



# NEWSLETTER



*'Learning Together, Achieving Together'*



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Website: [www.stmartinsschool.org.uk](http://www.stmartinsschool.org.uk)

Email: [office@stmartinsschool.org.uk](mailto:office@stmartinsschool.org.uk)

Main School Telephone: 01934 628651

## Term 1 Newsletter: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a great start to the year. The children have already had some wonderful experiences, trips, activities and OPAL Play has been a success, including more activity and engagement in the playground.

We would like to say a special goodbye to Mrs Aylott our Lunchtime Supervisor who has been part of the staff team for over 9 years. Please join us in wishing her good luck in her new job.

### St Martin's Leadership:

Mrs S Elliott (Exec Headteacher)

Mrs T Thomas (Head of School)

*Senior Leader / Phase Lead – Mr C Leeson and Mrs K Mann*

*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)

**Harvest Festival Assembly:** A massive well done to Year 2 who gave an amazing Harvest celebration assembly this 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 an amazing loaf which shows the fish and 5 loaves story from The Bible. This will be passed on to St Martin's Church for display.



**British Legion – Poppy Appeal:** From Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November we will be raising money for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Children will be able to buy the following; poppy, reflective poppy, zip pull poppy, wristband, pencils, sharpeners and erasers with prices starting from 50p. These will be available between 12:20-12:40pm (for Years 3-6) each day until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November outside the office.



The Year 5 children will be visiting Reception, Year 1 and 2 classes during the afternoon, between these dates, to sell poppies/accessories. Please send your child to school with change (maximum £2) for any items they wish to buy. Thank you for your support.

Children are also invited to wear their Scout and Guiding Association uniforms to school on **\*Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November** when we shall be holding a Remembrance Day Assembly. (**\*date correction**)

**Children In Need – 15<sup>th</sup> November:** St Martin's will be supporting Children In Need on 15<sup>th</sup> November and we will be holding a 'onesie fashion parade'. The children can wear their onesies, or something spotty, in exchange for a £1 donation or. There will be prizes for best dressed in each year group. Children will also enjoy themed activities in class. Thank you for supporting this fundraising event.



**St Martin's Church Poetry Competition:** Vicar Jon is inviting all the children to take part in a Christmas Poem Competition and the winner will feature in their St Martin's Church Christmas magazine which will be distributed to all the houses in the Parish. Simply write a short Christmas Poem or verse of up to a maximum of 100 words. In addition to getting their design published, there will be prizes for what is judged to be the best entry for the two categories: Reception, Year 1 & 2 and Years 3 – 6.

If your child would like to take part, please bring entries into school by Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November. All entries will be collected from school on this date. Please remember to include child's name and class on the back of their poem.



This term Vicar Jon came in to talk to the Year 3 and 4 children about his role in the community and all that the Church does to help others. He also explained to the children all about Communion.

They were fascinated to learn about the bread and wine and what they symbolise.

### **Reception New Intake Starting September 2025**

Parents of Intake Reception 2025 (children with dob 01.09.2020 –31.08.2021) can apply for a place for their child to start school September 2025.

*\* Online Applications close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 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 2025 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)***

### **Year 6 Transfer to Secondary School September 2025**

Parents and carers of Year 6 pupils (children with dob 01.09.2013 – 31.08.2014) will need to apply for their child to Transfer to Secondary School - national closing date is **31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 23:59hrs.**

You will need to complete an online Transfer to Secondary School Application available via: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions) or you may request a paper copy.

*A letter from North Somerset School Admissions was sent home with Year 6 children earlier this term (a copy was also sent via SchoolPing).*

## Reading:

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.

## Parent Online Booking Systems:

School Meals: These are bookable via the Aspens SELECT online Booking System.

***A reminder, the cut-off time for pre-ordering school meals online is 8.15am on the day.***

Select Booking System link >> <https://select.aspens-services.com/>

You may choose to save the link to your favourites on a web browser, or shortcut on your home screen or mobile device.

**NEW - Wraparound Care Payment System:** The latest information regarding the new Wraparound Care booking system on ParentPay has been sent out to all parents/carers via SchoolPing last week. From Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November is it parent/carers responsibility to make all bookings and cancellations using ParentPay. Bookings for After School Club can be made after the booking deadline by contacting the Club Leader or the school office but your account must be in credit for the booking to be made. You can do this by adding some credit to the After School Club 2024/25 payment item.

If you wish to pay for Wraparound Care using childcare vouchers please ensure that your account remains in credit otherwise you will not be able to book sessions. Please email [financeadmin@stmartinsschool.org.uk](mailto:financeadmin@stmartinsschool.org.uk) to advise us that payment has been made and how you would like the payment to be split between After School Club and Breakfast Club.

## Uniform:

Please can you ensure that children wear the **current** correct uniform - it is an important part of our school identity and values. Our School Uniform can be purchased from NK Group which is located at the end of Worle High Street. We have nearly new / spare uniform if requested. A copy of our uniform list is available from the school office and our website.

Children should come to school in PE uniform on the day they are having their PE lesson – please can we remind that PE uniform should be plain black shorts/joggers/leggings and plain white T-shirt. Trainers should only be worn on PE days. Your class teacher will send out individual class PE days each term via SchoolPing.

## Good Attendance/Punctuality:

Attendance is high profile this year due to the Government Policy. Attendance at school is vital in ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential. Any absence request must be agreed and made in advance and will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. The regulations do not allow schools to give retrospective approval. If the absence has not been agreed in advance it will be marked as 'unauthorised attendance' and may result in a penalty notice being issued by the North Somerset Education Welfare Service. No holiday will be authorised - holidays should be taken outside of term time and if possible, please can medical appointments be outside of the school day. Proof of medical appointments is required. Attendance is monitored internally and externally by the Education Welfare Service.

We want to work with you to ensure good school attendance for your child and if you wish to discuss any aspect of this further please contact the school office email.

Please note that any children arriving to school late must be signed in via the office, by the parent/carer on their arrival.

**Parking around School:**

Can we remind our parents and carers to park legally and safely around the roads neighbouring our school. We have a good relationship with our neighbours and want to maintain this – so please can we also avoid parking across their driveways. It is illegal and they need access to their properties at all times. Car engines left idling near school cause harmful emissions for children. Please support us in this important issue and be considerate of others. We have met with our local PCSO who will be supporting the school with any issues and they will be coming into school next term.

Please supervise your children after school. We sent out a recent SchoolPing message to raise a concern that children are picking up the gravel at from the bottom of Spring Hill after school, near the sub station, and spreading this over the path and driveways. We have spoken to the children in assembly and would appreciate it if all parents could be vigilant for this when leaving school at the end of the day.

***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 2.45pm-3.30pm.***

*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 Jumpers:**

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; 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December. If anyone has an old Christmas jumper which is now too small, we would be grateful for any which we can donate for those children without.

*St Martin's School will be closed to pupils for a Staff Inset Training Day on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. We would like to wish you all a lovely half term break and we look forward to the children returning to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.*

*Kind regards,*

*Tracey Thomas  
Head of School*

*Sue Elliott  
Executive Headteacher*



## Term 1 Highlights



Explorer Dome visited Year 6 - they experienced some amazing experiments and learnt about forces from the experts.



Year 5 visited 'We Are The Curious' in Bristol – they had a fantastic time and saw actual rocket fuel being ignited.



Year 5 created amazing solar systems, using a mixture of oil pastels and pencil crayons. Well done Orcas and Puffins.



Year 3 & 4 have been finding out about Egyptian Gods and then drew some of their favourite ones. They also loved learning about 'friction' in Science this term.



Year 1 & 2 created a selection of Van Gogh Sunflowers using pastels and created colour wheels to explore contrasting colours.



Year 1 & 2 children had a special visitor come to see them. His name was Jethro and he was from 1666 and he informed the children all about the Great Fire of London. The children were so enthusiastic to find out more about this topic.



Our new Reception children enjoyed exploring the classroom and outdoors when they joined us this term.



Reception class wanted to make their very own St Martin's Scarecrow after watching the Harvest Festival Assembly at school. They all worked together to create their scarecrow – we think they did a fantastic job!



OPAL Play – the digging area has been a real hit with the children!  
Thank you again to everyone for all the generous donations brought into school for OPAL play.



Year 6 Learning Hockey skills this term and a Hockey Tournament during their PE session.



# Dates for your Diary



DATE	EVENT
24 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Last Day of Term 1</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>INSET STAFF TRAINING DAY (School closed to pupils)</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Start of Term 2</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>*Date Correction: Remembrance Day Assembly for pupils. Children invited to wear scouting/guiding uniforms.</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual / Sibling Photos – Tulip Photography Visit (all pupils)
15 <sup>th</sup> November	Children In Need 'onesie fashion parade' or wear something spotty in exchange for £1 donation
21 <sup>st</sup> November	Messy Church 3.15-5.00pm (details sent home)
21 <sup>st</sup> November	Special Lunch Menu 'Sparkle Spectacular' (bookable via Aspens Select)
25 <sup>th</sup> –29 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Residential Camp – Mill on the Brue
27 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>*Date Correction: Year 3&amp;4 Christingle at St Martin's Church 9.30-10.30am (details to follow)</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> November	Mufti Non Uniform Day (children can wear casual clothes in exchange for a Christmas Tombola prize donation)
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair 3.30-5.00pm (details to follow)
10 <sup>th</sup> December	<i>PM (time tbc) Reception and Year 1 Nativity Performance (details to follow)</i>
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Festive Christmas Lunch Day (not yet bookable on Aspens) All children invited to wear their Christmas Jumpers
12 <sup>th</sup> December	<i>AM (time tbc) Reception and Year 1 Nativity Performance (details to follow)</i>
16 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>*Date Correction: Year 1 &amp; 2 Christmas Service at St Martin's Church 10am – pupils only</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> December	<i>Reception Crib Service at St Martin's Church 10am – pupils only</i>
18 <sup>th</sup> December	<i>Year 1 &amp; 2 Christmas Service at St Martin's Church 10am – pupils only (details to follow)</i>
20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Last Day of Term 2</b>
	<b>**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (School Closed)**</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>INSET STAFF TRAINING DAY (School closed to pupils)</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Start of Term 3</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> January	'Golden Ticket' Chocolate Bar Sale in playground after school (St Martin's Fundraising event)
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Valentine's Disco: Reception, Year 1 and 2 at 3.30-4.30pm Years 3 – 6 at 4.45pm-5.45pm
14 <sup>th</sup> February	'Flowers and Treats for Someone Special' (St Martin's Fundraising event) Flowers, cakes and biscuits will be available to buy after school in the playground
14 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Last Day of Term 3</b>
	<b>**HALF TERM (School Closed)**</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>INSET STAFF TRAINING DAY (School closed to pupils)</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Start of Term 4</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Last Day of Term 4</b>
	<b>**EASTER HOLIDAYS (School Closed)**</b>
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	<b>EASTER MONDAY (School Closed)</b>
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>Start of Term 5</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs Week (details to follow)
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>Last Day of Term 5</b>
	<b>**HALF TERM (School Closed)**</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	<b>Start of Term 6</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fair (details to follow)
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Disco: Reception, Years 1 and 2 at 3.20pm-4.20pm Years 3-6 at 4.30pm-5.30pm
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers Disco - Year 6 only 4.00pm-5.30pm
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	<b>Last Day of Term 6</b>

ST MARTIN'S



PTEFA

# Raised 2023/24 £7006.04

Thank you for all  
of your donations  
this year

## THINGS WE HAVE DONE TO RAISE MONEY:



HOT CHOCOLATE



CHRISTMAS FAYRE  
& ENVELOPES



ICE LOLLIES



DOUGHNUT SALE



EASTER



CELEBRATION OF  
LEARNING



MUFTI DAYS



DISCOS

## THINGS WE HAVE PAID FOR:

SCHOOL TRIPS

SCHOOL CAMERA

SOUND SYSTEM

CHRISTMAS TREE

CHARGING STATION

FOR LAPTOPS

READING BOOKS FOR  
LIBRARY

COOKING INGREDIENTS

FOR DT LESSONS

YEAR 6 LEAVERS

ACTIVITIES

ITEMS FOR EACH  
CLASS AT THE START  
OF THE YEAR (EACH  
CLASS HAD A £100  
BUDGET).

*The 'Glow Disco' was a fantastic success this week – all classes were invited to come along, it was great to see all of the children enjoy this event. Thank you to our Fundraising Team who co-ordinated and managed these events and everyone who helped on the day.*