



Autumn 2 Newsletter 2025

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A Message from Mrs Rought



As we draw to the end of 2025, I have been reflecting on the two years that I have been in post here at St Martin's. I still feel extremely lucky to work at such a fantastic school with a team of professionals who give everything to our children each and everyday. It is also a pleasure to work alongside supportive parents, who trust us with their most important people every day - I never forgot what a privilege that is.

I am so incredibly proud of the school we are creating together, a community where everyone feels special and where they are able to shine in all the talents they have. The quality of our curriculum has developed with CUSP, with children having such wide experiences across all curriculum areas. Our arts offer has improved, in fact, whilst I write this, I can hear Year 6 playing the clarinets!

The last few weeks have been all about Christmas, with school so busy with the sounds of the nativity rehearsals and carols. I hope you enjoyed the performances as much as we did! From carols in Years 3-6 with some handbells making an appearance, to the EYFS nativity, 'Born in a Barn' and then the Year 1 and 2 showstopper, 'It's A Party!' It has been just beautiful to see the children perform with such confidence - lines were learnt and read aloud, dances were perfected, songs performed with enthusiasm - I could not be prouder! Thankyou for coming along to our events, it does mean a lot to the children to see someone there and I know it isn't always easy to be here.

We also had our Christmas Fair, despite the awful weather, the turn out was incredible! The atmosphere was lovely and I know you enjoyed the hot turkey and stuffing sandwiches that we were able to offer this time. We raised over £1600 for our school fund, which is absolutely phenomenal for a small school. I cannot thank you all enough for your support in sending donations and coming along - the next big event will be the summer fair, which we will also hold on Friday 26th June after school, so please keep this date in your diary free!

Yesterday the children had their Christmas parties, with a special visit from Santa himself! Year 1 went on a magical adventure to Birmingham Town Hall to see The Snowman (with a live orchestra), so they have enjoyed their party today.

Next term we will launch our new parent app, the feedback from parents who offered to have a look for us was overwhelmingly positive. This latest addition to our communication systems will eventually replace Class Dojo and text messages, allowing a 'one stop shop' for all communications - it is very exciting, so watch out for our communication to get you on board in the New Year. We have made some significant improvements to our website, so hopefully you have managed to have a look, it contains everything you need to know about our school and the curriculum we teach in each year group. As the website is so comprehensive, we will no longer send year group newsletters out each half term. We also have our Facebook page, so if you are on Facebook, please follow us!

I would like to give our Talent Show a mention, we will be holding this on Wednesday 4th March, with auditions taking place on either 20th or 23rd January (see dates section below). Please encourage your child to consider taking part, it was amazing last year to see the children shine in their many varied talents.

Today, as we close for Christmas we have held our final worship, which included lighting the fourth advent candle to signify love. We also lit the centre candle to represent the coming of Jesus at Christmas. At 11am we also joined in with over 200 other schools in a Black Country Music Hub Sing-a-Long, we had a very festive time singing lots of our favourite Christmas songs together.

I know that all the staff would like me to pass on their thanks for the generous gifts and cards that we have received, it is never an expectation and we always appreciate the thought that goes into such gifts.

All that is left to say is that I hope you have a wonderful, peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year with your families, we are already looking forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 5th January.

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 continue to work on our music offer, along with the arts as a whole as part of our Artsmark journey. We hope to achieve the quality mark over the next two years, with a focus on drama and dance in particular. We are excited to be joining Young Voices at Pulse Arena for the first time in January, we hope it will become an annual event for our school. The choir also performed at the Tipton Lights switch on and were invited to sing at Murray Hall's Christmas Fair. We hope you enjoyed hearing them at the Christmas Fair.

Our clubs offer continues to be a real strength of our school, with new and exciting club providers being researched, as well as staff giving up their time to lead them as well. You know my aim is for every child to have accessed a club during the year, although this does mean that your child may not always get their first choice, or as many clubs as they have maybe been used to before. I would much rather see every child have one club each term, than the same children having three or four.

We hope you were pleased with our planned trips and experiences for the whole year, allowing you advanced notice about the date and cost. We also offer instalments to help paying a little easier, as you know, without parental contributions, our trips and experiences would be impossible for school to afford.

We have held two mental health and well-being days in school, with the latest involving a Santa Dash for everyone and Box Mentoring for Years 1-6, with a focus on grounding and mindfulness. We have also read two of our personal development books, which cover elements of the equality act.

Achievement

We continue to develop our curriculum using CUSP, the impact it is having on the pupils' learning is clear to see in books and on learning walks. We had an external visit from our school improvement advisor, who was pleased with what she saw in classrooms. Governors have also seen reading and writing exercise books and were blown away by the amount and quality they saw.

We have worked hard in staff meetings and on training days to upskill staff in delivering the curriculum in the most effective ways, using research based methods.

Pride

Thankyou for your support in sending only healthy snacks for mid-morning break, the children have been proud to show off the range of items they have chosen. We also love having our new birthday celebration days, children have enjoyed the fuss that has been made of them, instead of sweets.

We have joined in with so many wider opportunities which have meant our children taking part in activities within the Sandwell community. Our football teams are established within a league and we are so proud of their efforts, we also joined a 7v7 EFL competition at the WBA Dome. Our Eco Council visited Sandwell Council house for an Eco Summit with lots of other schools. Our links to the local libraries is strong, with our year 6 contributing to the beautiful Remembrance Day display and our Year 2 children visiting to see a fantastic theatre production.

Hello and Goodbye



This half term we have said goodbye to Year 2's class teacher, Miss Toor, who left us for personal reasons. Miss Pugh, one of our lunchtime team has also left us to focus on her family. After Christmas we will say goodbye to Mrs Bhatti, who has secured a new role as a family support worker, a role she is just perfect for.

Unfortunately Mr Roden is also leaving us after a short time as caretaker.

We have welcomed two new lunchtime supervisors: Miss Isherwood and Mrs Green, who have settled in well to the St Martin's team. We also have a new cleaner, Mrs Wood!

After Christmas we will welcome Mrs Nolan, who will be teaching in Year 2 and Miss Chiltern to the lunchtime team.

Our Collective Worship



This half term we have focused specifically on our Christian values and ethos, linking our worship themes to significant events and the CUSP assembly programme.

We have also completed our NSPCC Speak Out to Stay Safe assembly and also marked Remembrance Day with a special worship together.

The liturgical cloth was green at the start of half term, showing that we were in a 'normal' time in the church year. On the 1st December, it changed to purple, to signify the period of Advent.

The children have been taught about the Advent wreath. One candle is light at the start of each week of advent. The candles have the following meanings

Week 1 - Hope

Week 2 - Peace

Week 3 - Joy

Week 4 - Love

There is also a special candle in the middle of the wreath, which would be lit on Christmas Day in the church, we lit it today to mark the occasion.

Our focus for this newsletter is '**Neglect**'

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and the most common form of child abuse. A child might be left hungry or dirty, or without proper clothing, shelter, supervision or health care. This can put children and young people in danger. It can also have long term effects on their physical and mental wellbeing. The main types of neglect are physical neglect, educational neglect, emotional neglect and medical neglect.

Sandwell Children's Trust have developed a Neglect Strategy to support families and professionals. This strategy aims to ensure that babies, children and young people in Sandwell are safe, loved and cared for and are able to thrive and reach their full potential. It will also ensure that persistent and chronic neglect is identified and that proportionate action is taken.

There are 6 categories of neglect:

- Physical - not providing clothing, food or cleanliness
- Emotional - not interacting or providing affection
- Nutritional - not providing appropriate regular food including malnutrition or obesity
- Educational - not providing education opportunity or encouragement or supporting learning
- Medical - not seeking medical attention, attending appointments, minimising wider health needs
- Lack of supervision - not ensuring appropriate care, lack of boundaries or abandonment

For more information about this and what to do if you think a child might be suffering neglect see the NSPCC link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/neglect>

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.

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
7th Nov	Year 4	97.84%
14th Nov	Year 3	98.67%
21st Nov	Year 4	97.93%
28th Nov	Year 1	96.9%
5th Dec	Year 1	99.31%
12th Dec	Year 3	98.33%
19th Dec	Year 4	98.62%

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 2 is: Year 4 96.82%

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. If you have any concerns about or barriers to your child attending school please come in to school and talk to us. We are here to help.

Our attendance is currently the highest in Tipton and is also at national! 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.

Reception Trip to The Snowdome

Reception enjoyed a fantastic visit to The Snowdome. We got to experience going on a trip on a coach for the very first time! At the snow dome we got to play in real snow, the adults pulled up along on sleighs, make snow angels, throw snowballs and even do some ice sliding on rings.

After that we watched a Beauty and the Beast pantomime and Santa was there! He said we were all on the nice list! We then got to go to Santa's Village and got to pet some of his animas, see his office and play games. It was so much fun and so tiring some of the children fell asleep on the coach on the way back to school!





EYFS Nativity



A huge well done to EYFS for 2 fantastic nativity shows!

Santa Dash and Boxercise for Mental Health Day

Reception - Y6 took place in a Santa Dash on our Mental Health Day 2. We had 'Run, Run Rudolph' blasting out the speakers as we took turns to run around the hall wearing Santa Hats! We all agreed getting up and moving made us feel good after- especially when it was to music!

Years 1 - 6 also had some boxercise fun! We had coach Craig come in to show the children some basic moves and to get everybody moving.



Odd Socks Day - 10th November 2025

On Monday 10th November we took part in Odd Socks Day. It is a day when schools, workplaces, and individuals join together to show that it's okay to be different and to stand up against bullying and discrimination. Here are some of our photos!







Year 3 Stone Age Workshop

The children got to learn so much through drama, exploring and handling artifacts, they worked together beautifully and really enjoyed the experience!







Year 5 Ancient Greek Workshop with DanTastic

Year 5 got to work with the brilliant DanTastic in our Ancient Greece interactive workshop and even dressed up in Ancient Greek clothing for the day. We learnt more about life in Ancient Greece though drama, practical activities and by handling artifacts. Children worked so well together and had a thoroughly fantastic learning experience, bring Ancient Greece to life.







Year 1 Trip to Birmingham Town Hall - The Snowman

What a wonderful afternoon, after an already fantastic morning! First, we had our amazing performance of "It's a Party" followed by a trip to Birmingham Town Hall to see the Snowman film with music played by a live orchestra. Wow! Our Christmas fun was not dampened by the dreadful weather, and we sang along to 'Walking in the air' before our journey home. Merry Christmas to you all from Year One.



Year 6 - Trip to RAF Cosford

Year 6 had a fantastic time at RAF Cosford for our Evacuee Day! Travelling by train in true evacuee style made the experience unforgettable. The children explored wartime exhibits, learned about life during WWII, and enjoyed hands-on activities that brought history to life. A brilliant, memorable day for everyone!





Year 2 Library Visit

Year 2 had a visit to Tipton Library to work with the writers of a new theatre production, The magical Adventures of Mr Singh. The children had a wonderful time and got their own special certificate to take home.







SPDC - Family Club

At a glance

- Monday 11th January
- Monday 26th January
- Monday 2nd February
- Monday 9th February



Family Club

January - February 2026

Welcome back

Family Club returns Monday 11th January

Please read all information carefully.

@ West Bromwich Leisure Centre, Moor Street, West Bromwich, B70 7AZ
5:00pm - 6:30pm

Parking at the rear of the leisure centre is pay and display but refundable at the centre's reception.

The venue is wheelchair accessible but please note there are no changing facilities.

It's all about having FUN together!

Our sessions offer families the chance to take part in a variety of active/sporting and creative opportunities each week.

There will be a different theme each week and a mixture of sporting activities, so please take a look and book for those weeks that will appeal to you and your family.

How to book for Family Club

Please email your expressions of interest in the Family Club dates to spdcbooking@sp-dc.org
Your email should clearly state



*Your name



*Which date(s) you would like to attend

*How many (adults/children) will be taking part in the sessions

Please provide this information in full as without it we may not be able to process your booking properly.

Once the team have processed all of the bookings you will receive an email confirming the places you have been allocated for Family Club.

Please note that bookings will not be accepted via Facebook or Messenger.
And remember You will need to have allocated Short Breaks Credits to SPDC to be considered for any of our Family activities.

If you have requested or are allocated places on a particular session but can no longer attend, we would ask you to let us know as soon as possible by calling Diane 07594 486930 or Gary 07763 593877 so that we can offer another family on our waiting lists the opportunity to join us.



Jam Coding Winter HAF Holiday Club



Winter

{COMPUTING & ACTIVITY}

//HOLIDAY CLUB//

WHERE THE FUN IS HAPPENING

DATES & TIMES

ACTIVITIES

- Coding
- Art & Craft
- Quiz
- Games
- Sports
- Puzzles
- Games

LIMITED FREE SPACES FOR PUPIL PREMIUM SUPPORTED FAMILIES!

Get your child's name on the list as soon as possible to be able to take a place. Spaces are limited and we will be closing the list on 15th November. The club will be running from 15th November to 15th December.



Scouts - New group

Start your adventure here!
Aged 6 to 14
Want to make new friends?
Why not join us!

6th Bilston Group

CUBS **BEAVERS**

Scouts

For Boys & Girls
Have adventures?

Monday nights!
Bradley Senior Citizens Centre
36 Wilkinson Avenue
WV14 8PS
Beavers 6.15-7.30pm
Cubs 7.30-9pm
Scouts 7.30-9pm

Beavers 6 yrs - 8 yrs
Cubs 8 yrs - 10.5 yrs
Scouts 10.5 yrs - 14 yrs

Contact us on:
bilston6thscoutgroup@outlook.com

Learn new skills?

1 - Please see the flyer for information and contact details

4 Community Trust - wrap around care



Breakfast & Afterschool Clubs

Did you know that you could be **saving money** on your childcare using Best Start In Life...?

BEST START IN LIFE One option allows you to save money if your household has a yearly income less than **£100,000 PER YEAR**

Visit their website to find out more:
beststartinlife.gov.uk

Want to find out more about out clubs?
Contact Us NOW!!!

0121 752 5969



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 spare classroom. It has a kitchen area, 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:

Easy Fundraising



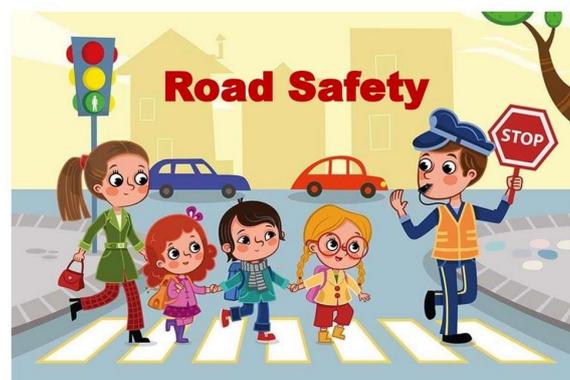
We're registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us raise funds for FREE.

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](#)



The advertisement features a blue header with the 'My Clothing' logo. Below the header is a Trustpilot rating of five stars, labeled 'Rated "Excellent"'. The main image shows four smiling children in red school uniforms. The text 'PERSONALISED SCHOOL UNIFORM' is overlaid on the image. Below this, a list of features is provided: 'Your Uniform Colours', 'UK Embroidery', 'Embroidered to Order', and 'No Clothing Waste'. At the bottom, contact information is displayed: an email icon followed by 'sales@myclothing.com' and a phone icon followed by '01902 936 388'.

My Clothing

★ Trustpilot
★★★★★
Rated "Excellent"

**PERSONALISED
SCHOOL UNIFORM**

- Your Uniform Colours
- UK Embroidery
- Embroidered to Order
- No Clothing Waste

✉ sales@myclothing.com ☎ 01902 936 388



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.
- Register on our website to receive information about **promotions and offers**
- We have over **800,000 garments in stock** and offer industry leading customer service
- Financial **hardship schemes** for school uniform are available
- Our customers rate us **excellent** on **★ Trustpilot**

✉ sales@myclothing.com

☎ 01902 936 388

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

Friday 19th December - Break up for Christmas holidays

SPRING TERM 2025/26

Monday 5th January - Return to school

Thursday 8th January - Young Voices at Pulse Arena

Tuesday 20th January - Years 1, 3 and 5 Talent Show Auditions

Friday 23rd January - Years R, 2, 4, and 6 Talent Show Auditions

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 [here](#) 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.

