#) in the classroom. In the Music Blog, they're playing the [ukulele](#). In the PSHE Blog you can see how they learn about being special themselves: '[Being Me](#)'. In the Writing Blog have a look at them performing their [chocolate poems](#). In the Science Blog you can see their [fossil study](#). Well done Year 3s, what an exciting time you have in school!

This week we've seen children time traveling from the 1940s in Year 5, while Year 6 took a trip further back, to Victorian times. The costumes were amazing, from children and adults alike. I'm sure there will be some photos on our History blog very soon for you to see.

Hearing Support Centre News

As I'm sure you know, St Margaret's holds the specialist support for children with a hearing impairment in Torbay. Congratulations to Mrs Saunders who heads up this provision. She has just had an article published in the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf magazine about how to teach literacy to users of British Sign Language. You can read this on our website under '[Hearing Support Centre](#)'.

The Hearing Support Centre supports children with different levels of hearing loss and different communication needs. We have children that have cochlear implants or hearing aids to access speech sounds, and we have children that solely use BSL to communicate. One of the ways we support deaf children to visualise the sounds that are made in phonics is through Cued Speech. It is a system of handshapes at different positions around the mouth matched to the sounds in the English language, so that children can see the sound that is being made and learn to lip read. The staff in the Hearing Support Centre are trained to use this with the children that need it.

We are lucky to have the Cued Speech Association based close by in Totnes and this means that the family support practitioners from there can visit the school and families to deliver training and work with children. At the moment some of this work is delivered online. We would like to show our support for this organisation by having a non-uniform day to raise funds so that they can continue with the work they do with the children at St Margaret's and deaf children elsewhere.

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.

Christmas Dinner News

You will be glad to know that Christmas isn't cancelled at St Margaret's. We will still be offering a Christmas dinner, only in a different format. Each year group will have the hall to themselves for a dinner, music and Christmas fun, each on a different day which will also be their Christmas Jumper Day. If it is not your child's allocated Christmas dinner day, they will wear uniform as normal and eat in the classroom with a packed lunch from home or a pack lunch bag ordered from the kitchen. Bookings for Christmas dinner will open today. Below are the days, which are also on the school website:

Thursday 10th December – Reception

Friday 11th December – Year 1

Monday 14th December – Year 2

Tuesday 15th December – Year 3

Wednesday 16th December – Year 4

Thursday 17th December – Year 5

Friday 18th December – Year 6

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.

Calling all families—Your help is still needed!

Last September we began to teach the children their phonics through the Read, Write Inc programme. As part of this we spent nearly £900 on building up our home reading books so that the children could take home reading books which were matched to their phonic knowledge and developed the phonics we were teaching in school. Sadly when lockdown came into effect things changed and as a result of this some of our books are missing. Although odd books across the colour

bands might be missing, we are missing the majority of our blue book band books. We are grateful for any books which have been returned but ask that everyone have another search in case any books are hiding in amongst other books in your bookcases (staff are also having a look in the classes). To replace these blue books would be £274.50. Below is a list of the titles from the blue book band set. All of the books have a similar layout on their front cover. Thank you so much for your help. If you could send the books to KS1 we would be very grateful.



A Couple of Pandemic Reminders

A reminder: as rates have risen, the likelihood of symptoms being positive has increased. Therefore for now anybody with symptoms (pupils or staff) who share a house with a confirmed case will be assumed to be positive. This is not government policy; it is a local decision taken by Torbay from Tuesday this week. This increases the likelihood of us having a partial lockdown in school but will help prevent onward spread. It is really important that we know when any children first display symptoms. Please inform us if your child gets symptoms when they are in the middle of isolating if there is a positive case in your house.

A reminder: one of the big messages Public Health want to get out there is about the behaviour of young people during lockdown. It appears that adolescents and young people up to the age of 29 are the main cause for the increase in infections. Please do whatever you can to ensure they follow the rules and social distance. Please see the letter emailed out on Wednesday 4th November from the Director of Public Health which you can also find on our website; [quick link here](#).

Have a lovely weekend.

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Attendance Stars –for 20th November 2020



Whole school for last week: 97.3% (end year school target is 96%)

Class attendance star this week is for Beech Year 1 class...again!

Individual stars of the week...

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| Beech | Rocco and Vincent - Rocco has shown amazing bravery this week in overcoming some really big worries. He would not have been able to do this without the wonderful support and friendship of Vincent. Everyone in Year 1 is so proud of you both! |
| Pine | Jake - Jake has grown in confidence this week. He has applied his science knowledge to other areas of his learning, recognising why some of the PE balls are made of plastic and has shown amazing perseverance in the outdoor space when constructing a giant marble run. Well done Jake! |
| Oak | Noah B- for always showing kindness and respect to others by listening to them, helping to tidy and sharing and taking turns. I also know that Noah is extremely kind to his brother and sister at home. Well done Noah and thank you for being such a lovely person! |
| Apple | Noah - For showing fantastic effort in maths this week. He has shown both independence, by getting equipment to help him, and perseverance to complete independent maths challenges. He's also always ready and willing to help adults and children with a big smile on his face! |
| Birch | Kaylee - For always being so kind to everyone in the class. Your smile radiates around the room and we are so lucky to have you in Birch class! |
| Rowan | Sophia W - for being so kind and helpful and also working especially hard this week in all lessons! |
| Cherry | Jake - is always kind, caring and helpful. He has such a cheerful personality and takes a real interest in others and their well being. He certainly brings fun and laughter to the classroom and is a very good friend. |
| Hazel | Tyler - Yesterday Tyler showed a fantastically kind side to his approach to his learning. After working well to design his own Viking Longship he then spent time offering help to other people. Well done Tyler. |
| Willow | Kayla - for a massive effort in her learning this week especially her writing and for reading aloud in class confidently! |
| Holly | Jesse - for showing great aspiration with his writing this week. He has worked very hard and acted upon advice in order to make his work even better. Well done Jesse! |
| Maple | Finley - as well as your exemplary and inspiring work ethic, you consistently show kindness, empathy and understanding towards everyone in your life. All your peers talk with such positivity about your friendship and how you make a difference to them and you should feel very proud of who you are. |
| Hawthorn | Dan- you are a wonderfully positive force within our classroom! Your enthusiasm is exemplary- your hand is always first up to answer questions and you try your hardest. We've been particularly impressed with your work in Maths! Well done, Dan! |

KINDNESS RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY ASPIRATION