

Autumn 1 Newsletter 2025

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A Message from Mrs Rought



Well what a busy half term we have had! It has been fantastic to see all the children settled into their new classes and working so hard on our new curriculum, we are already seeing some amazing progress as a result.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our recent parents' evening events, we hope that you were able to find out more about how your child has settled into their new class and what they are working on. We would love your feedback, so please complete the questionnaire I sent our on Dojo and text on Thursday, it will only take a minute or two and will give us valuable feedback on what we are doing well and where we need to improve. It can anonymous if you wish, we just need the class your child is in. Here is the link again in case you missed it! https://forms.office.com/e/bgKq3VzTOL

I hope you have managed to take a look at our brand new website! It has much more information on there now, especially in the learning section. Our new curriculum is something we are really proud of, the children are loving the challenge! Each subject has clear information about its intent, implementation and the impact we are seeing. You will also find yearly overviews, so that you can see what your child will be learning in each subject, each term. We also have a new Facebook page, which we will use to showcase the work we are so proud of to the wider community, please follow us and share anything you would like to.

We really enjoyed our Diwali celebration day this week, we were so grateful to our three parents, who kindly came to speak to the children about their celebrations and the reason for Diwali from both a Hindu and Sikh point of view, the children asked some wonderful questions. We hope this shows how much we value our whole school community and how we want everyone to feel included in our St Martin's family. We have plans to celebrate Chinese New Year, Holi, Vaisakhi, Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, as suggested by our parents in the non-Christians celebrations feedback form. If anyone is willing to help by visiting school, please let me know, as it does add a personal, more meaningful touch.

I hope you have managed to take a look at the trips and experiences overview I sent out this week, we have tried hard to widen the visits we do each year, whilst trying to keep the costs at a reasonable level. We all know that finances are tight at the moment, so we hope that by putting the letters out early and allowing payments to be done overtime, it makes paying for these trips and experiences more affordable.

We have ended the half term today with a wonderful well-being and personal development day. The children have been thinking about the Super 7 and which ones they are stronger at than others and how they can work on areas they find more tricky. They have also discussed big feelings, how it is normal to feel this way sometimes and what they can do to get support. All classes have also enjoyed sharing their first book based on the protected characteristics, please see the overview I posted on Dojo yesterday for the title and for which other books they will read this year. Due to the great success of today, we will be holding a well-being day each half term, each with a different theme.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful half term, remember the children come back to school on **Tuesday 4th November**, as we have a training day on Monday 3rd November.

Kindest regards

Mrs Rought

School Development Plan



We continue to develop our school using the acronym MAP - Motivation, Achievement and Pride as drivers for improvement.

Motivation

We have invested in a new curriculum called **CUSP**, a resource, which ensures:

- **Deliberate Sequencing**: Lessons are carefully ordered to activate prior knowledge and deepen understanding.
- **Vocabulary Focus**: Children learn and use new vocabulary to break down learning barriers and accelerate progress.
- **Cumulative Learning**: Knowledge builds over time—topics are revisited and reinforced so they stick.
- **Transferable Skills**: Specific skills are taught and practiced so children can apply them across subjects.
- Evidence-Informed Resources: Includes knowledge organisers, vocabulary progression, and high-quality visuals to support learning

We use CUSP for reading, writing, spelling, science, history, geography, art and design and design technology. The quality of the work being produced is impressive and the children tell us that they are enjoying their learning!

Our improved **music offer** is something we are proud of and will continue to be an area of focus this year, with two more classes receiving professional instrument tuition each week. We are proud to be joining Young Voices for the first time this year and have introduced more music after school clubs for next half term. We hope you enjoyed the harvest performances and noticed that children were singing without backing vocals and we even had percussion!

As you know we have many **experiences and visits** booked for the year, we hope that this will enhance the curriculum even further and bring the learning to life.

Our **personal development and well-being work** continues, with more inspirational individuals to learn about, along side more careers experiences. Our Super 7 continues to be a way to teach about character strengths. We have a new Well-Being staff team and pupil group to build on the great work we did last year, this is to work on the actions from the Well-being Charter Mark

Achievement

We always strive to improve outcomes for our children, so that every child achieves their absolute best in all areas. Our particular focus this year will be around the following:

Phonics- ensuring that all children in the early years and year 1 receive the best phonics teaching they can, with catch up and keep up interventions established to plug any gaps. Children year 2 who did not pass the phonics test in year 1 will receive high quality teaching and intervention.

English - we know that CUSP is already making a huge impact on our reading and writing standards, we will closely monitor the teaching of CUSP over the year, ensuring quality and consistency. In addition, we have invested in a new reading scheme for children who are moving on from phonics books.

We will also check that work is adapted well for children with SEN, or for those that are more able, ensuring everyone is given the work they need to help them improve further.

Pride

As you know we have launched our new healthy snacks and no sweet treat birthday celebrations, thankyou so much for supporting us in this. The children seem to be enjoying their healthy mid-morning snack and understand the reason for it.

We are always working on our environment - outside we have painted the fence and added chalkboards, we are working with a grounds work contractor to clear even more of the forest areas so that we can develop our vision for a chill out forest zone. The building is looking cleaner and brighter with blinds in all classrooms, the next space to be worked on is the hall, this will be painted, have new blinds fitted and we are excited to be designing some window transfers to make the space more welcoming.

We continue to work on kinetic letters and general presentation in books, I know many of you commented on how neat your child's writing was at parents' evening.

Our work around diversity and inclusivity will continue, with work on challenging stereotypes and our books which cover the protected characteristics. Basically we want our children to know that it is OK to be the beautiful, unique individuals they are, whilst appreciating the similarities they have with others.

Hello and Goodbye



This term we welcomed Miss Toor, our new Year 2 teacher and Miss Cox, our new School Business Manager.

Sadly, Miss Parveen and Mr Robinson resigned from their lunchtime supervisor role at the start of term, however, we have now recruited three new members of the team! Mrs Bennett has already joined us and has settled in well, we are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Green and Miss Isherwood after half term.

Again, we are sad to report that Mrs Collins has resigned from her cleaning post recently and will be replaced by a new cleaner, Mrs Wood very soon! We have a plan for the football teams, so do not worry! They will still train and take part in matches.

Our Collective Worship



This half term we have focused specifically on our Christian values and ethos through a new set of assemblies designed by our new curriculum partner, CUSP. The sessions are designed to allow time for children think about themselves within the wider world The liturgical cloth has been green since we returned to school, showing that we are in a 'normal' time in the church year. It will change again as we approach the period of Advent in December.

Since our return this half term, we have focussed on:

Sharing global resources fairly. What does this mean in a global context, where do our resources come from and how can we play our part to create a fairer world, linked to our Christian FRESH value of sharing.

Human Rights with a focus on the rights of the child. What are the rights of the child and how do people globally experience this, linked to our Christian FRESH values of respect and sharing.

How to voice your opinion. Learning how to share your opinion in a fair and considered manner, linked to our Christian FRESH values of respect, empathy and humility.

Fairness. Understanding what equality means in today's world, linked to our Christian FRESH values of respect, empathy and sharing.

Stereotypes. Understanding what they are and how to challenge them, linked to our FRESH values of friendship, respect and empathy.

We also discussed food inequality across the world, how food banks support those who need support and what we can do to help. Our Harvest celebration performances were amazing and the children shared the important message about being grateful to God for our food.

Safeguarding



At St Martin's we take our safeguarding duty very seriously. Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every single person who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play. If you have any concerns about a child's safety or welfare you can speak to a member of our safeguarding team.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Lees

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Rought, Miss Hunt and Miss Barnett

What is a Designated Safeguarding Lead?

Each school must have an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection. Key aspects of the 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' role include:

- > Ensuring that all staff are aware of the processes for raising safeguarding concerns
- ➤ Ensuring all staff understand the signs of child abuse and neglect
- > Referring any significant concerns to Social Care

- ➤ Monitoring children who are the subject of Child Protection and CiN (Child in Need) Plans
- ➤ Maintaining accurate and secure child protection records
- ➤ Raising awareness of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, and ensuring these are implemented and reviewed regularly.

Our focus for this newsletter is 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'

Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document that all schools are required to follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding, including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safer-recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads. All staff members have received training based upon this statutory document and adhere to this in our daily contact with pupils. This important documents provides advice and information regarding the safeguarding of children.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- ➤ Protecting children from maltreatment
- > Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- > Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- > Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Click here for the full document:

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025

If you do believe that a child is at risk then please contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead at school or report your concerns by calling 0121 569 3100 (Sandwell Children's Trust). If a child is in immediate danger, you should contact the police.

All of our staff at St Martin's have regular safeguarding training updates. Safeguarding is also part of our induction programme for new staff.

We are very lucky to have a Early Help Police Officer attached to our school. Her name is Shendy Blakemore. She will be working closely with us this year to provide important safeguarding sessions to our children.

If you would like to speak to her or feel that you need any support from her then please let Mrs Lees know and we will be happy to arrange that for you. If you are concerned about a child, please talk to a Designated Safeguarding Lead or any member of staff in school.

Harvest Celebrations

We hope you enjoyed the Harvest performances, we certainly enjoyed them!

Thankyou so much for your kind donations, which were collected by the Black Country Food Bank last week. They will send us information about how many meals we have provided soon, but they were amazed by how much we had collected.



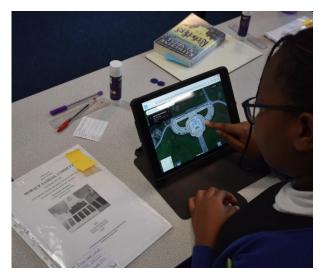
Tipton Remembrance Project

We were approached by TTLL History Group who wanted some help with a special Remembrance Day project, which will be displayed at Tipton library. Of course we said yes!!

Years 4 and 5 were able to label up poppies with the names of a local serviceman who served in WW2. There were 135 altogether and they will form a beautiful piece of art work.

Year 6 had the privilege of having a pack of information about each person, detailing their role in the armed forces, the date they died, where they are buried and some even had photos of them included. It was a very humbling experience for them and bought the reality of what happened to life. The class created a fact card about each of the men which has been made into a book, they also created a world map showing where each is buried (or where their name is listed on a memorial).

We are hoping to be able to take the children to the library to see the final pieces and we will let you know when you can visit.







Diwali

We had a fantastic time celebrating Diwali with our community. We were lucky to welcome three parents, who were happy to come and talk to the children about the Hindu and Sikh celebration of Diwali and the reasons why it is important to them. They also shared the types of celebrating they were doing with their families. Our Hindu and Sikh staff and children came to school in their traditional dress and it was lovely to see such beautiful outfits in school.

Early years also led some parent workshops with a Diwali theme, which were well attended and enjoyed by lots of parents, thankyou for your support.























Polling Day and Pupil Leadership Groups

We are proud of the wide range of leadership roles we have for our pupils. School Council elections were held following a visit from a member of UK Parliament, who explained about how the House of Commons and Houses are Parliament work.

We also have Worship, Eco, Well-Being Warriors, Play Leaders, Librarians, Safeguarding Champions and Prefect roles in school, which children can apply for.







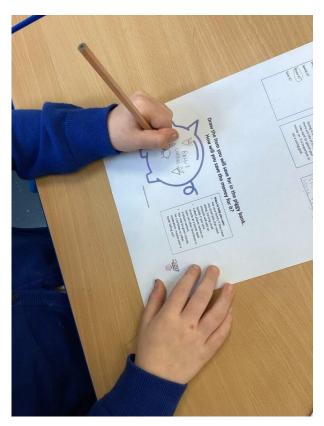


CUSP Money Matters Festival

On 23rd September we joined our first CUSP Festival, an event that all CUSP schools can join. it was launched by a whole school assembly, where Alex and Lauren introduced the day and why it is important to think about money, where it comes from, how we treat it and why it is important to save.

The classes all completed money related tasks in their maths lessons! The next festival is called The Spoken word, which will take place in November.















Parking Issues



As you know, we have sent lots of reminders and photos to point out how dangerous the parking outside school is at the moment. Our children are so precious and we worry that there will be an accident due to the careless parking on double yellow, single yellow and Zig Zag lines outside school.

Sandwell Council and the police will be carrying out random joint visits to the area and they do have the power to issue fines. PLEASE park legally and walk to school! It could save a life!

Celebrating Attendance Success at St. Martin's Primary School!



At St. Martin's, we believe that attendance is incredibly important, and we celebrate it with enthusiasm because good attendance is an integral part of a successful education.

Weekly individual attendance Prizes

Every Friday at St. Martin's, we come together to celebrate the amazing achievements of our pupils. One of the highlights of this gathering is the attendance wheel. A child's name is entered in to the attendance wheel if they have attended school every day of the week. They receive a special prize from the 'treasure chest'!

Class attendance prizes

Each week the class with the highest attendance is announced in our worship session. The class receives a trophy for their efforts and sometimes even an extra break time!

Winning classes this half term are:

Week Ending	Winning class	Percentage
5th Sept	Year 1	98.9%
12th Sept	Year 4	100%
19th Sept	Year 3	98.7%
26th Sept	Year 1	99.3%
3rd Oct	Year 3 and 4	99.3%
10th Oct	Reception and Year 4	98.3%
17th Oct	Year 5	97.7%
24th Oct	Year 4	100%

Each half term the class with the highest attendance is also announced during our final worship session.

The class with the best attendance for Autumn 1 is: Year 4 97.8%

Well done to all classes!

Termly awards

Pupils also have a chance to win Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates throughout the academic year.

If you require any support with your child's attendance or any advice please contact Mrs Lees (Senior Attendance Champion) or Mrs Breckell (Attendance Officer).

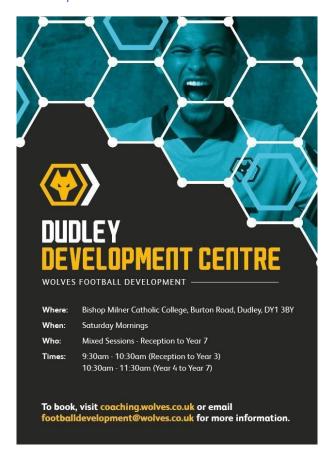
We are happy to work together with you to ensure children achieve the best attendance possible. Our attendance is currently the highest in Tipton! Lets continue to work together to keep this up! We are so proud!

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in making St. Martin's a place where all of our pupils can thrive.

Wolfie's Halloween Ball



Wolves Football Development Centre



Go Play - October half term sessions



Choices - October half term activities



Life in Community - Autumn Bakes and Makes



Tipton Winter Coats



Scouts - New group



1 - Please see the flyer for information and contact details

4 Community Trust - wrap around care



Our wrap around care is run by 4 Community Trust, who run many breakfast and after school clubs in the local area, they have a great reputation and are competitively priced. They offer lots of flexibility in how many sessions you need to book, they have an app where you can manage your bookings and payments and they accept childcare vouchers.

The club takes place in our old year 5 room, which was upgraded over the summer. It now has a kitchen area fitted, so that meals can be prepared on site. Parents can access the room without coming onto the main school reception before and after school office hours. This will be via a bell or a phone call to the staff on duty. If your child gets space in a school run after school club, they can be taken to this club by school staff if needed. Please remember that there is no guarantee of your child gaining a space in a school run after school club each half term, so please do not rely on this for childcare.

In order to book a place you will need to call the number on the flyer below, you will then find out how to register on the app and how to set your child up with access to the wrap around care. As 4 Community Trust is an independent organisation, any queries about booking and payments will need to go through them please, not the main school office.

We really hope that you are pleased with this offer and it makes managing work and the school run that little bit easier.

To view 4 Community Trust's Prospectus, please visit our website:

<u>4Community Trust - Wraparound Care Provision | St Martin's C E Primary School (st-martins.sandwell.sch.uk)</u>

Easy Fundraising



We're now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us raise funds for FREE.

Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online.

It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-martins-c-of-e-primary-school-tipton

Road Safety



Can parents and carers please be vigilant when crossing the roads. You are the one who will be with your children at the roadside every day. When you are out with your child you will have good opportunities to reinforce road safety messages. Please think about telling your child about the importance of finding safer places to cross, stopping behind the kerb, looking, listening, and thinking, holding their hands even if using a lollipop person or pedestrian facility. Making sure they have good visibility, taking their hoods down and no distractions with phones or friends when near roads. This will help your child to develop good road safety habits at an early age and reinforce your own road safety awareness.

My Clothing - Uniform Supplier

We are delighted to inform you that you can now buy uniform with our school logo on from My Clothing:

St Martin's Primary School - My Clothing

Uniform can also still be purchased from The School Uniform Merchant





About Our Products and Services

- Our cotton is ethically sourced cotton from Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), farmers who use less water and chemicals in cotton production.
- The polyester used in our garments is from 100% recycled plastic bottles.
- · Our Polo Shirts are made to be stain resistant.
- · Our Sweatshirts and Sweat Cardis are made to feel soft and durable
- Our delivery bags are 100% recyclable and made from recycled materials.
- · A wide range of plain garments and accessories for school.
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ Register on our website to receive information about $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{promotions}}$ and $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{offers}}$
- · We have over 800,000 garments in stock and offer industry leading customer service
- ${\boldsymbol \cdot}{}$ Financial ${\boldsymbol {\sf hardship}}$ schemes for school uniform are available
- Our customers rate us excellent on * Trustpilot

Office Post Box



There is now a blue post box located outside of the main reception doors. Please feel free to put any correspondence you have for the office in this post box such as reply slips, etc. The post box is checked twice daily.

School car parks



School car parks are for the use of staff and official visitors ONLY at all times. INCLUDING WHEN COLLECTING CHILDREN FROM AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES and NURSERY.

Please find alternative parking away from the school premises When parking, please respect our neighbours by parking considerately and not block driveways or park on double yellow lines.

Key Dates (including term dates for 2025/26)



Key Dates

2025/26

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Friday 24th October - break up for Half Term

Monday 3rd November - School closed - training day 3

Tuesday 5th November - children return to school

Monday 10th November - Odd Socks Day / start of Anti Bullying Week

Friday 21st November - Children in Need

Friday 5th December - Christmas Fair 3:30pm - 6pm

Tuesday 9th December - Autumn Rock Steady Concert

Thursday 11th December - Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner

Monday 15th December - Year 5 and 6 Carol concert for parents 9am

Tuesday 16th December - Year 3 and 4 Carol Concert for parents 9am

Wednesday 17th December EYFS nativity - 9:125am and 2:15pm

Thursday 18th December - Years 1 and 2 Nativity 9am

Thursday 18th December -Christmas Party day (not year 1)

Friday 19th December - year 1 Christmas Party

Friday 19th December - Break up for Christmas holidays

SPRING TERM 2025/26

Monday 5th January - Return to school

Tuesday 10th February - Parents' Evening

Wednesday 11th February - Parents' Evening

Friday 13th February - Break up for half term

Monday 23rd February - return to school

Wednesday 4th March - Talent Show

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

Friday 20th March - Comic Relief

Monday 23rd March - years 1-6 Bring your decorated egg to school

Tuesday 24th March - EYFS Easter Bonnets 9:15am

Wednesday 26th March - Year 3 and 4 Easter performance for parents 9am

Wednesday 26th March - Year 5 and 6 Easter performance for parents 2:15pm

Friday 27th March - break up for Easter holidays

SUMMER TERM 2025/26

Monday 13th April - return to school

Tuesday 14th April - Spring Rock Steady Concert

Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday - school closed

Monday 11th May - year 6 SATS week

Friday 22nd May - break up for Half Term

Monday 1st June - School Closed - training day 4

Tuesday 2nd June - return to school

Tuesday 2nd June - start of year 4 Multiplication Check

Monday 8th June - Year 1 phonics testing week

Tuesday 14th July - Summer Rock Steady Concert

Thursday 16th July - year 6 Leavers' Play and Prom

Friday 17th July - last day of term for children

Monday 21st July - School Closed - training day 5

Infections Reminder

Please do not send your child to school if they have a temperature and are too unwell to be in school. They should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until the temperature has gone. If your child is well enough to be in school then they should be in school as their education is important to their wellbeing and attainment; we will give you a call if they feel unwell, don't worry!

The latest guidance about what you should do if your child has symptoms will always be on the NHS website (below).

For further information, please visit the NHS Website <u>here</u> or call NHS 119.



Operation Encompass

St Martin's is part of Sandwell's Operation Encompass. This is an initiative that enhances communication between the police and schools where a child is at risk from domestic abuse.

Operation Encompass has been established to help schools provide in-school support to children who have been present at, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident.

We know that children can be significantly harmed, physically and/or emotionally, during these situations, and that it also negatively affects their learning and behaviour in class.

Therefore, as part of the Operation Encompass procedure, and to help mitigate the resulting negative impact, school will now receive a confidential information from West Midlands Police or Children's Services regarding any child or young person has been witness to, or involved in, any reported domestic abuse incident.

Here at St Martin's, we have a dedicated and child-focussed Safeguarding Team. They are specially trained to effectively use the information the Police share, in confidence, and enable the school to provide the right support to any child and their family.

We always endeavour to offer the best support possible to our pupils and believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

More information can be found at https://www.operationencompass.org/

However, if you have any concerns or questions regarding Operation Encompass, please do not hesitate to speak to a Designate Safeguarding Lead.

