



St Martin's School Newsletter

Our current
Christian
Value is
Wisdom

Our current Learning Skill
is Perseverance

Upcoming Events

February

Mon 3rd

Canon Christine talking to Yr 6
about confirmation

Tues 4th

Cross country competition for
selected children

Thurs 6th

Bowling competition for selected
children

Fri 7th

School Association Cinema
Night - Toy Story 4

Tues 11th

3.40pm - 7.00pm Parent
Consultations (not Willow Class)

Wed 12th

Bowling competition for selected
children
3.40pm - 7.00pm Parent
Consultations (Willow Class
only)

Thurs 13th

3.40pm-7.00pm Parent
Consultations

Fri 14th

9.15am Final celebration
worship of the half term.
Pm House treat for house with
most merits

Stay and Read

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers at the stay and read session on Tuesday! We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to start the day by enjoying a good book. Please be aware that following parental feedback, starting from next half term, we are going to alternate the morning of Stay and Read so that it is not always on a Tuesday.

Staffing Update

As I shared with parents and carers in Silver Birch class, I am delighted that following interviews on Tuesday we have appointed Miss Kayleigh Cooper to vacancy created when Mrs Burke left us. Miss Cooper will also be covering Mrs Laws' maternity leave in the summer term, meaning that she will teach Silver Birch every day for that term. Miss Cooper is currently teaching Year 1 and 2 in a school in Basingstoke and has a lot of experience teaching KS1. At interview it was very clear that she strongly believes in getting to know each child as an individual and is incredibly passionate about teaching. We look forward to welcoming her to our school.

We are very sad to have to tell you that Mrs Greenwood has left St Martin's – her last day was yesterday. Unfortunately Mrs Greenwood's husband is very poorly and she needs to be at home, looking after him. This has happened very suddenly, hence why we have not been able to do a proper goodbye. However Mrs Greenwood is hoping to be able to pop back and visit us over the next few weeks. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs Greenwood and her husband at the moment.

Spirituality

Sue Bowen, our link education advisor from the diocese, has recently led staff training on the development of spirituality throughout the school. This was one of the areas of development identified at our last SIAMS inspection. The training has had a significant impact on the way we as staff see spirituality and we are currently working on a definition of what it means for us at St Martin's. Sue has shared with us a very simple way of developing children's understanding of spirituality through identifying mirror moments (special moments we experience in relation to ourselves), door moments (special moments we experience in relation to other people), window moments (special moment we experience in relation to the natural world) and candle moments (special moments we experience in relation to beyond our world, which create a sense of mystery). We are planning a special day on Thursday 13th February, led by our house captains, to launch this work with the children working in their houses to explore spirituality. We would like to invite all parents and carers into school at 2:30pm to hear a brief explanation from our House Captains about what we have done and then to visit classrooms so that the children can share their learning with you. We hope that many of you are able to join us!

Coffee Morning

Thank you to those parents and carers who were able to join us for the governor and SLT coffee morning on Wednesday. It was lovely to be able to chat to you about the things that you value about our school and your suggestions for ways we could be even better. If you were unable to make the coffee morning but have anything you would like to share with us, please catch Mrs Rennison or Mrs Bartlett on WoW in the morning or make an appointment with the school office to meet us. Alternatively emails for the Chair of Governors can be sent to adminoffice@st-martins.hants.sch marked FOA chair of governors. As you know, feedback from parents and carers is really important to us and we will be asking all parents and carers to complete a parental questionnaire when you attend parental consultations.

Eco Bricks

We are incredibly proud of the work the children are currently doing to protect and look after God's world. Thank you so much for your support in collecting crisp packs for our terracycling station and stamps, ink cartridges, foreign currency and milk bottle tops for our charity points. We are very excited about visiting our neighbours next week to collect items from them! Following a whole school worship this week, the children are very excited about eco bricking. This is something that we spoke about a while ago but have not pursued because of the amount of effort involved. However the children are very passionate about it and therefore we have agreed to give it a go. Each class will have an eco brick. The children can collect, wash, dry and cut up plastic at home. They can then bring the plastic in and add it to the class eco brick. If this is successful, we will look at what we can do with the eco bricks around school – we particularly liked the pictures of a flower bed and a playground bench that we saw online. 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!

Plastic Free Visit

Upper school are currently learning about different biomes. As part of this they have looked at a variety of environmental issues. In order to support their learning they were visited today by a lady who runs a pop up shop in Newbury selling plastic free items. She came to talk to them about her business and the reasons she supports people with reducing plastic. The children were fascinated by the information she shared with them, listening carefully and asking a range of in depth questions. Her visit has reinforced their enthusiasm for eco bricking!

Archery Competition

Natalie E, Martha D, Will A, Ayden G and Fin H thoroughly enjoyed attending the archery competition at Park House school recently. Mr Doyle said that as well as having lots of fun, they also did an amazing job of representing the school, demonstrating our school values at all times. Congratulations to those children involved and thank you to Mr Doyle for accompanying them and the parents who helped with transport!

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/primaryschools/menu>

Awards

Details of children receiving certificates and house merit points can be found on our website at <https://www.st-martins.hants.sch.uk/website/awards/418990>

Parental Consultations

Thank you to those parents and carers who have signed up for a time to meet their child's class teacher at parental consultation. If you have not yet done so, the sign up sheets are on the classroom doors. If you do not do drop off or pick up, please contact the school office, who will be happy to help you sign up for an available time. Thank you – we look forward to sharing your children's learning with you!

School Association News

Thank you to those parents and carers who came to the school association meeting last week. As you will have seen, plans are well underway for the school cinema night next week. We also started to plan for the disco for next half term. The children always thoroughly enjoy these events but they are only possible if parents and carers are able to volunteer to organise them and support on the night with supervision and running the event. We are always looking for more volunteers to take an active role and help make these events happen. If you can help in any way, no matter how small, please talk to Laura Hunter or Mia Hancock. Thank you – we really need your support!

Clubs

If your child would like to join any of our clubs, please speak to the school office. Please be aware that this information will no longer be included in every newsletter but can be found on our school website.

Year 6 Confirmation Talk

Canon Christine will be in school next week to talk to the Year 6 children about confirmation within the Christian church. She will explain to them what is involved and why some people choose to be confirmed. She is planning on setting up a local confirmation group, for any Y6 children who are interested in being confirmed.

Governor News

There have been committee meetings for both the Standards and Curriculum (SAC) and Pay, Personnel and Finance (PPF) committees over the last two weeks. SAC looked at internal school data for all year groups and celebrated the continued improvements in standards, especially the Year 1 phonics check. PPF monitored the budget, looked at staff recruitment and started to consider the School Financial Value Statement, a legal document that all schools have to complete every year looking at how we manage our budget. At the Full Governing Body meeting we spent time looking at the report from our last local authority monitoring visit, which celebrated the improvements seen at St Martins over the last year and preparing for our next SIAMS inspection, which is due in the summer term.