

Summer 2 Newsletter 2025

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A Message from Mrs Rought



As we wrap up our 2024/25 academic year, I would like to personally thank you all for your on-going support for our school this year. It has been an extremely busy and successful year for us all and I am truly proud of the school we are creating together. I hope that you and your children are happy with the provision we offer here at St Martin's, both academically and pastorally. As a family we have enjoyed some fantastic events this year, our Christmas and Summer Fairs continue to be very successful and our first Talent Show was incredible - we will let you know about next year's plans soon!

I would like to give a special mention to our amazing year 6 class, they have been a joy to work with this year. Their energy and love for one another has shone through. They have worked hard and have achieved some great SATS results, but more importantly have the skills and personal attributes that will now see them flourish in secondary school - they are so ready! Their end of year show was fantastic and so funny, it reflected their personalities perfectly. So although it is a sad farewell, we must also remember to make it a celebration, full of happiness and pride as they take the next step in their journey.

As a school we have also achieved so much, including three brand new awards, which we specifically chose to reflect what matters to us. Our Well-Being Charter Mark ensures that we prioritise the well-being of all and will support us in our next steps. Our Eco Green Flag is just the start of our plans to make the most of our stunning school site, and finally the Sandwell Inclusion Quality Mark for Cognition and Learning, proved that we cater for the needs of all our children, the process was intense and thorough and to be the first primary

school to achieve it was such an accolade for our small school. We also received a certificate from the Fisher Family Trust for our excellent Spring term attendance figures, which continue to be the best in Tipton! Whilst awards are nice, they are not the reason we do the work we do, they simply quality assure and affirm our views of what we do well.

We have continued to invest in our school environment, in particular the outdoors (at the request of our school council), adding additional play equipment and activities for lunchtimes and by working with a new grounds maintenance contractor to clear areas of school we have not used for a while. I am hoping to hear from the National Lottery over the summer as I have requested funding to develop our meadow into our own growing and wellbeing gardens, adding to the excellent work of the Eco -Council. We have upgraded classrooms by painting and by adding blinds and new sinks, this will continue over the next few years. We have also invested in a new reading scheme, which the children will begin to use from September.

Thankyou to those of you who completed the school development questionnaire, it was very positive and recognised our hard working team, our communication with you and the community school we have created. There were some valued next steps, which we are working on putting into our development plan for 25/26. I will write to your more about this in September, but here are a few of the changes that we plan to implement:

I have already written to you regarding snacks that we will be allowing in school from September, we have tried to take a sensible approach, rather than a strict one (which most schools do). You are also aware by now about our plans to celebrate birthdays in school, which will mean no more sweets and cakes being brought in from home, this is inline with new Early Years guidance and will be applied to the whole school. We will ensure that children have a fuss made of them, without the need for parents to send treats in.

From September we are introducing a brand new approach to teaching called CUSP. We are confident that this approach will rapidly raise standards, it is unapologetically ambitious and is designed to focus on high quality lessons, enhanced teacher subject knowledge and explicitly taught vocabulary. The subjects are interwoven and link together beautifully, the texts we will use for reading and writing and chosen to be engaging and thought provoking. The subjects which will be delivered using CUSP are: reading, writing, spelling, science, history, geography, art and design technology. We have invested heavily in this approach and the quality resources to support its teaching and look forward to you seeing its impact over the next year.

Also, we are investing further in whole class music lessons for the whole of key Stage 2. Years 4 and 5 will continue to enjoy half a year of trumpet tuition, building on what they have learnt this year, in addition, years 3 and 6 will be taught the clarinet. Instruments will be loaned to children, so that they can practise at home - this is all free for parents. We

intend to hold more regular performances, allowing our children to perform the music they have created.

So as we say goodbye for the summer, I wish you all a safe and healthy break with your families. The children return to school on Wednesday 3rd September, following two teacher training days and we will look forward to welcoming you all back! Please check the dates at the end of this newsletter, we have added term dates, training days, assessment weeks for years 1,4 and 6 and Autumn Term events are listed, they will be added to Dojo events soon.

Kindest regards

Mrs Rought

Hello and Goodbye

As you know we are saying goodbye to three staff.

Mrs Moore leaves us to take up a new role in a Sandwell school, Mrs Greenhalgh leaves us to take up a new role outside the school environment. Mrs Harris, one of our cleaners also leaves us for pastures new during the summer holidays.

We welcome Miss Toor, who will be teaching in Year 2. The children have already met her on transition day and she has been attending staff meetings with our teaching team, she is an experienced teacher and we are looking forward to welcoming her officially in September.

Miss Westwood will also join us to work in nursery and we welcome a new school business manager, Mrs Cox, who will both join us on the 1st September.

We also have three internal promotions to celebrate and let you know about. Firstly, Miss Hunt will be Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion from September, building on her role as SENDCo, she will also now oversee our well-being and social, emotional and mental health work.

Secondly, Mr Wood will be our new English lead from September, a post that he is perfect for. Finally, Mrs Breckell will become our Office Manager, a role she absolutely deserves, she will support our new business manager to make the office even more effective and welcoming to parents and visitors.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating them all on their promotions.

Our Collective Worship



This half term we have focused specifically on our Christian values and ethos through stories about what happened after Jesus ascended to Heaven, in particular the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The liturgical cloth was red for Pentecost on the 9th June and has been green ever since, showing that we are in a 'normal' time in the church year.

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

Pentecost and the Holy Trinity

The Disciples after Pentecost

The story of Stephen

Saul and the Road to Damascus

Paul as a preacher

The children have enjoyed hearing these stories and have followed up with further conversations in their class worship on Tuesdays.

Sheep Visit in Nursery

Nursery had a lovely day welcoming two beautiful sheep, Bluey and Princess, into the nursery garden. They were able to feed, pat and stroke the sheep as well as learning lots of

fascinating facts. The children loved having the sheep in the garden and didn't want them to go back to the farm!



Caterpillars



Nursery and Reception had a fantastic time watching the caterpillars grow and turn into beautiful butterflies.

Year 1 Trip to Dudley Zoo

Year 1 had a fantastic day out at Dudley zoo. The children saw lots of animals including tigers, giraffes, monkeys, flamingos and lots more. The children learnt all about how animals live and the climates that they live in. The children did lots of walking, enjoyed an outdoor picnic and had a fabulous train ride around the zoo. The children were really amazing and we all had a great day!

Year 2 Trip to Edgmond Hall

Year 2 had the most wonderful time at Edgmond Hall. We enjoyed pond dipping (even finding a newt!) and bug hunting in microhabitats, this linked beautifully to our Science work and the instructors were impressed with our bug hotel knowledge!

We enjoyed a picnic lunch before beginning a fantastic orienteering session. The instructors complimented the children on their super manners and behaviour. Well done Year 2 all round!



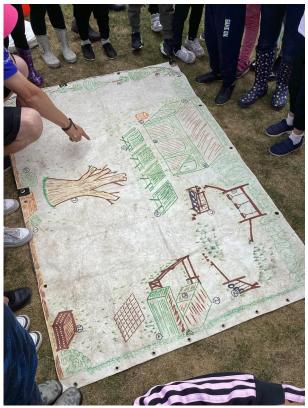




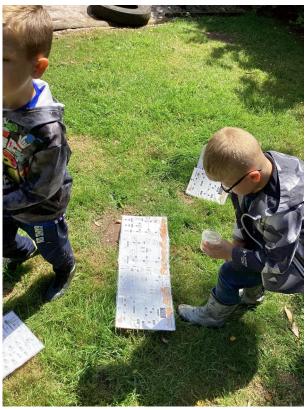














Year 4 Trips to Bodenham Arboretum and Birmingham Symphony Hall

This half term, Year 4 had the pleasure spending the day at the beautiful Bodenham Arboretum. In the woods, we scavenged and build fires just like the Vikings would have done. We also were lucky enough to secure tickets for the Music for Youth's Primary Live Concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall. They had a brilliant time and enjoyed the experience travelling there by train!





Year 6 Prom and Play

What an eventful few weeks we have had!

We had an amazing prom. The children looked amazing and behaved beautifully.

We also had a fantastic performance of our leavers show - The X Factory. Our evening show even got a standing ovation! They made us so proud!

Bring your tissues for Friday! We will miss them all so much as they move on to their high schools. Good Luck year 6!

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

The summer holidays are fast approaching and without the distraction of school, internet usage for many young people can increase all the way up to September. This guide is designed to help parents with a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games. You will be able to click on each image in the link below for further information.

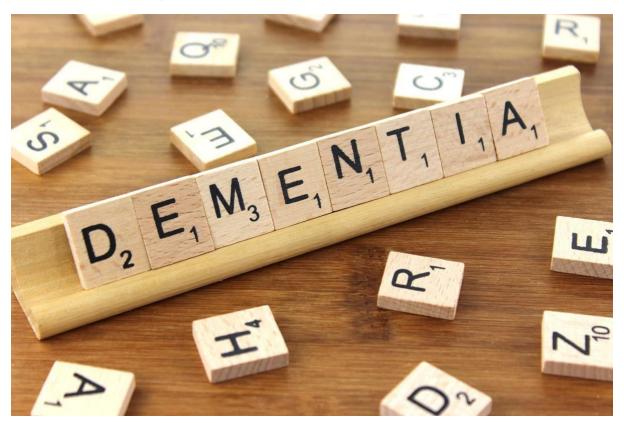
Parent Guides | Skips Safety Net

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.

Dementia Friendly School



As the academic year progresses, we are continuing with work associated with our 'Dementia Friendly School' award.

The Alzheimer's Society has information about dementia for teenagers and young adults, and for children, including videos. Some young people have found it helpful to learn more about dementia by becoming a dementia friend. Dementia can be a difficult concept to explain to children - but there are some really great resources to help you to support your own child at home.

The link here has lots of helpful guides and resources: Explaining dementia to children and young people | Alzheimer's Society

Please remember - if you would like any support or would like to talk to anyone regarding dementia then please contact Mrs Lees. We are happy to support your family wherever necessary.

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
6 June	Year 2	99.2%
13 June	Reception	99.3%
20 June	Year 6	97.2%
27 June	Year 6	97.9%
4 July	Year 1	98.9%

11 July	Year 1	100%
18 July	Year 6	99.1%

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

The class with the best attendance for Summer 2 is: Year 6

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 Lead) or Mrs Breckell (Attendance Champion).

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.

Bear's House - Summer Holiday Play Scheme

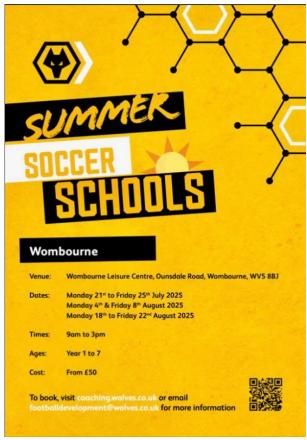


Sandwell Parent's for Disabled Children Newsletter



Wolves Summer Soccer School





Tipton Uniform Bank











Summer Activities - Tipton











Holiday Activities - Tipton

Sandwell Holiday Activities offer exciting opportunities for children who live or go to school in Sandwell to take part in activities during school holidays. There is lots of choice right across Sandwell with different activities happening in each town. Activities are for children aged between school age 5-16 years.

Summer activities will run from Monday 21st July 2025 – Saturday 30th August 2025 (excluding Sunday and Bank holidays)

If your child is eligible for HAF then you will have received an email or text with a HAF activity voucher containing unique HAF codes for your child and a link that enables you to book activities. If your child does not meet the criteria, you can find other activities on our website (some may have a charge attached) visit https://holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk/

You can access activities anywhere in Sandwell but here are some activities available in your local area



KIDS Specialist Provision at Brook St Community Centretimulating fun for the whole family. Activities focused around the social, physical, sensory and emotional needs of children with SEND.

Awesome Dance & Performing Arts at The Coneygre Centre Fun, active sessions where kids learn popular TikTok dance moves, enjoy music, and make new friends!

4 Community Trust at Jubilee Park Community Centre & St. Mark's ChurchVe offer wide range of activities like arts & crafts, drama, dance, cooking, healthy eating, nutrition workshops; themed activities, sensory play, water play, plus, many more!

ELP Sports LTD at Joseph Turner Primary SchoolProviding sports and games which will promote healthy physical lifestyles

Life in Community at Brook Street Community CentreActivities include the Kidz Easter Party at Brierley Hill Civic, the Easter Fun Factory, and "It's an Easter Circus" featuring circus skills with Steve the Juggler.

Sandwell Leisure Trust at Tipton Sports AcademyPlenty for your children to get stuck into with various sports activities such as tennis, football, basketball, athletics, dodgeball, cricket, badminton, netball and team games.

Sandwell Youth Service at Coneygre Arts Centre & Victoria Pafkroviding a wide range of multi-sports and many other enriching activities.

Time Step Dance at Coneygre Arts CentreFamily Pantomime The Pirate and the Crocodile, summer festival at Coneygre Centre with DJ, pony rides, circus skills, bubbles, animal man, TikTok dance, sensory zone, bouncy castles and much more!

Go Play Sandwell FREE play for all ages https://goplaysandwell.co.uk/





4 Community Trust - Wraparound Care Provision



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:

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

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.
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ Our Sweatshirts and Sweat Cardis are made to feel $\boldsymbol{\text{soft}}$ and $\boldsymbol{\text{durable}}.$
- 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
- $\cdot\;$ 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.

Paperless Communication



A reminder that we are now paperless. The transition has worked very well, so thankyou for working with us on this and using Dojo and our MS forms for communication.

School car parks



We have been receiving a number of complaints regarding parents parking inconsiderately. If you do need to drive to drop off or collect your child please park considerately and ensure you are not obstructing drives, garages or access to roads.

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

2024/25

SUMMER TERM 2025

Monday 21st July -Training Day 5 - school closed

2025/26

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Monday 1st September and Tuesday 2nd September - training Days 1 and 2 - school closed

Wednesday 3rd September - School opens

Thursday 18th September - year 6 SATS meeting for parents 9am

Monday 29th September - the start of our Harvest collections

Thursday 2nd October - reception phonics meeting for parents 9am

Thursday 9th October - year 1 phonics meeting for parents 9am

Thursday 9th October - flu vaccinations 1pm-3pm

Wednesday 15th October - Years 1-3 harvest performance for parents

Thursday 16th October - Years 4-6 harvest performance for parents

Tuesday 21st October - individual photos days

Tuesday 21st October - Parents Evening 3:30pm-6pm

Wednesday 22nd October - Parents Evening 3:30pm-6pm

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

Thursday 11th December - Christmas Jumper Day

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

Friday 19th December - Break up for Christmas holidays

SPRING TERM 2025/26

Monday 5th January - Return to school

Friday 13th February - Break up for half term

Monday 23rd February - return to school

Friday 27th March - break up for Easter holidays

SUMMER TERM 2025/26

Monday 13th April - return to school

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

Friday 17th July - last day of term for children

Monday 21st July - School Closed - training day 5

Covid/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.

