



# NEWSLETTER



*'Learning Together, Achieving Together'*



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Main School Telephone: 01934 628651

## NEWSLETTER November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have settled back into Term 2 well. It was wonderful to see so many parents at our Parents Evening. Following on from our Parents Evenings, if you have any questions or would like to make an appointment with Miss Crandon, our SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator) then please contact the school office. Miss Crandon works at St Martin's on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

We are really pleased with the behaviour of our children in class and around school. They are following the behaviour curriculum well. Watchout for praise SchoolPings or phone calls from staff, as we have so much positive praise for our pupils.

We have had a very successful Reception Open Morning and Tours continue this term for children starting school September 2026. New parents visiting our school have passed on some wonderful comments about the Early Years Foundation Stage environment and the level of artwork around the school from our suspended curriculum week at the start of Term 1.

Welcome to the VLC who have settled in well in their premises and the new fences are now complete. They currently have 1 pupil in attendance.

On 10<sup>th</sup> October, we had a fantastic OPAL play afternoon with wonderful attendance from our parents. Over 100 attending, a huge increase from 3 attendees at our first meeting. We had amazing feedback and reviews with good conversations regarding risk taking and enjoying the outside environment. It was a great opportunity for everyone to see and experience the lunch time provision that we have for the children.



During October we had a Monitoring Curriculum week. It was wonderful to spend time in classes and see all the engaging activities, talking to teachers and pupils about their curriculums; Y5/6 Victorians/Empire, Y3/4 covering WW1, Y1/2 Heroes and Villains and EYFS All About Me. We've had great feedback from Pupil Voices:

-  *I love history – it's a really great topic.*
-  *I try hard. We are hardworking even if don't like every subject.*
-  *We are getting better at learning. I love learning new things.*
-  *A great environment to learn in.*
-  *Love stickers from Mrs Elliott.*

- ✦ *Marking moves us on – marking is strict but we can handle it.*
- ✦ *Uses good words to explain things – sometimes words I don't know so I ask*
- ✦ *Teachers help us to achieve so we feel good*
- ✦ *I'm proud of my writing and my teacher said it was really good*

### St Martin's Staff and Leadership Update:

Mrs S Elliott (Exec Headteacher)

Mrs T Thomas (Head of School)

Senior Leader / Phase Lead – Mrs D Read

Inclusion Co-ordinator – Miss D Crandon

To contact staff by email you can contact them through the main office [office@stmartinsschool.org.uk](mailto:office@stmartinsschool.org.uk)

For any safeguarding concern then please email [safeguarding@stmartinsschool.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stmartinsschool.org.uk)

This term we welcome Mrs Tidley and Mrs Counsell to our staff team, who have joined us this term as Learning Support Assistants. We say goodbye to Denise Couch who has worked at St Martin's for over 18 years in various roles; Lunchtime Supervisor and Playworker at both our Breakfast and After School Clubs. We would like to wish Denise all the very best on her retirement.



**Harvest Festival Assembly:** A huge well done to our Year 2 children who gave an amazing Harvest celebration assembly at the end of last term. They read their lines beautifully and gave a wonderful reminder of why we celebrate Harvest. A big thank you to everyone who brought in food and other items for our Harvest Festival which was donated to the local Weston Foodbank, we were astonished by everyone's generosity. Can we also say a massive thank you to Hills Bakery who made us an amazing loaf showing the fish and 5 loaves story from The Bible. Representatives from WsM Foodbank came to collect all the food donations which weighed a whopping 165kg. Weston Foodbank was very grateful for all the donations.

**British Legion – Poppy Appeal:** From Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November we have been raising money for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Children are able to buy a standard poppy for any donation you think appropriate. Other accessories ie. snap bands, reflective zip pull poppy etc from £1. These are available every lunchtime up to 11<sup>th</sup> November. Year 5 children have been conducting sales for Years 3-6. In the afternoon, going around to Reception, Year 1 and 2 classes. Please send your child to school with the correct amount of change for any items they wish to buy. Thank you again for your support.



On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, Year 5 will also lead the school in a special assembly followed by a 2 minute silence. Children are invited to wear their Scout and Guiding Association uniforms to school on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**Children In Need – 14<sup>th</sup> November:** St Martin's will be supporting Children In Need on 14<sup>th</sup> November and children are invited to wear something spotty, or non-uniform, on this day. The theme this year is 'Challenge Yourself To 25' – so the children will have challenges to complete in class including a Strictly Come Dancing Cha Cha to learn in 25 steps.



A donation of your choice can be made via the following link

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=19450>

Cash donations will also be accepted, but as we are aiming to be a cashless school, online donations would be preferred. Thank you in advance for supporting this fundraising event.



### St Martin's Church – Angel Display

Vicar Jon asked the children of St Martin's to make angels which were then displayed in St Martin's Church as part of their 900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Vicar Jon has shared these photos of the Angel Festival display which included angels from 3 local primary schools.

## **Reception New Intake Starting September 2026**

Parents of Intake Reception 2026 (children with dob 01.09.2021 –31.08.2022) can apply for a place for their child to start school September 2026.

*\* Online Applications close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 23:59 hrs.*

Please visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions) and choose 'Apply for a School Place'.

North Somerset School Admissions contact details: ☎ Tel: 01275 884078 and 01275 884014

***St Martin's has availability on Family Tour dates for Reception 2026 parents and children over the next term.  
To book a place please contact the school and speak to Ms Somers 01934 628651 or email  
[office@stmartinsschool.org.uk](mailto:office@stmartinsschool.org.uk)***

**School Meals:** These are bookable via the Aspens SwiftKitchen online Booking System

>> <https://app.swiftkitchen.co.uk/>

**A reminder, the cut-off time for pre-ordering school meals online is 9.00am on the day.**

You may choose to save the link to your favourites on a web browser, or shortcut on your home screen/mobile device. We have sent a new copy of the Winter/Spring Aspens Menu via SchoolPing at the start of this term. Christmas Lunch will take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December and orders are now available to book online via SwiftKitchen. The deadline to order your child's Christmas Lunch will be Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

*If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, or a Universal Infant Free Meal in Reception/Year1/Year2, you will still need to pre-order your child's meal choice online via Aspens SwiftKitchen.*

If your child is not currently in receipt of Free School Meals entitlement and you receive benefits, please click on this FSM application link to complete an online check >> <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/free-school-meals>

It only takes a couple of minutes to apply and you will receive an immediate response to confirm whether your application has been successful. If you do receive a FSM code please forward this to the school office so we can update our records [office@stmartinsschool.org.uk](mailto:office@stmartinsschool.org.uk)

**Uniformd Launched:** Before half-term, we launched a pre-loved online uniform shop on the Uniformd platform! Badged St Martin's uniform is available to purchase, in good condition, at a cost of £2 per jumper or cardigan. The proceeds from sales go back into the school to help us further enrich the children's experiences. It is also a sustainable way of reusing uniform which has plenty of wear left.

Orders placed will go straight to the school office for processing, items can then be COLLECTED FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE or PASSED TO YOUR CHILD TO BRING HOME. Every item we currently have in stock can be found in the catalogue. Please click on the link below to access the site: <https://app.uniformd.co.uk/items/st-martins-c-of-e-primary-school>

The link can also be found on the Uniform section of our school website for more details or you can go directly to Uniformd and search for St. Martin's C of E Primary School. If you have any donations of jumpers or cardigans, or any other uniform item which is in good reusable condition, we would gratefully receive these. We will also be asking for Christmas jumper donations so we can sell these, so those donations would also be most welcome. Thank you again for your support.

**Christmas Fayre 5<sup>th</sup> December - 3.30pm:** We're excited to let you know that our St Martin's School Christmas Fayre is back on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December and we're already busy preparing to make it our best (and most successful) year yet! We're currently collecting raffle prize donations, and we'd be very grateful for any contributions from parents, carers, or local businesses. If you, or someone you know, runs a business that might be able to donate a prize or voucher, we'd love to hear from you! Please email the Fundraising Team directly on [stmartinsft@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinsft@gmail.com) We have sent out a SchoolPing message today with further details.

Our Christmas fayre raffle has already received a wonderful boost thanks to Micro Scooters, who have kindly donated helmets and safety accessories. Micro's collection includes traditional kick scooters as well as scooters with a seat suitable for toddlers <https://www.micro-scooters.co.uk/collections/ride-on-scooters>



**Year 6 Camp Mill on the Brue:** The Year 6 children will be heading off for their residential camp on 24<sup>th</sup> November and we are excited to hear all about their adventure and activities when they return. A reminder for Year 6 children to pack warm, old clothes and several pairs of shoes, trainers or wellies.

**Reading Reminder:** It is extremely important that our children are confident and skilled readers. This skill provides access to all areas of learning and enables the children to meet the demands of the challenging National Curriculum. We also want our children to enjoy reading for pleasure, which is why we have invested so heavily in resources for our Library and Books.

We teach them how to read but the best readers need regular practice. We ask you to support your child's reading by hearing them read at least 5 times over the week. This regular reading creates a habit that has a huge impact on children's development, attainment and progress.



**Good Attendance/Punctuality:** Attendance continue to be high profile. Attendance at school is vital in ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential and feel an important part of the school community. Any absence request must be agreed and made in advance and will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. No holiday will be authorised - holidays should be taken outside of term time if possible, please can medical appointments be outside of the school day.

Attendance is monitored internally and externally by the Education Welfare Service. Parents are asked to come to attend meetings when the Education Welfare Officer notices patterns in absence.

We want to work with you to ensure good school attendance for your child. Please note that any children arriving to school late must be signed in via the office, by the parent/carer on their arrival, for fire safety. If your child is unwell, it is important that you ring in each day. Where no reason is given, the absence is recorded as unauthorised.

**Parking Around School:** Thank you to all our parents who are parking considerately around school and not on the zig zags or across driveways. This helps maintain a good relationship within our local community.

**A reminder that the school gates will be closed to all cars at the start and end of the school day 8.20am-9.00am and 2.55pm-3.30pm.** The office is closed during lunchtime - thank you to parents who have managed to make appointments to avoid these times.

Children should not arrive at school, or be on the school grounds unsupervised, before 8.40am.

**School Office:** The office hours are from 8.30am-3.45pm. An answer machine will be in operation outside of these times. A member of staff will respond to any messages as soon as possible. If you are contacting the School with regards to a pupil absence please telephone the main school Tel: 01934 628651 and select option '1' – we would ask that you ring before 8.50am if your child will not be attending school.

**Christmas Jumper:** If children wish to get the best value out of their Christmas jumpers, we are inviting everyone to wear their Christmas jumper on Fridays through December; 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December as well as our Christmas Lunch Day on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**Rock Steady Band Musical Concert:** On 15<sup>th</sup> December, parents of children who currently take Rock Steady Band music lessons will be invited into school to enjoy a performance (Rock Steady will forward those parents with more details).

The school will also be treated to a performance in December by our Rock Steady Children.

*Kind regards,*

*Tracey Thomas  
Head of School*

*Sue Elliott  
Executive Headteacher*



## Term 1 Highlights



All the children have had a fantastic start at St Martin's and we are really impressed with how well they have settled in.

The children are looking forward to their first visit as a class to St Martin's Church this week for their St Martin's Day Service.

The class has started practising songs for their Nativity Performances which will take place at school on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm. We will be sending out more details later this term.



*Year 1 and 2 enjoyed a trip to visit the Matthew Ship. Our former-landlubbers learnt about the great pirates of Davey Jones's Lockers, namely the great Blackbeard and navigated the Bristol harbourside.*



*Year 3 and 4 made some wonderful art based on the Blitz. They used watercolours to create the fiery backgrounds and then painted silhouettes at the front.*



*Year 5 and 6 launched their History topic with a Victorian afternoon.*

*Kingfishers, Ospreys and Puffins visited each class to take part in a Victorian experience, that helped to set the scene for their upcoming topic. The children had a fantastic afternoon, getting into the swing of everything Victorian!*



Year 5 and 6 had an inspiring morning at their very own Careers Fayre last term. The children were able to talk to professionals about the amazing jobs they do. Thank you to the wonderful people from SGS Sport, Avon and Somerset police, Herbs on the Hill, GWR, Weston College, School Sports Teaching, The NHS, AI, Infinity Plumbing and cyber security who made this unforgettable day happen. The children were very inspired.



On 19th October St Martin's and Worle Village took part in the KMAT Dodgeball Tournament which was ran by the NSSPEA, hosted at St Martin's. Ashcombe Primary and St Martin's came joint first winning 4 out of their 5 games. All schools demonstrated excellent dodgeball skills and great sportsmanship.



Year 5 and 6 girls did an amazing job representing St Martin's School at an NSSPEA Football Tournament showing great sportsmanship and team work!

A team of Year 4 pupils also attended the NSSPEA 'Give It A Try Festival' last term. They played agility games, had a rugby intro from Bristol Bears, played cornhole games and played netball with some netball champions.

Thank you to the PTA for organising and running the K-Pop Disco. The children had an amazing time and what a lovely way to end the term.



# Dates for your Diary



DATE	EVENT
10 <sup>th</sup> –14 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week (more details to follow)
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Day Assembly for pupils. Children invited to wear scouting/guiding uniforms on this day.
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception at St Martin's Church for St Martin's Day Service – Wellie Walk (pupil event only)
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children In Need - wear something spotty or non-uniform in exchange for a donation (see SchoolPing)
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Measurements visit - Sirona School Nursing Team (details sent home via SchoolPing)
24–28 November	Year 6 Residential Camp – Mill on the Brue
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Messy Church Events 3.15-5.00pm (details sent home via SchoolPing)
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception–Year 5 Flu Immunisations at school (consent details sent home)
1 <sup>st</sup> December	1.45pm Family Tour for families of children starting school Reception September 2026
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Year 3 and 4 invited to dress up for their World War 2 Evacuation Day (details to follow)
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair 3.30pm and Carols by Candlelight (details to follow)
9 December *new date	Individual / Sibling Photos – Tulip Photography Visit (all pupils)
10 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am Reception and Year 1 Nativity Performance (details to follow)
11 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00pm Reception and Year 1 Nativity Performance (details to follow)
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 and 4 Christingle Service @ St Martin's Church 10am (parents invited - details to follow)
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Crib Service at St Martin's Church 10am – pupils only
15 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am Rock Steady Music Band Concert (details sent to parents only of Rock Steady Music)
15 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am Y6 ONLY Flu Immunisations at School (consent details sent home)
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Story at St Martin's Church 10am (pupil event)
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch (bookable via SwiftKitchen) - All children invited to wear Christmas Jumpers
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Storytime with Santa (details to follow)
19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Last Day of Term 2</b>
	<b>**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS (School Closed)**</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>INSET STAFF TRAINING DAY (School closed to pupils)</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Start of Term 3</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am Family Tour for families of children starting school Reception September 2026
9 <sup>th</sup> January	Special Lunch Menu 'Let's Explore' (bookable via SwiftKitchen)
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Special Lunch Menu 'Build A Burger' (bookable via SwiftKitchen)
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 6 Lifeskills Bristol - Educational Visit (details to follow)
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Special Lunch Menu 'Lunar New Year' (bookable via SwiftKitchen)
13 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Last Day of Term 2</b>
	<b>**HALF TERM (School Closed)**</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>INSET STAFF TRAINING DAY (School closed to pupils)</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Start of Term 4</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Special Lunch Menu 'World Book Day' (bookable via SwiftKitchen)
5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day (details to follow)
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Class Photos Tulip Photography
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>Last Day of Term 4</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	<b>** GOOD FRIDAY (School Closed) **</b>
	<b>**EASTER HOLIDAYS (School Closed)**</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Start of Term 5</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Overnight Camp at Hill House Christian Centre (more details to follow)
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Special Lunch Menu 'Out of this World' (bookable via SwiftKitchen)
11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs Week (details to follow)
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Special Lunch Menu 'Build A Burger' (bookable via SwiftKitchen)
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>Last Day of Term 5</b>
	<b>**HALF TERM (School Closed)**</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> June	<b>Start of Term 6</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>Last Day of Term 6</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	<b>INSET STAFF TRAINING DAY (School closed to pupils)</b>
	<b>**SUMMER HOLIDAYS (School Closed)**</b>