St Margaret's Newsletter

Friday 06th November 2026

Learn every day help each other and be happy.

It was a lovely, if rather cold, return to school after the half-term break, and it has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces as the children came back ready to learn. It has been particularly pleasing to see their excitement about the new History topics they are exploring this half term. I hope they have been coming home and sharing their learning with you.

This promises to be a very busy term, and I would encourage families to keep an eye on the dates for your diaries, as the lead-up to the Christmas break is packed with exciting events. We now have dates confirmed for our Christmas performances, and staff are already busy planning these in preparation for the children beginning rehearsals over the next few weeks.

Today, your child will be bringing home their new Learning Power letter along with slips for home. This half term, our Learning Power focus is Responsibility.

During Monday's assembly, we explored the life and work of Sir David Attenborough as an inspiring role model for responsibility. The children were captivated as they watched a clip of David in the wild with a group of apes. His message, "No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced." gave us all something to think about. We discussed how Sir David has shown tremendous responsibility by helping people across the world experience and understand parts of our planet that many of us will never see first-hand. Through his work, he has educated and inspired generations to care for our natural world. Together, we reflected on what responsibility means: 'Being responsible means taking care of things that matter. David Attenborough teaches us that even small actions can make a big difference. Just like him, we can all show responsibility by looking after our school, our community and our planet.' The children were then given time to consider the question: What is one responsible thing you could do this week to help someone else or help our planet?

I am excited to see how our children demonstrate responsibility both in school and at home over the coming weeks.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Denise Boyne

Headteacher

Bideford Bereavement Cafe Launch

Starting next month, we will be launching a Bideford-based Bereavement Cafe to support families in the area. We have been running our Barnstaple Bereavement Cafe for some time and this summer, opened our new cafe in South Molton. More information about our cafes and the dates and venues can be found via our website here: Bereavement Cafes - Families in Grief, where you can also find out how to refer a child or young person who you think would benefit from FiG's one-to-one support.

We will also be bringing our art workshops for bereaved children, young people and their families to Bideford in the new year. Details of this will be available on our website very soon.

Our learning this week.

Year 3/4

We have had another busy week in Year 3/4, beginning lots of exciting new learning across the curriculum! In Maths, we have now moved on from place value and have begun our new focus on addition and subtraction. The children have been building on their number knowledge and exploring different strategies to help them solve calculations accurately. In Science, we have started our new topic all about rocks. This week, the children explored a range of different rocks, looking carefully at their appearance, texture and other properties. Finally, in History, we have begun our journey into the Stone Age. Over the coming weeks, we will explore how life changed through the Stone Age before moving on to learn about the Bronze Age and Iron Age. Well done for another fantastic week, everyone. Have a lovely weekend and we will see you next week!

Year 5/6

It has been a fantastic first week back for Years 5 and 6! In Writing, we have continued exploring A Monster Calls, using the story to inspire our ideas and develop our writing skills. Maths has been full of exciting learning, with both classes focusing on a range of different topics and tackling lots of challenges. In Computing, we have begun our new topic of Creating Media, exploring different ways to create and present digital content. In PE, we have continued developing our netball skills, focusing on attacking and defending space and working effectively as a team. During Guided Reading, the children have been working hard to perform the poem Invictus, thinking carefully about expression, pace and delivery. Finally, in History, we have started exploring the fascinating Maya civilisation, discovering more about their lives, culture and achievements. A brilliant start to the new half-term!

Class Teacher Awards

Hope: Harry
Trust: Alex
Thankfulness: Ollie
Forgiveness: Jamie
Compassion: Mariia
Wisdom: Jasper

MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

🌟 **Children in Need – Friday 13th November** 🌟

We're getting involved in the fun and supporting BBC Children in Need! 💛 On Friday 13th November, children are invited to come to school wearing their favourite spotty outfits or cosy pyjamas (PJs) to help raise money for this fantastic cause. We kindly ask for a £1 donation. Every donation helps no matter how small.

🎄 **FONS Non-School Uniform Day! Friday 20th November** 🎄

To help us raise funds for our Christmas celebrations, children are invited to come to school wearing their own clothes on Friday 20th November. Instead of wearing their usual school uniform, we kindly ask for a small donation, we would love each year group to get involved by donating the following items: **Year 3: Gift sets, Year 4: Biscuits, Year 5: Mince Pies, Year 6: Alcohol free Christmas Drinks**. Thank you so much for your support and generosity. Every little contribution makes a big difference! ❤️

Anti-Bullying Week – 16th – 20th November - Wear Odd Socks!

We will be taking part in Anti-Bullying Week by encouraging all children to wear odd socks throughout the week!

Swimming lessons – Trust Class

~~Wed 4th Nov~~	Please can you ensure you child has an extra underwear with them on swimming days due to wet changing room floors.
Wed 11th Nov	
Wed 18th Nov	
Wed 25th Nov	
Wed 2nd Dec	
Wed 9th Dec	
Wed 16th Dec	Last Swimming Session

Year 6 top-up Swimming lessons also start on Wed 4th November.

~~Wed 4th Nov~~
Wed 11th Nov
Wed 18th Nov
Wed 25th Nov
Wed 2nd Dec
Wed 9th Dec
Wed 16th Dec

Year 5 Tennis Group B

Group B start their tennis sessions at ARC on Tuesday 17th November. Please note the drop off time has now changed to the time below apologies for the incorrect information on the original letter. For children who usually have music lessons on Tuesday mornings, Bekah will be in school during the afternoon instead, so that no one misses out on their lessons.

Tuesday 17th November	Children will need to be **dropped off at the Atlantic Racquet Centre 8:50 and 9:00. There will be members of staff there to meet them.** If you have any issues with this, please get in touch with the school office and we will endeavour to help.
Tuesday 24th November	
Tuesday 1st December	
Tuesday 8th December	

Outstanding Lunch Money

Could we politely remind you to check your balance on Arbor our Parent Portal and ensure that all outstanding balance for lunches are cleared over the half term.

Residentials 2027. Please ensure all current instalment are up to date.
Next instalments for London 2027 are due by 30th November.
Next instalments for PGL 2027 are due by 4th December.

Upcoming Key Dates

Date	Activity	Location
10/11/2026	**Trust class swimming wk 2 &** Yr 6 Top-up swimming wk 2	Torridge Pool
10/11/2026	Year 5 Tennis Group A Last session	ARC
12/11/2026	Year 3 & 4 Kents Caven Trip	Kents Cavern Torquay
13/11/2026	Children in Need Day	Wear something spotty or PJ's £1.00 donation
16/11/2026	Anti-bullying week (wear odd socks all week)	
17/11/2026	Year 5 Tennis Group B First session	ARC
18/11/2026	Year 4 parent information event -Multiplication tables check - more info to follow	St Margaret's Hall 5:00pm – 5:20pm
20/11/2026	Mufti Day- Children to wear non-school uniform donations towards our Christmas fundraiser. See above for more information	
27/11/2026	St Margaret's School Disco	3:20pm-4:30pm School Hall
01/12/2026	Ethos Team to decorate Christmas tree	St Margaret's Church
16/12/2026	Christmas Dinner Day	
16/12/2026	Christmas Jumper Day	
16/12/2026	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Production	School Hall 2.30pm and 5.30pm
17/12/2026	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Production	School Hall 2.30pm and 5.30pm
18/12/2026	Church service- Nativity/carol service	St Margaret's Church 9.40am
18/12/2026	**Last Day of Term**	
19th December – 4th January	**Christmas Holiday**	
04/01/2027	**Inset Day School closed to pupils**	


DISCO
AT
ST MARGARET'S
£2 PER TICKET
FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE
PLEASE COLLECT
FROM YOUR CHILD'S
CLASSROOM
REFRESHMENTS WILL
BE FOR SALE
WATER & SQUASH
INCLUDED
CASH ONLY
FRIDAY 27TH
NOVEMBER
3.20 -4.30PM
Friends of Northam Schools (FONS) | Registered Charity Number: 1044782


ST. MARGARET'S C of E SCHOOL
ST. GEORGE'S C of E School
FONs
Friends of Northam Schools
Can you name this Bear?
£1
per name
Winner
gets the
Bear!
Must be drawn by
18th December 2026
FONs Friends of Northam Schools
Registered Charity Number: 1044782

