



St Martin's School Newsletter

Our current
Christian
Value is
Wisdom

Our current Learning Skill
is Perseverance

Upcoming Events

February

Tues 25th 9:30am
Eucharist for all children and the
local community

Thurs 27th 2:30pm
Netball at Park House School for
selected children

March

Mon 2nd
2.45pm and 6.00pm Meeting for
Year 2 parents/carers about end
of key stage assessments.

Tues 3rd
2.45pm and 6.00pm Meeting for
Year 6 parents/carers about end
of key stage assessments.
Tag rugby competition for
selected children.

Thurs 5th World Book Day
Children can come to school
dressed as their favourite book
character.
Tag rugby tournament for
selected children

Mon 9th 3.30-5.00pm
School grounds working party.

Wed 11th 8.30am – 9.00am
Stay and read session – all
parents/carers invited to stay
and share a book with their
children.

Parental Consultations

Thank you to those
parents and carers who
were able to attend the
parental consultations this
week.

Please remember to
return your completed
questionnaire by Friday
28th February. Spare
copies are available from
the school office and we
have attached a copy to
this email. Thank you!

Staffing Update

As you are aware, due to personal reasons, we said goodbye to Mrs Rehling today. We would like to thank Mrs Rehling for everything she has done for us since working at St Martin's, especially for the children in Silver Birch Class. As you are aware there have been several staff changes in Silver Birch Class. Therefore, in order to support the children in Silver Birch Class, Miss Nicoll is going to become Silver Birch Class LSA. Miss Nicoll already knows the children from working in Silver Birch Class in the afternoons and will be able to provide consistency for the children when Mrs Laws and Mrs Ashby leave at Easter and Miss Cooper starts.

I know that Maple Class will be very sad to be losing Miss Nicoll as their class LSA, but I am delighted to be able to tell you that following interviews this week we have appointed Miss Anna Harvey to the role of class LSA. At interview, Miss Harvey had a lovely manner with the children and it was very clear that she strongly believes in the importance of listening to children – something that we really value at St Martin's. Miss Harvey will be starting straight after half term. I know that you will all join me in welcoming Miss Harvey to St Martin's and helping her to settle in very quickly!

Spirituality Day

The children in Year 1 – 6 thoroughly enjoyed learning about spirituality yesterday. Working in their houses, they completed four different activities throughout the day to develop their understanding of spiritual moments linked to Ourselves, Others, The World and Beyond. Thank you to those parents who were able to join us at 2:30pm to hear about what we had been doing – the house captains did an amazing job of explaining all they had learned! If you were unable to make it, more information, including the presentation, is available in the 'news' section of our website.

Visiting Our Neighbours

As you are aware, the Stewards of God's Earth group have been encouraging everyone to collect crisp packets in order to terracycle them. Last week some of the children (along with Mrs Bartlett and Mrs Rennison) visited all the houses in East End to collect donations of crisp packets (they also collected stamps, foreign currency, ink cartridges and milk bottle tops for our charity collection point). The children were incredibly excited by the response they received! Some houses had left out letters for them, others had left out the items we had requested and several people were at home and answered the door. When this happened, the children did an amazing job of explaining why they were there, asking for donations and thanking people for their time and support. We were incredibly proud of them! The children here are hugely passionate about recycling and are incredibly proactive in their approach to it, having a very positive impact on the environment!

The plan is to collect these items from our neighbours on the first Monday of every month and we will be offering different children the opportunity to be involved each time.

Bukuya School

We had a very enthusiastic visit from Dodie, our Bukuya link minister, this week, and we proudly handed over a cheque for £1,500 to go to Bukuya when she visits next week! Dodie modelled for the children how you use a squat latrine (with added sound effects!) and thanked the children for their continued fundraising efforts. Dodie was thrilled to learn that we are continuing to fundraise, now for metal doors, which you can read about and/or donate here:

<https://donatemyschool.com/stmartinsbukuya2078>. Please share this link with anyone you think might be interested - thank you!

We are incredibly proud of the difference our children are making to our companion school in Uganda!

Eco Bricks

As you know, based on the enthusiasm of the children we are going to trial eco-bricking next half term. Each class will have their own eco-brick. The children will need to collect, wash, dry and cut up bits to go in the eco brick at home. It can be Styrofoam, bags, packaging, straws and cellophane or any type of plastic. They can then bring these bits into class and add them to the class eco-brick. We are aware that for this to be successful we will need a lot of support from parents and carers at home – it is not an easy process and we are concerned that despite the children's enthusiasm it may not take off. However our children constantly amaze us with what they achieve when they put their mind to it and therefore we want to give them the opportunity to make this successful!

If it is successful, we will look at what we can do with the eco bricks around school – the children particularly liked the pictures of a flower bed and a playground bench that we saw online.

Cross Country

Selected children from upper school enjoyed taking part in a cross country competition at Down Grange last week. They did a great job of representing the school, so congratulations to those children involved and thank you to Mr and Mrs Alexander, Mrs Hopkinson, Mrs Bridge and Mrs McBride for their help supervising this event.

Cherry Class Market Trip

Cherry class had a lovely time visiting Newbury Market yesterday. The stall owners were so kind and the fish man even gave us some prawns to draw for free! We bought everything on our list apart from bread rolls as there was no one selling bread this time. Instead we bought some flowers for Mrs Bartlett, some bird seed and a pigs ear for Denzel to enjoy! The Cherries remembered their big loud voices and their manners when they bought their items. They were beautifully behaved as always. Even the rain didn't dampen our spirits, it was a fab outing.

Denzel

We all thoroughly enjoyed meeting Denzel, our new therapy dog, this week. The children were really keen to find out more about Denzel and asked lots of really relevant questions. Denzel will be visiting every Tuesday afternoon after half term. Please make sure you complete and return the reply slip, if you want your child to be involved in this.

Facebook Closed Page

We have had an incredible number of parents and carers request to join our Facebook closed group. If you have joined, we hope that you are enjoying finding out a little more about what goes on in school. As you know the aim of the closed group is to share good news (e.g. following a sports competition, choir performance, class trips, etc.), to send reminders (e.g. please remember to collect children from the church today), to share messages (e.g. we have a pair of missing pink glasses – if you find them, please give them to the school office). If you are a member, please feel free to post anything relevant on our page – we would love to hear if you have enjoyed attending a sports event, have enjoyed a celebration worship or anything else to do with school - we just ask you to remember only use children's first names and not share personal information.

If you are not yet a member and would like to be, you need your own Facebook account. You then need to go to

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/StMartinsCEPrimarySchoolParentsandCarersGroup/>

and answer three questions, then submit your request to join. It will not force you to answer these questions, but for safeguarding reasons, unfortunately we cannot accept requests where these questions have not been answered. It will simply ask you to give the full name of your link child (or one of them, if you have more than one child at our school), their class name and your relationship with that child.

School Office

Please help! Recently there have been an increasing number of parents and children cutting through reception in the morning and at the end of the day. We are guessing that this is because of the nasty weather we have been having recently. However it makes it very difficult for the office staff to concentrate on what they are doing. Also on occasions we ask children to wait in reception (usually because their parent has been unavoidably delayed). It is really hard for the office staff to keep an eye on these children, ensuring they are safe, with lots of people passing through. We would really appreciate it if you only come into the reception area if you need to speak to the office staff. Thank you for your help and understanding with this.



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Fun Club

Please can we remind parents and carers using the breakfast club and fun club that the children are not allowed to go into classrooms during these sessions. The teachers often use this time to hold meetings or to plan and prepare for lessons and, as I'm sure you'll understand, it is not fair on them if they keep getting disturbed. Thank you for your support with this.

Topic Words

Following discussions with a few parents, we are going to start producing a list of pre-learning topic words associated with each of the topics we teach. These will come home with the curriculum information and homework grid on the first Friday of every half term. We would really appreciate it if you could spend a bit of time talking to your children about these words and helping them to understand them. Depending on your child they could practise reading them or even learn to spell them. This will then help support the children with their learning throughout the half term.

HC3S

Menus are available to download from the link below. We have a few paper copies in the School Office and all classes will have a copy displayed in the classroom.

[https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hc3s/pri
maryschools/menu](https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hc3s/primaryschools/menu)

Year 5/6 Bowling

Faustine B, Dominic J, Annabelle P, Theo N and Willow G thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a Bowling Competition last week. They did a wonderful job of representing the school. Thank you to Mrs M Hancock who accompanied them and to parents who helped with transport.

KS1 (Y1/2) Bowling

William G, Reece L, Phoebe N, Ella W and Oliver R had a great time taking part in a Bowling Competition earlier this week. Congratulations to the children who took part and thank you to Mrs Rennison for accompanying them and the parents who helped with transport.

School Association News

Thank you to those parents and carers who helped organise school cinema night last Friday. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we raised money for school!

Happy Half Term

We hope you all have a lovely half term with your friends and family. Fingers crossed, the weather may even improve a bit so we can enjoy spending time outside!