St Martin's Church of England Primary School



Reception Booklet

Updated: October 2026

INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parent/Carer,

A warm welcome to St Martin's C of E Primary School.

Your child is about to start their school journey and we would love it to be here! Our school is a caring and stimulating environment where children are enthusiastic to learn, feel safe as an individual, and enjoy coming to school. We value our sense of community and see our partnership with parents as key to children's success.

We have an exciting, broad curriculum and a dedicated staff team that encourage and support all children to be independent learners and to achieve their very best each and every day.

We value our role within the Kaleidoscope multi academy trust where we can work collaboratively with colleagues across schools to provide an amazing range of enrichment and learning opportunities.

We hope this booklet provides you with a small glimpse of life at our school but please also visit our Website and Facebook pages to see the amazing things we have been up to. If you need any further information our school office will be happy to help.

We look forward to your child's learning journey starting at St Martin's.

Sue Elliott — Executive Head

Tracey Thomas — Head of School

What will the Classroom look like?

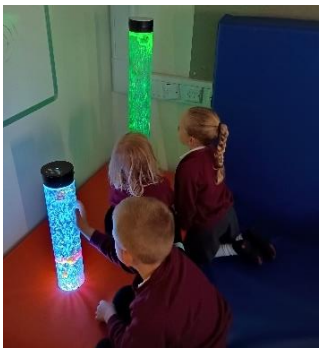
Classrooms have a carefully planned environment to ensure there are opportunities for children to read, write, talk, listen, explore, problem solve, create and plan with others. Children will learn how to use their classroom independently so they can apply their learning to their own ideas during Discovery time (child initiated time).

During Discovery Time children will have the opportunity to move between classes to experience different learning challenges.

The classrooms have been split into different areas, which are called 'continuous provision'. They comprise of:

Water	Malleable	Small World	Sand	Reading Area
Role Play	Creative	Writing	Maths	Construction





Why do we have an Outdoor Classroom?







At St Martin's we believe that:

- Being outdoors has a positive impact on children's sense of well-being and helps all aspects of children's development.
- Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors.
- It gives children first-hand contact with weather, seasons and the natural world.
- All of our children should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances.
- Our outdoor environment is an outside classroom with the opportunity to deepen understanding and develop children's imagination in play.

How does my child learn to read at St Martin's?

As you know, the ability to read and write well is a vital skill for all children, paving the way for an enjoyable and successful school experience. Children learn and practice many of the skills that they need for reading and writing from a very early age. They do this through a wide range of activities and experiences, at home, in settings and in school.

They explore and learn through singing and saying rhymes, making and listening to music, talking with others, sharing books with adults and other children, dressing up, experimenting with writing and using puppets and toys to retell and make up stories.



The children visit the Library weekly to share stories and select their own book to take home. When children enter Reception they take part in high quality phonics sessions every day. These are fun sessions involving lots of speaking, listening and games, where the emphasis is on children's active participation. They learn to use their phonic knowledge for reading and writing activities and in their independent play.

At school we use Unlocking Letters and Sounds Programme. This is divided into six phases, with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of previous learning. We will invite you in for a phonics session to explain what phonics is, how we do it at St Martin's and how you can support your child.





Early Years Foundation Stage – Areas of Learning

The Early Years Foundation Stage has seven areas of learning and development – three prime areas and four specific areas which ensures your child will have a balanced Curriculum across the all seven areas.

The 'prime' areas are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)
- Communication and Language (CL)
- Physical Development (PD).

The 'specific' areas are:

- Literacy (L)
- Mathematics (M)
- Understanding the world (UTW)
- Expressive arts and design (EAD)



Personal Social and Emotional Development

Children's personal, social and emotional development (PSED) is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives, and is fundamental to their cognitive development.

Children's social worlds are shaped by the important attachments they make.

Children will be supported to manage emotions, develop a positive sense of self and have positive interactions with other children.

They will also learn how to look after their body, healthy eating and manage personal needs.

Communication and Language

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development.

Children's back and forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development.

Children will engage in quality conversations with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment.

Children will engage in reading frequently through stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems which will give them opportunities to use and embed new vocabulary.





Physical Development

Physical Development is vital in children's all round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives.

Children will be provided with a variety of opportunities to develop their gross and fine motor skills.

Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being.

Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye co-ordination, which is later linked to early literacy.



Literacy

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading, both comprehension and word reading.

Children will talk to adults about the world around them and the books they read with them and the rhymes they share.

Children will be taught to decode unfamiliar printed words and speedily recognise familiar printed words.

Children will articulate ideas and structure them in speech before writing. They will spell words by identifying sounds and represent the sounds with letters.





Mathematics

Developing a strong grounding in number which is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically.

Children will develop positive attitudes and interests in maths by looking for patterns, having a go and not being afraid to make mistakes.

Children will be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers.

Children will develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures.







Understanding the World

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community.

Children will have opportunities to engage in a wide range of first hand experiences which will increase their knowledge and sense of the world around them.

Children will listen to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems that will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world.





Expressive Arts and Design

The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity.

Children will have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials.



Children will perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others and move expressively to music.

Our aim is to make your child's curriculum as exciting and stimulating as possible. We want them to have a really good start to what will be their lifelong learning journey. The children will be able to develop their confidence and become more independent.

The Curriculum will have a balance between teacher led work and time for the children to explore their new learning in their own play. Much of the learning will enable the children to explore, create and develop socially through real life experiences. Reading will focus on phonics and we will arrange a meeting to discuss how you can support your child's reading development.

Our children have carefully designed classrooms and high quality resources. Learning will take place both within the classroom and in the outdoor environment. Welly walks will be an important part of developing your child's understanding of the world around them.





RE in Reception

RE in the Reception Class supports the achievement of the Early Learning Goals through appropriate subject content, according to the needs of the pupils. Pupils have the opportunity to look at friendship, feelings and blessings through stories Jesus told. Pupils also learn about religious festivals from Christianity and other religions and cultures.



In Reception, we use our Communication and Language skills to discuss and describe our own family's traditions and customs. We develop our Understanding of the World when we compare our own traditions and customs with our friends using stories, role play, artefacts and objects.

As a Church School, assemblies and collective worship play an important part in School life. When we are settled, we take part in daily workshop and assembly with the rest of Key Stage 1. At Harvest, Christmas and Easter we take an active role in celebrating these Christian Festivals with singing and performances. We visit St Martin's Church as part of our Understanding of the World and welcome visitors to the school.

School Uniform

Our School Uniform is an important part of our identity. We want our children to wear it and show their pride in being part of the St Martin's C of E Primary School Community.

Dark grey or black tailored school trousers (black or grey socks should be worn with trousers), or
Dark grey or black pleated skirt (skirts should be just above or just below the knee);
A darker red gingham dress may be worn in warm weather.
With skirts, white socks should be worn (not trainer socks), claret, grey, or black tights.
White polo T shirt with collar.
*Claret school sweatshirt/cardigan with school badge

Black school shoes only. Trainers are only allowed to be worn on PE days.

*Uniform can be purchased from our local supplier, NK Sports, High Street, Worle, Weston-super-Mare. Tel. 01934 511005 www.nkgroupuk.com
For more information please refer to the Uniform page on our school website.

For PE and Games

Children will need to come to school in their PE clothes on their class PE days.
The PE Kit is Trainers, Plain White round necked T-shirt, Plain black shorts/skorts/joggers/ leggings.

Reception Children

Our aim is to help children to become independent as soon as possible, therefore clothing/footwear should be suitable for them to put on themselves.

- Elasticated waists on trousers, velcro footwear
- Clothing should be named clearly.
- If your child has hair below shoulder length, please tie it back.



(Reception pupils enjoying P.E. in the school gymnasium)

Class Visitors and Educational Trips

Throughout the school year Reception Classes have various visitors come into school which supports our class topics to enhance the children's learning. The children will also have the opportunity to take part in visits around the local area, followed by educational trips which also form part of their termly curriculum topics.





Assessment in Reception

Your child will be assessed during their time in Reception on their progress within the seven areas of learning. Children undertake a Baseline Assessment in their first weeks. These assessments will take the form of observations, group and individual tasks.

Behaviour

We want our children to enjoy being at school, to be part of our Community and to learn to co-operate and support each other. Our Behaviour Policy focuses on four clear expectations. At St Martin's, we are:

- Kind
- Respectful
- Safe
- Focused

Healthy Eating

Lunchtime

In Reception, we encourage the children to enjoy a supervised lunch together in our School Dining Room. Your child can choose to have a hot school meal, school packed lunch or alternatively bring a home packed lunch (these should be a balanced and healthy meal). A menu of school meals is provided in this pack. You can also view the latest menu on our school website: http://www.stmartinsschool.org.uk/school-meals/

School meals are prepared daily on site by our Contracted Caterers Aspens. There is a good choice of healthy and nutritious meals.

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 can have a Free School Meal as part of the Government Initiative currently offering Universal Free School Meals. If you are currently receiving Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit or various other Income Support, your child may be eligible for the additional Pupil Premium Grant through Free School Meal entitlement anyway. Please see further information on how to apply at the end of this booklet.

St. Martin's School is part of the Healthy Schools initiative and we therefore promote healthy snacks and lunches. We also encourage the children to drink water throughout the day. Please send your child with a named water bottle. Children are not allowed to drink squash or fizzy drinks.

Snack Times

Fruit and vegetables are freely available in the morning at our Snack Café. Please provide a healthy snack for the afternoon session.

They will also be entitled to free milk, until their 5th Birthday. There is a charge if they wish to continue with milk after this time and you will automatically receive a letter from the School Milk Services with additional information.



Parent Reader

If you would like, you are more than welcome to come in and read with some children in school. Please leave your details and we will contact you if you are interested.

Volunteers

The staff warmly welcome the support of parents, grandparents and carers. Our children and school really benefits from any help which our Community can offer. If you are able to help in any way, please contact the class teacher directly. All volunteers working with children on a regular basis must complete a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) Form. Please contact the school office for further details.

St Martin's PTFA Fundraising Team

We'd like to introduce you to our wonderful fundraising team – a dedicated group of volunteers working behind the scenes to enhance school life for all our children.

This year alone, we have raised thousands of pounds through events such as after-school Discos, the Christmas Fair, a Valentine's Day Sale, the Golden Ticket Chocolate Bar Sale, a Sponsored Duck Race, and our Summer Fair. We also seek funding through various other avenues to boost our efforts.

Thanks to this fundraising, we've been able to provide:

- *Three large new sandpits*
- *A dedicated outdoor role play area*
- *Toys for OPAL lunchtimes*
- *A laptop trolley for in-class lessons*
- *BeeBots for computer programming*
- *Foam Javelins for P.E.*
- *A large role play stage for the main playground*
- *A circus workshop for the whole school, plus equipment for playtimes…and much more!*

Everything we do is run by volunteers who give their time freely to plan and deliver these events – all with the goal of making school a more exciting and rewarding place for every child.

We're always in need of extra help. Whether you can assist with organising, setting up, or just helping out on the day, your support would be warmly welcomed and hugely appreciated.

Together, we can achieve even more!

Contact with the School

At St Martin's we view the partnership and relationship with parents and carers as a priority and a key element in helping children to be happy and to achieve their full potential academically, spiritually, socially and emotionally.

How We Communicate With Parents

It is extremely important to have good lines of communication between all members of our school community as this enables us to work in a positive partnership and meet the needs of our children. We send a monthly Newsletter home which will provide important information. Our Newsletters are also available on our website, where you will also find other useful information.

Parents and carers can join our St Martin's School Facebook page where they can also view recent activity and events news.



https://www.facebook.com/stmartinsschoolworle/

Each term the class teachers write to parents/carers to communicate what will be happening in your child's class and how you can support them in their learning. Specific letters will communicate other important information. The school uses 'SchoolPing', a parent messaging service which you will be invited to join, so that we can contact you quickly with important information.

Parents are kept informed of their children's progress and achievements through formal parent/teacher consultation evenings. The first consultation evening takes place during the Autumn Term, followed by a second during the Spring Term. An annual written report is sent home during Term 6.

Throughout the year we hold a number of parents' meetings which will focus on particular issues. This may include curriculum workshops, reading or year group meetings.

These events give parents/carers the opportunity to work closely with the school and a chance to ask any questions. These meetings are well attended and popular with our parents. We also inform parents of various Headteacher Drop In Events and Coffee Mornings, via our School Newsletters.

School Site

School security is an important matter to all at St. Martin's. The rear and front pedestrian gates are locked during the day and all visitors should use the drive and front entrance and report to Reception. No vehicle access is permitted via the entrance gates from 8.20am-9.00am each morning and 2.55pm-3.30pm in the afternoon in order to safeguard the children.

As a healthy school, we encourage our families to walk for all or some of their journey to school. Children may choose to cycle or scoot to school under parental supervision. Bicycles and scooters can be stored and locked in the undercover area adjacent to Reception classes.



First Aid

We have a number of Paediatric First Aiders. Should your child require treatment, it will be logged in the Medical Incident Book and a slip will be given to your child to take home so that parents/carers are informed.

If it is a serious injury, parents/carers will be contacted immediately.

Medical Arrangements

It is vital that the school is notified of any medical conditions. Medication such as an inhaler, can be administered, but a form giving permission to administer must be completed. St Martin's School is now part of the Emergency Asthma Inhaler In School scheme following the updated Human Medicine Regulations effective from October 2014.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

St. Martin's is committed to being an inclusive school whereby the teaching and learning of every pupil matters. All children are special but children with emotional, behavioural, academic or physical needs may require specific support to enable them to access the curriculum.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are identified on our SEND Register and we endeavour to identify these children quickly and provide their subsequent support. The teachers at St. Martin's strive to create supportive and positive learning environments for all pupils including those with SEND. Alongside the teaching staff we have a dedicated and caring team of Learning Support Assistants, some of whom lead intervention programmes in English and Maths. We also have an experienced Learning Mentor available to children if needed.

The Inclusion Coordinator (INCo) is responsible for ensuring that the School's procedures are in line with the SEND Code of Practice 2014. The INCo regularly reviews SEND provision and liaises with outside agencies to assess and support SEND children within the School. Copies of the latest SEND Policies and our SEND Information report can be found on our school website.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

We run our own Breakfast and After School Clubs on the school premises. Please contact the School Office to obtain more details or may visit our school website https://www.stmartinsschool.org.uk/after-school-club-breakfast-club/ which will provide you with Clubs direct contact details for our Club Leaders as well as costs and booking forms.





Free School Meals

Did you know there may be additional funding available to the school of up to £1,320 each year for your child to support their learning?

If you are in receipt of the following your child may be eligible and receive a Free School Meal:

- child tax credits (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- guarantee element of state pension credit
- income support
- income-based jobseeker's allowance
- income-related employment support allowance
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

You can apply online to get an instant result. Please click on the following assessment link: **https://fsm.lgfl.net/**

If you are eligible, your entitlement will begin on the day you apply.

You can still apply for Free School Meals if you claim benefits and have a child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2. This is to:

- make you eligible for other financial assistance for items such as school trips
- enable a school to receive the funding

Thank you for taking the time to read this Booklet and we hope it has been helpful in answering any questions.
If you do have any other queries, please contact our School Office on Tel. 01934 628651 who will put you in touch with the relevant member of staff, or email us directly on: office@stmartins.kmat.co.uk

You can also visit our school website for additional information www.stmartinsschool.org.uk as well as our official Facebook page for recent events and school updates.
We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our school.

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Our Christian Values

Hope

Forgiveness

Thankfulness

Compassion

Endurance

Trust and Friendship

Wisdom

