

St Martin's School

Weekly News

ISSUE 1

7th September 2018

Welcome Back

Welcome back to the new school year and a very warm welcome to all our new children and families. We hope you have all had a fantastic summer holiday, making the most of your time together as families. The children seem to have returned to school refreshed and invigorated! As everyone settles back into life at St Martin's, if there is anything you wish to know or discuss, please call in to see us at the School Office and we will be only too pleased to help you.

Please also see the letter from Revd Cannon Christine Dale (sent as a separate attachment with this newsletter), welcoming everyone in the school community back after the summer break. St Martin's church would also like to invite all friends and family to their harvest lunch on Sunday 7th October. Please see flyer at the end of this newsletter.

As you will have noticed it has been a very busy summer at St Martin's and a significant number of changes have occurred around our school:

- Reception area – the reception area has been redesigned to give our school a much more open and welcoming front entrance and to add locked doors to improve our safeguarding arrangements. Despite a water leak, the builders managed to finish just in time for the start of term. However this did mean we have had slightly less time to get everything back into reception than anticipated. Thank you for bearing with us while we move everything back in! We are very grateful to the diocese for funding the majority of this project and to Leaves, the building company who worked so hard over the summer to ensure it was all ready for the start of term.
- Interactive Panels – we have had new interactive panels fitted into all five classrooms. A huge thank you to everyone for supporting the School Association in raising funds for these panels.
- Electricity Pole – Sothern Electric have replaced the electricity pole in the corner of our field and put up a fence to ensure that the children are not tempted to climb on it.
- Boiler Room – Hampshire County Council have carried out a significant amount of work in our boiler room to accommodate and support new procedures for managing the risk of legionella.
- Cherry Playground – thank you to Mrs Alexander and Mrs Perry for the time they have spent painting sheds and revitalising the Cherry playground. I know they have more plans for the area so please watch this space!
- PE Shed – thank to Mr and Mrs Hopkinson for the time they have spent repairing and strengthening our school PE shed. Several of the children have commented on our 'new' shed!

Staff Update

We welcome several new members of staff to our team and hope they will enjoy being part of the St Martin's family:

- Mrs Amy Laws will be teaching every Thursday and Friday in Silver Birch Class;
- Mrs Helen Webster will be teaching every Thursday in Sycamore class and every Friday in Willow class.;
- Mrs Amanda Forsey will be working one day a week until Christmas as our Inclusion Manager. Mrs Forsey is an Inclusion Manager at another school and has kindly agreed to support us until we are able to employ a permanent Inclusion Manager.

School Uniform

The children have all returned to school looking very smart. Please make sure that all items of school uniform are clearly marked. Please remember that our school uniform policy states that children should wear black school shoes, not trainers. If your child is in trainers for any reason, please make sure that you discuss this with your child's class teacher.

Prayer Crosses

All of the children in Years 1 to 6 were presented with their own prayer cross by Revd Cannon Christine in whole school worship earlier this week. The children will keep these in their classrooms and use them when appropriate during our weekly class worships. The cross is designed to fit into the palm of a hand and be used during prayer and times of reflection as a way to feel closer to God. We are very grateful to St Martin's Church who have funded our crosses. From now on each child who joins St Martin's will be presented with their own cross. Year R will receive theirs in a few weeks' time when they have settled in school.

Clubs

We are pleased to be able to introduce a range of new clubs that will run during our school lunchtimes, including a lego club and a gardening club. Children from Year 1 to Year 6 will be given the opportunity to sign up for one or more of these clubs. We will then draw names from a hat and those children lucky enough to be drawn will attend that club for the half term. The following half term we will draw another set of names from a hat and so on. This system should ensure that all children who wish to attend one of the clubs will be able to at some point during the year.

School Grounds

We are very grateful to Mrs Prowse who continues to help maintain our nature area. However the warm weather and recent rain has seen a significant number of weeds grow around our grounds. We are looking for a group of green-fingered volunteers to help weed, cut back and generally spruce up our school grounds. If you are available and willing to help anytime on Monday 17th September between 3:30pm and 6:00pm, please let the school office know. Children are more than welcome to stay and help but they must have an adult with them, who is responsible for them. School has a limited number of gardening tools, so any that you are able to bring with you would be appreciated. We are also hoping to plant a range of bulbs around the school grounds. Therefore we are holding a 'bring a bulb to school' day on Friday 28th September. On this day all children are encouraged to bring a bulb into school which can then be planted somewhere on the school grounds. Thank you in advance for your support.

Keeping Our Children Safe

Please can we ask all parents to take care on the journey to and from school. Last term we had a number of parents and local residents raise concerns at the speed at which some parents drive to and from school. Already this week we have had a near miss immediately outside the school entrance. In order to keep all our children safe please:

- *drive slowly;
- *show care and consideration when manoeuvring or reversing cars;
- *be aware of children who are getting in and out of cars;
- *use the one way system around the triangle introduced by our Junior Road Safety Officers last year (map included at the end of this newsletter). It is much safer not to have to reverse around the triangle area;
- *do not pull up on the yellow school zig zag lines, even to allow your children to 'quickly' jump out the car;
- *consider using our WoW scheme (please ask at the School Office if you are unsure how this works);
- *car share with other families if possible.

Thank you for your co-operation.

WoW

We are still looking for volunteers to act as Marshalls for our WoW scheme – we need help on a Monday and Thursday from 8:30am – 8:45am. Wow helps encourage fitness, teaches children important road safety skills and helps reduce congestion at our main entrance, thereby helping to keep our children safe. If you are able to help with this important scheme, please let the school office know as soon as possible.

Please be aware that all children using our WoW scheme need to wear a hi vis jacket. We have purchased a number of new jackets, which are different sizes and therefore different colours, so the children will always be able to find one that fits them.

Medication

Please remember to return your child's medication, including inhalers, to be kept in school.

Change to School Lunch Charges

St Martin's uses Hampshire County Council for school meal provision. The price of a meal has remained the same for several years, at £2.15. From the 4th September 2018 there will be a price increase, which is set by Hampshire County Council; the meal for KS2 pupils will now be £2.30. This new price of £2.30 will still give you a nutritious, healthy and well balanced two course lunch. Children in Years R, 1 and 2 continue to be entitled to have a school lunch free of charge.

Letters

The start of the school year is a good opportunity for us to check that all our paper work is in order and that the details we hold for all children are up to date. This week and next week the children will be bringing home a number of letters. Please make sure you read these carefully and return them to school as soon as possible.

Special Learning Awards

Congratulations to: Isaac R for getting stuck in to our first week back.



School Values Awards



Friendship Award

Congratulations to: Herbie B for being an amazing friend to another child in the class to help him settle in and learn the right way to do things.

Congratulations to: Holly S for making a positive effort to be friendly to our new classmates in Y5/6.

Creativity Award

Congratulations to: Danik T for using his creative skills to make up and say a lovely prayer in our class worship.

Courage Award

Congratulations to: Will A, Anabel M, Willow G, Libby H and Florence H for perseverance, positivity and ingenuity in a tricky situation.

NOTICES:

School Clubs

Football Club – will begin again on Monday 10th September.

French Club – will begin again on Monday 17th September.

Italian Club – will start again on Tuesday 18th September.

Cross Country Club – Mrs Alexander has kindly agreed to run this club but it will not start straight away.

Brass/Woodwind lessons with Mr. Crouter – will begin again on Thursday 13th September.

Keyboard lessons with Xenia Kasper – will start again on Friday 7th September.

Monday Funday

Monday Funday will begin again on Monday 17th September from 2.00pm – 3.00pm.

Inset Days

Monday 3rd September 2018

Monday 29th October 2018

Friday 21st December 2018

Friday 5th April 2018

Monday 3rd June 2018

Missing Scull

Last term several children brought in props for the upper school play, we are missing a scull! Please return it if you find it.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Park House Open Evening/Mornings

The dates below received from Park House School:

Open Evening Thursday 20 Sept – 6:00pm to 9:00pm with Headteacher talks on the hours of 6:15pm, 7:15pm and 8:15pm

Open Morning Friday 21 September – 9:15am to 11:00am

Open Morning Tuesday 16 October – 9:15am to 11:00am

Clere School Open Day

Thursday 20th September from 6.30pm

Church

Sunday 9th	Holy Communion	East Woodhay	8:00am
Trinity 15	Parish Communion (SC)	Woolton Hill	9:30am
	Matins	Highclere	11:00am
	Holy Communion	Ashmansworth	11:00am

School Association

Monday 17th September School Association meeting at 7.45pm

Church of the Ascension
Burghclere



Please come and join us for loads of Bible
themed Fun, Crafts and Activities in Church at
3:30pm on the following Autumn 2018 dates:

Friday 21st September

Going on a Mediterranean Journey

Friday 2nd November

Caring for God's World

Friday 7th December - Nativity





EAST WOODHAY FAMILY LUNCH

EW VILLAGE HALL, HEATH END RG20 0AP

SUNDAY 7TH OCTOBER, 1230 PM

It has been three years since our last parish harvest celebration and six since the Queen's Diamond Jubilee party.

So come and help us celebrate the work of our farmers and other food producers!

Book your tickets, price £10 adults, £5 children (aged 11 and under) via Sarah Leventhorpe EWLunchTickets@gmail.com or telephone 0779 643 4827

Includes hog-roast + pudding and soft drinks; BYO wine, beer etc

Travelling to St Martin's CE Primary School

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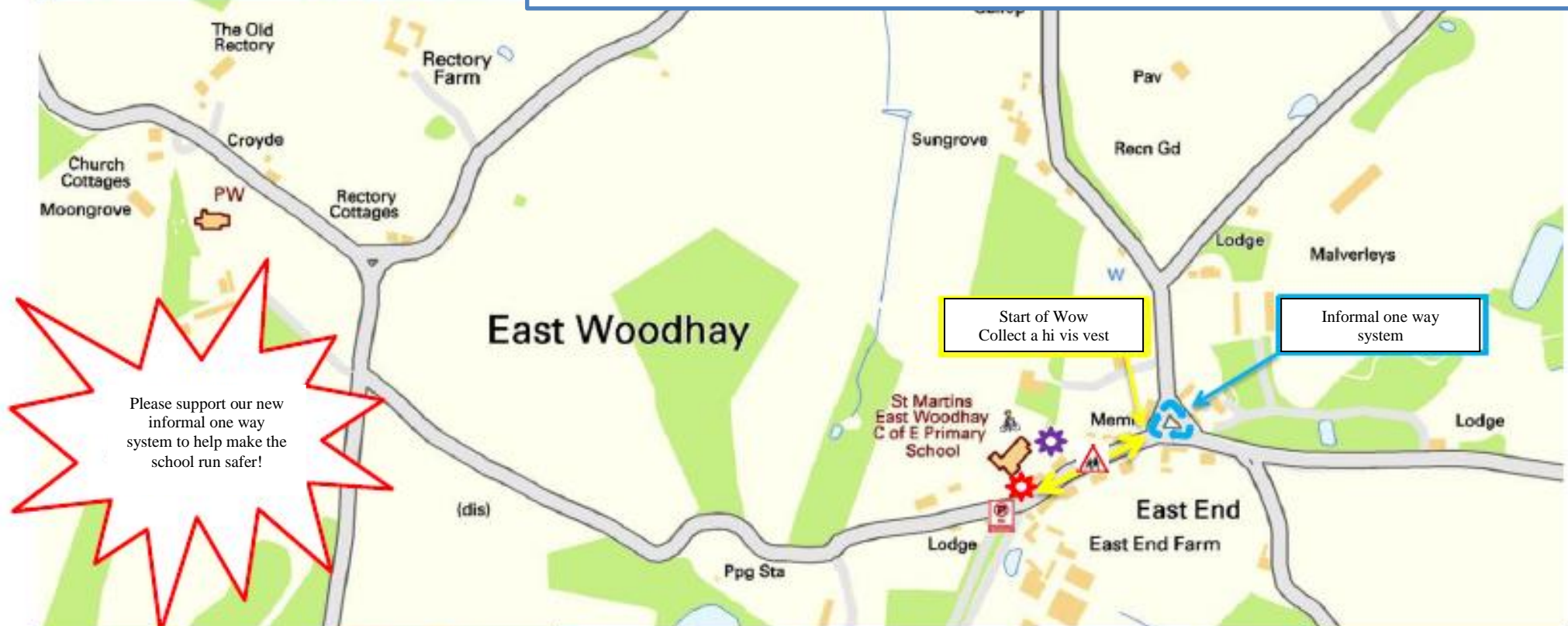
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Journey



Please help to make the school run safer and healthier by joining those who are already walking, scooting or cycling to school. There is storage available for your bikes and scooters at school and it makes a really healthy start to the day, cuts down on congestion and improves the air quality and safety around our school site.

If you have to drive, consider parking away from school and walking the last part of the journey or try using our WoW scheme.

Drivers: We would like to trial an informal one way system round the triangle to reduce the need for drivers to reverse (which places children walking at significant risk) to give way to each other. We obviously can not enforce this but we hope that everyone in the St Martin's community will be prepared to trial it and see if it helps the congestion – please see details on the map below.



5 good reasons to Walk to School

1. Save money
2. Boost brain power
3. Become street savvy
4. Enjoy quality family time
5. Kick start a healthy lifestyle



Park and Stride Drop Off Point – WoW!

If you have to drive to school, please consider using our WoW scheme.

Children in Years 2 – 6 (and younger siblings) can be dropped at the triangle, collect a hi vis vest and walk up the side of the road to school. All children taking part in the scheme must prove they can be trusted to walk sensibly and sign the WoW rules.

Three marshals are on duty daily from 08:30 – 08:45 to monitor your child walking to school. Please be aware WoW does not run in poor weather.

Have you considered ...

*Car sharing with a friend as often as possible?

*Parking at a friend's house and walking with them?

Help the environment, improve your fitness and make the school run safer for everyone!

Map Key

- Pedestrian entrance
- Staff car park entrance
- Cycle/scooter storage
- Pedestrian priority zone – please avoid driving here
- Avoid parking here – keep clear for pedestrians & emergency vehicles

