



# Spring 1 Newsletter 2025

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## A Message from Mrs Rought



It doesn't seem five minutes since we were returning to school after Christmas and now it is time to break up for February half term - time really does fly!

We have enjoyed another fantastic half term, with lots of activities going on to enthuse and motivate the children. In the School Development section below, I have outlined some of the many improvements we have made so far and have shared a little about what else we have to do - it is certainly a busy year and I am so grateful to work with such dedicated staff, who work so hard. I hope that as parents, you have noticed the improvements that have been made. I hope that you were happy with your child's progress report and the opportunity to discuss at our parents evenings that were held this week.

Next half term will be a busy one, with lots of events to look forward to. I cannot wait to launch the St Martin's Super 7 with the children on Tuesday 25th February, when we will all dress up as Superheroes and will learn about our first Inspirational Individual. We also have visits about road safety, we have eco workshops, Edgmond residential, railway safety assemblies, Comic Relief, Mothers' Day events and Easter events - so please see the dates section and keep an eye on Class Dojo for all the information you need.

World Book day this year will be a little different, we are asking that children wear their pyjamas for the day, rather than parents having the pressure of a costume, lets face it, the shops are making a profit out of what should be a celebration of books and reading. Mrs Moore sent out a letter with details of when you can pop in to share a book with your child,

this is on our website and Dojo, so please take a look and let us know if you are attending via the link in the letter.

Over half term we are setting some reading activities, the first being Extreme Reading. Extreme reading is all about reading in unconventional or surprising locations or situations. Books can be enjoyed anytime, anywhere – whether you're upside down on a sofa, perched in a tree, or balancing on a beam! Please find somewhere unusual (and safe) to read, take a photo and send it via dojo to your child's class teacher. We can then print it and make a display in school of all our reading adventures!

The second is a 'Book in a Box' competition. Children can make a mini scene in a box (a shoe box is perfect) from any story they choose, using items that have been recycled or reused. It could be any book at all, including one they have enjoyed in school. They can use their imaginations and be as creative as they like! Completed boxes to be brought back after the half term break- there are some pictures of examples in the letter.

We also have the Book Fair back, the children asked and we delivered - we will send details of how you can access it after half term, the children will have their £1 World Book Day voucher to put towards a book they like.

I wish you all a wonderful half term and look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 25th February - remember the 24th February is a staff training day.

Mrs Rought

## School Development



As you know, our school development is linked to three main areas - Motivation, Achievement and Pride (M.A.P) . Below are some of the things we have done to work on our areas of focus for this year. We still have a lot to do, but we are proud of where we are and are confident that we will achieve our targets by the end of the year.

### **Motivation**

After half term we are launching our St Martin's Super 7 and we cannot wait! The Super 7 represent the character strengths we wish to develop in our children. We will do this

through our curriculum and also through special events, such as our Inspirational Individuals and career talks.

We are holding our launch event on Tuesday 25th February and are asking staff and pupils to dress up as superheroes for the day. They will be introduced to the Super 7 in a special assembly and then they will learn about their first Inspirational Individual who are:

Years 1 and 2 - Lenny Henry

Years 3 and 4 - Malala Yousafzai

Years 5 and 6 - The Three Degrees (WBA)

There will be two more Inspirational Individuals researched this year, the children will also relate the Super 7 to their class reading books as we discuss the characters in them

Our music offer is improving, we now have weekly trumpet lessons in year 3, year 4 will access this in the summer term. We have our weekly music style or composer, so children are exposed to a wide range of music and we enjoy listening together and discussing what we like and dislike. Our weekly 'Who Chose that Tune?' is a really highlight, the children are always fascinated by the staff member's choice and why they love that song. After Easter we will start an after school choir, in the hope of joining Young Voices next year, a huge event at Pulse Arena (the old NEC).

### **Achievement**

We are working with a maths consultant who is supporting us to improve our maths curriculum even further, she came to visit this half term and was really impressed with what she saw and the next steps she has given us are well under way.

We work hard to enhance the curriculum with experiences, such as the year 4 whale rescue visit, our history workshops, author events and other events. These really do impact positively on the children's outcomes.

The children are working hard on their handwriting and leaders are ensuring that kinetic letters are taught well across school. years 4, 5 and 6 have all been given a pen, with the aim of giving them more motivation to write as neatly as they can, this really has resulted in better outcomes.

Leaders continue to monitor and check on lessons, look at books and by speak to children, so that we can gauge where we need to improve. The team we have are so dedicated to improving teaching and learning for our children, I am so proud of their hard work.

### **Pride**

We continue to have high expectations of our children in terms of uniform, so thank you for your support with this. Our attendance and punctuality has also been a focus, as a result St Martin's have the highest attendance and lowest rates of persistent absence in Tipton.

We have big plans for our outdoor environment, once the weather improves we intend to brighten up the wood work, create play zones and calm areas. We are also looking at options for an outdoor library - these are exciting times and we will use some of the money we raised at the Summer and Christmas Fairs to fund the improvements. We may also need some parent volunteers to help out on the odd weekend or school holiday date, so that we can do works when the children are no here - watch this space!



## Hello and Goodbye

In January we welcomed Mrs Harris to our teaching team, who is currently teaching in year 2. Mrs Harris has settled into St Martin's life already and is enjoying working with her new class. We have also welcomed three new lunchtime staff, Miss Smith, Miss Ward and Miss Pugh, who are all now settled into their new roles.

You may have been wondering where Mrs Pilsbury has been, unfortunately she has been unwell and has decided to retire. Mrs Pilsbury has worked at St Martins for over 20 years, so we will be celebrating her retirement with her after half term with the children. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for a happy, healthy retirement.

Sadly we also said goodbye to Mrs Ward from our lunchtime team, she found a job that could offer her more hours, so although we were sad to see her go, we were thrilled for her and wish her well in her new role.

Mrs Hood is returning after half term following her surgery, we are thrilled to have her back and have missed her! I know that the Nursery children can't wait to see her back in class.

## Our Collective Worship



This half term we have focused specifically on our Christian values and ethos through stories from the Old testament.

The liturgical cloth has been white up to February the 3rd, to represent the special time of Christmas and Epiphany. On Monday 3rd February it changed back to green as we enter an ordinary time in the church calendar.

Since our return this half term, we have focussed on stories from the Old Testament.

6th January - Epiphany - the visit of the Wise Men

13th January - The Creation

20th January - Adam and Eve

27th January - Moses - part 1 - Moses as a baby, growing up and the burning bush

3rd February - Moses part 2 - The Plagues of Egypt and the escape

10th February - Moses part 3 - the Ten Commandments

The children have enjoyed hearing the stories from Genesis and Exodus and have followed up with further conversations in their class worship on Tuesdays.

## LEAF Visit - Year 6



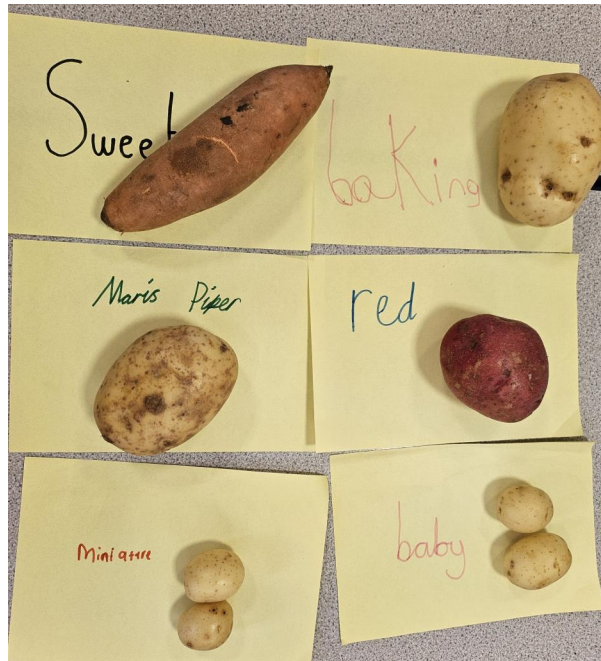
LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND FARMING

On Thursday 19th December, Faye from LEAF came to see Year 6. LEAF are an organisation who work hard promoting and supporting more sustainable farming to create a resilient food & farming system for future generations. They ran the farm competition last year (that we won!) Faye came to help us harvest the potatoes that we planted in October, and helped us make them into crisps for our Christmas party! They were delicious. We learned all about different types of potatoes and what they can be used for. We also made some posters that show what we learned. Faye is going to share them with other schools to help them learn all the things that we did. We look forward to working with Faye and LEAF, so watch this space for news on exciting projects coming up soon.









## LEAF Visit - Year 4

Year 4 had a visit from Faye Edwards, the Education Induction Manager and Specialist from LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) to help us with our Geography topic 'Plants of the World' and help us to become Caretakers of the World.

We began by learning about the different types of bulbs, how they grow and their life cycle. We read the instructions about how to plant and care for our bulbs and then we went outside to give our outdoor area a bit of a lift! We planted so many bulbs ready for the spring, although we did have to make sure that the bulbs were the right way up. We also gave the outdoor area a makeover! We collected all of the dead leaves off the floor, swept up and tidied up the area and now it looks great!



## British Divers Marine Life Rescue - Year 4



Year 4 were visited by a medic from the BDMLR (British Divers Marine Life Rescue) who taught them how to save a marine animal (whale and a dolphin) using specialised equipment. This was in response to their book Michael Morpurgo's 'This Morning I met a Whale.' about the famous whale who got stuck in the Thames. BDMLR is the charity that helped try to save the whale in the Thames which was watched by over 300 million people around the world. Year 4 also met Mark Stevens, who was the lead diver and he shared lots of great information with them.

## Ancient Egypt Workshop - Year 3



Our Year 3 class had an enriching experience at the Ancient Egyptian workshop. They explored the fascinating people of Ancient Egyptian society, learning about their roles and daily lives. The students examined the timeline of the famed King Tutankhamun, delving into the exciting discovery of his tomb and the treasures within. To top off their morning, they expressed their newfound knowledge and creativity through various activities like voice expressions, movement, role play, and drama, bringing history to life in an engaging and interactive way.

## PC Visit - Year 6



Year 6 had a visit from PC 7957 Shendy Blakemore who works closely with our school. She came to tell us all about how to stay safe online. We started with a quiz. Their answers highlighted how much they know, but also, how confusing it can be for our children navigating the online world safely.

PC Shendy shared an very enlightening video, showing how easily children can be tricked into sharing personal information that can put them at risk. We had a really interesting discussion about some of the situations the children have run into online and PC Shendy explained how best to handle certain scenarios the children were unsure about.

The children have all signed an 'Internet Safety Pledge', promising to use the internet safely and not to share their personal information. PC Shendy has asked us to share this letter with you, so that you can best support your children's online safety.

If you ask them about what they have learned, I'm sure you will be really impressed!

## PC Visit - Year 5 and Parents/Carers



Year 5 together with some parents and carers kicked off Safer Internet Day with a very informative visit from PC Shendy Blakemore who told us all about how to keep safe on our devices when we are playing games and using social media. It was a great way to start the day and the children learnt lots of new facts that they were keen to discuss when we got back to class.

## Safer Internet Day



The theme of the day was “Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.”

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively.

The children took part in activities today related to this, which cover topics such as phishing, personal information, recognizing scams, and critical thinking.

### Athlete Visit - Danny Butler

We had a fantastic afternoon with the mountain bike rider Danny Butler. The children worked very hard during the circuit training exercise and really showed us how determined they are! They also loved watching him perform some of his favourite tricks and talking about his many achievements throughout his career. Thankyou so much for your support in sponsoring the children, we have around £500 to spend on sports equipment.





## 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 Lead: Mrs Rought**

**Deputy designated safeguarding lead: Miss Hunt**

## **Spotlight on: Trusted Adults**

### **What are Trusted Adults?**

The definition of a “Trusted Adult” is someone who pupils view as a reliable and caring source of support. A trusted adult is someone that a pupil can turn to if they’re worried or concerned. This could be in a safeguarding capacity or support for a child's mental health.

Staff at St Martin's work hard to build good relationships with pupils in order to gain the trust required. Being a small, one form entry school means that we know our pupils well. We provide a safe and supportive classroom culture and environment. This sets the tone for trusted relationships between staff and pupils.

All children at St Martin's have at least one trusted adult that they are able to talk to should the need arise. Staff have undergone 'Trusted Adult' training in order to understand how best to meet children's needs if required.

The trusted adult role is vital to ensure that children feel safe both within and outside of school.

As parents, you may also sometimes need to talk to someone that you are able to trust too. Please contact school if you feel that there is a staff member that you would like to talk to about your child or other issues that may arise for your family. We are always here to help and support your family as well as your child.

**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



Our 'Dementia Friendly School' work this year. Our links with our local residential home will continue and we will also be looking to widen this. We will be working to achieve the next stage of our award this year.

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.

The link is here <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/>

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:**

| <b>Week Ending</b> | <b>Winning class</b>   | <b>Percentage</b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>10 Jan 25</b>   | <b>Year 3</b>          | <b>99%</b>        |
| <b>17 Jan 25</b>   | <b>Year 4</b>          | <b>99%</b>        |
| <b>24 Jan 25</b>   | <b>Year 2</b>          | <b>99%</b>        |
| <b>31 Jan 25</b>   | <b>Years 3 &amp; 6</b> | <b>100%</b>       |
| <b>7 Feb 25</b>    | <b>Year 3</b>          | <b>99.85%</b>     |
| <b>14 Feb 25</b>   | <b>Year 5</b>          | <b>98.89%</b>     |

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

**The class with the best attendance for Spring 1 is: Year 3 with 97.86%**

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

## Choices Programme



The Choices programme is aimed to help families make memories together. They will support your whole family to create lifelong habits to live a happier life. You can spend quality time together whilst discovering new activities and food. The Choice Programme is delighted to offer these sessions to families living in Sandwell with children ages 5-12 for

free. You are eligible to book onto these activities if you are a parent or carer and you have a child aged 5-12 that currently lives in Sandwell OR currently attends a Sandwell school.

## Sandwell Parents for Disabled Children Family Club Newsletter - March to April

**At a glance**  
Monday 3rd March  
Monday 17th March  
Monday 24th March  
Monday 31st March  
Monday 7th April

  
**March - April 2025**

Please read all information carefully  
**Family Club returns Monday 3rd March 2025**  
© 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 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 creative 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 Club to [spdcbooking@sp-dc.org](mailto: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.  
Please make sure you get your requests to us as soon as possible as we are unable to accept booking after  
**9:00am Friday 21st February – This will be strictly adhered to.**  
Once the team have processed all of the bookings you will receive an email confirming the places you have been allocated at Family Club.  
Confirmation emails will be sent out **Week commencing 24th February**

**Please note that bookings will not be accepted via Facebook or Messenger.**  
Family Club has different themes each week, so please take a look at the following information about each session and only book the sessions that appeal to your family.  
If you have requested or are allocated places on a particular session but can no longer attend it, 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 a family on our waiting lists the opportunity to join us.

## Life in Community Half Term Activities



**Life in Community**

**CREATING A PLAYABLE SANDWELL**

# February Half Term Free Activities 2025

**Monday 17th Feb' & Friday 21st Feb'**

**10.30am-12.30pm  
12.45pm-2.45pm**

**St Johns Church Hall,  
Upper Church Lane, Tipton, DY4 9ND**

These sessions are open to  
\* 5-16 year olds  
\* Parents/carers to stay.  
Younger siblings are welcome

To find out  
more text **'PLAY'** to  
**07752 659257**

Funded by:

**Sandwell**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

## Go Play Sessions - Tipton



**GO PLAY  
FREE PLAY SESSIONS IN  
TIPTON**

**FEBRUARY HALF TERM SESSIONS:**

MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY, 10AM-12PM TIPTON LIBRARY MAYFAIR GARDENS

MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY, 1PM-4PM VICTORIA PARK, MAYFAIR GARDENS, TIPTON, DY4 8SD

THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY, 11AM-4PM, NEW ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, MOUNT ST, TIPTON DY4 7DE

**TERM TIME SESSIONS:**

EVERY MONDAY 24/02/2025 UNTIL 31/03/2025, 3:00PM- 5:30PM, AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH, 53 UPPER CHURCH LN, TIPTON, DY4 9ND

EVERY THURSDAY BETWEEN 27/02/2025- 10/04/2025, 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM, AT THE FIELD OUTSIDE WEDNESBURY OAK ACADEMY (DY4 0AR)

All Go Play sessions are FREE, open access (so come along at any time) and do not require booking. Sessions are aimed at families with children aged 6-12 and up to 19 with additional needs.

Sessions are NOT drop-off sessions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JOHNNY AT:  
JOHNNY.LOMAX@GROUNDWORK.ORG.UK  
OR  
07872857437  
OR VISIT [HTTPS://GOPLAYSANDWELL.CO.UK](https://goplaysandwell.co.uk)

Funded by: 



## Tipton Library - Half Term Fun

A colorful poster for Tipton library Half Term Fun. The background is pink with blue and yellow abstract shapes at the top. The text is in bold black font. It lists three events: Monday 17 February (10.30am - 11.30am) Ron Popple Party Show, Wednesday 19 February (9.30am-10.30am) Children's First Yoga Session, and Friday 21 February (11am & 2pm) The Old Green Time Machine. Each event has a small illustration next to it: a man with balloons, a person in a yoga pose, and two characters in a futuristic setting. The poster also includes a booking link at the bottom.

### Tipton library Half Term Fun

**Monday 17 February**  
**10.30am - 11.30am**  
**Ron Popple Party Show**  
Join the fun with music, party games,  
& balloons show

**10am - 12pm Go Play**  
including crafts, loose parts play, games & more

**Wednesday 19 February 9.30am-10.30am**  
**Children's First Yoga Session**  
Children are never too young to learn fun stretches and relaxation.  
Parents are welcome to join in the fun  
Suitable for children of all ages

**Friday 21 February**  
**11am & 2pm**  
**The Old Green Time Machine**  
Follow the journey of two intrepid and quirky time  
travellers who are in a race to save the world. In a  
future where all living things have been destroyed  
and all that is left is plastic, our two adventurers find  
themselves on an urgent mission.  
**Book your ticket via the link below or contact the library**  
<https://www.bctouring.org.uk/the-old-green-time-machine>

### Tipton library February Half Term Fun

**Monday 17 February**

**10.30am - 11.30am**

**Ron Popple Party Show 10am - 12pm**

Join the fun with music, party games, &  
balloons

**10am - 12pm Go Play**

including crafts, loose parts play, games &  
more

**Wednesday 19 February**

**9.30am-10.30am**

**Children's First Yoga Session**

Children are never too young to learn fun stretches  
and relaxation. Parents are welcome to join in the fun.

Suitable for children of all ages

**Friday 21 February**

**11am & 2pm**

**The Old Green Time**

Follow the journey of two intrepid and quirky  
timetravellers who are in a race to save the world.  
In a future where all living things have been destroyed and all that is left  
is plastic, our two adventurers find themselves on an urgent mission.  
Book your ticket via the link below or contact the library.

<https://www.bctouring.org.uk/the-old-green-time-machine>



## Universal Credit - Managed Migration

Please see attached information regarding Universal Credit and Managed Migration which will affect a number of residents within Sandwell.



### Universal Credit - Managed Migration

Universal Credit is a working-age benefit which brings together the following six legacy benefits into one benefit:

- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income based Employment Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- Child Tax Credits
- Working Tax Credits

Universal Credit provides support to residents with their daily living and housing costs, it can also help pay for childcare costs. Universal Credit can be claimed by residents in work on a low income, residents who are out of work and residents unable to work. Most people have to make their Universal Credit claim online and claimants are paid a single payment monthly in arrears. For more information on Universal Credit visit: <https://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/>

### What is Managed Migration?

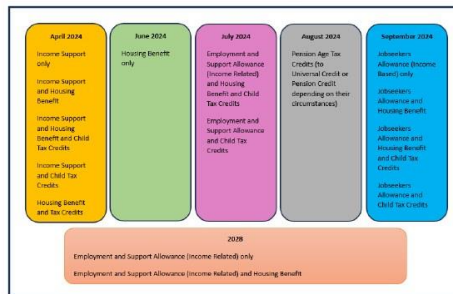
The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have begun the process of moving individuals who claim a legacy benefit onto Universal Credit. This process is known as Managed Migration.

Managed Migration is where the DWP advise you to claim Universal Credit even though your circumstances have not changed. It is important that if you receive a Migration Notice letter from the DWP that you contact the Council for advice. If you fail to claim Universal Credit within three months, then your benefits will end, and you will be left with no income.

### Who is affected?

The first group of households affected by Managed Migration in Sandwell are households where working tax or child tax credits are in payment and no other income-related benefit is in payment.

The process of Managed Migration in Sandwell began on 9 February 2024. The timeline below outlines when current legacy benefit customers will be invited to migrate to Universal Credit:



If you only receive ESA or ESA with HB, you will be the final group invited to migrate to Universal Credit. This is likely to be in 2018 though this date may be subject to change.

More information can be found on the Council's website - <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/benefits-support/universal-credit-2/3> or by scanning the QR code with your mobile phone camera.

#### Who can help?

If you are a Council tenant and receive a migration notice, then you should contact the Council's Rents Team on **0121 737 5148** Monday to Thursday 9am – 5.30pm and 9am – 5pm on a Friday. Our Income Recovery Officers can advise you of the best time to claim Universal Credit.

If you are in the Private Rented Sector and receive a migration notice, then you should contact the Council's Welfare Rights Team on **0121 569 3158**, Monday to Friday 9am – 4.30pm where an advisor will be available to assist you.



## 4 Community Trust - Wraparound Care Provision

### OUT OF SCHOOL CLUBS **4 COMMUNITY TRUST**

Looking for **Breakfast** or **Afterschool** care for your child?

We provide your child with **OFSTED** registered care, with lots of **fun activities** and **healthy meals**

**GUARANTEED**



Breakfast Club: 7:30AM - Start Of School - £5.50 Per Session  
Afterschool Club: End Of School - 6:00PM - £12 Per Session  
Afterschool Club: End Of School - 4:15PM (No Meal) - £6

 Located On School Site

**Book NOW:**

 **0121 752 5969**

 **Ofsted**  
raising standards  
improving lives

 **Childcare Choices**



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 \(st-martins.sandwell.sch.uk\)](https://4CommunityTrust.org.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.

## School Dinners - Spring 2025 Menu

| NEW DISHES FOR 2025 |                   | WEEK 1                                                                                                                                                                  | WEEK 2                                                                                                                                                                  | WEEK 3                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                     |                   | Weeks starting:<br>20th January, 27th January,<br>3rd February, 10th March,<br>24th March                                                                               | Weeks starting:<br>13th January, 24th February,<br>24th February, 17th March,<br>7th April                                                                              | Weeks starting:<br>20th January, 10th February,<br>3rd March, 24th March                                                                                                |
| PICCOLO SPRING      | Mega Mondays      | Beef & Cheddar Pasta Bake (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt | Beef & Cheddar Pasta Bake (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt | Beef & Cheddar Pasta Bake (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt |
|                     | School Favourites | Beef Burger on the Bun (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt    | Beef Burger on the Bun (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt    | Beef Burger on the Bun (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt    |
|                     | Roast Wednesday   | Beef & Cheddar Pasta Bake (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt | Beef & Cheddar Pasta Bake (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt | Beef & Cheddar Pasta Bake (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt |
|                     | Tasty Thursday    | Beef & Cheddar Pasta Bake (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt | Beef & Cheddar Pasta Bake (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt | Beef & Cheddar Pasta Bake (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt |
|                     | Fishy Fridays     | Beef & Cheddar Pasta Bake (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt | Beef & Cheddar Pasta Bake (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt | Beef & Cheddar Pasta Bake (10)<br>Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (10)<br>Roast Potatoes (10)<br>Vegetable Curry (10)<br>Daily Dinner: Home Baked, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt |

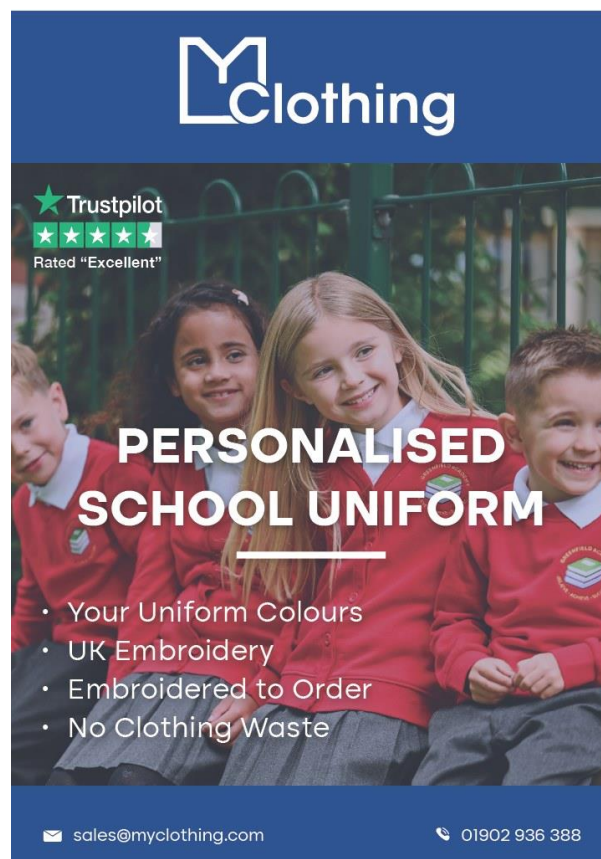
Please remember that if you would like your child to have a school dinner, regardless of whether it is chargeable, you must order before **8.45am** each day or you can book many days in advance. If you book a meal, please do not send your child with a packed lunch as you may still be charged. Please remember to cancel any pre-booked meals if your child is absent. All meals need to be booked and paid for (if applicable) on the School Grid app. If you need any help, please contact the office.

## 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](#)



**My Clothing**

★ Trustpilot  
★★★★★  
Rated "Excellent"

**PERSONALISED  
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- 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.
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- 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](mailto: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 thank you 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 2024/25)



Please note that we have added in statutory assessment dates for Year 1 phonics, Year 4 multiplication testing and Year 6 SATS for 2024 and 2025. It is vital that your child attends school during this time, in order to take the assessments.

### *Key Dates*

#### **2024/25**

#### ***SPRING TERM 2025***

**Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February - half term holiday**

**Monday 24th February** - Training Day 3 - **school closed to pupils**

**Thursday 25th February** - school opens to pupils - Super 7 dress up day !

**Monday 6th March - Friday 10th March** - Book Fair in school

**Thursday 6th March** - World Book Day - wear Pyjamas and parent event

**Friday 21st March** - Wear red for Comic Relief

**Tuesday 25th March** - Reception Mothers' Day event

**Wednesday 26th March** - Nursery Mothers' Day event

**Monday 7th April** - Years 1 - 6 Bring in a Decorated Egg from Home - Competition

**Tuesday 8th April** - Rocksteady Concert at 9.00 am

**Wednesday 9th April** - Years 1 & 2 Easter Celebration Event at 9.15 am

**Wednesday 9th April** - Spring Disco

**Thursday 10th April** - Reception and Nursery Easter Bonnet parade at 9.15 am and 2.15 pm

**Friday 11th April** - Year 3 & 4 Easter Celebration Event at 9.15 am

**Friday 11th April** - Year 5 & 6 Easter Celebration Event at 2.15 pm

**Friday 11th April** - last day of term - school closes at the end of the day

## **SUMMER TERM 2025**

**Monday 28th April** - school opens to pupils

**Monday 5th May** - Bank holiday - **school closed to pupils**

**Monday 12th May** - KS2 SATs week for Year 6

**Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May** - half term holiday

**Monday 2nd June** - Training Day 4 - **school closed to pupils**

**Tuesday 3rd June** - Year 4 Multiplication Testing window (two weeks)

**Monday 9th June** - Year 1 Phonics Screening week

**Wednesday 2nd July** - Years 1 & 2 Sports Day at 1.15 pm - 2.15 pm

**Wednesday 2nd July** - Year 3 & 4 Sports Day at 2.15 pm to 3.15 pm

**Monday 7th July** - Reception and Nursery Sports Day at 9.15 am and 2.15 pm

**Wednesday 9th July** - Year 5 Sports Day at 1.15 pm - 2.15 pm

**Wednesday 9th July** - Year 6 Sports Day at 2.15 pm to 3.15 pm

**Thursday 10th July** - Year 6 Prom at 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm

**Tuesday 15th July** - Rocksteady Concert at 9.00 am

**Friday 20th July** - last day of term - school closes to all pupils at the end of the day

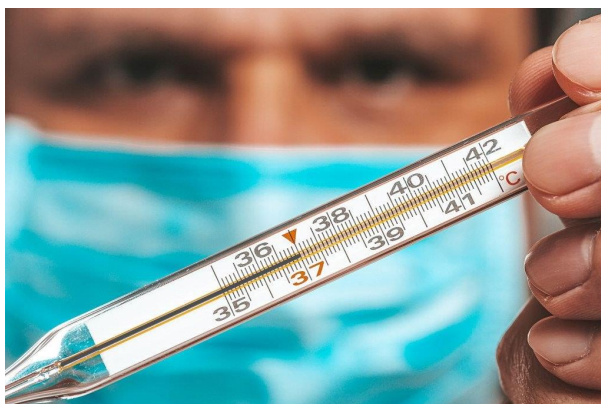
**Monday 23rd July** - Training Day 5 - **school closed**

## **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 [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.

# Operation Encompass



Supporting children and young  
people exposed to domestic abuse

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