

St Martin's Newsletter



AUTUMN TERM - Friday 13th September

Attendance

Last year we improved our attendance a lot but it is still an area we are focusing on. Please take time to read the message regarding the national changes to school attendance. Great start everyone this week, **whole school attendance is 93.3%** 😊 Our target is 96% .

Welcome Back

I hope you all had a lovely summer break and the miserable weather did not spoil it. It has been lovely to see all the children well rested and looking smart in their uniforms this week. They have all settled back into school well and are eager to get on with their learning. In particular, I would like to **welcome all the new children and families** who have joined us. I hoped they enjoyed their first full week at St Martin's. I am looking forward to another successful year as we continue to work together to make sure your children get the very best from school. As always a member of the Senior Leadership team will be available every morning on the school gate and if you need anything you can contact me by coming into school, phoning the office or by email.

Attendance

Year R - 92% 7 Lates
 Year 1 - 92% 3 Lates
 Year 2 - 94% 4 Lates
 Year 3 - 91%
 Year 4 - 95% 5 Lates
 Year 5 - 91%

Year 6 - 92% 2 Lates
 5 Classes with less than 10 lates
Well done to year 4, this weeks Dojo Champs

Anyone who comes into school after 8:50am is marked as late. Please try to be an attendance



★ St Martin's Stars ★

Well done to everyone who got a certificate this week.

Purple Tie certificates are given for children who embody our rules of being Kind Respectful and Responsible.

- YEAR R: Star- Chimara E
- Purple tie- Reuben P
- Value- Cody S
- YEAR 1: Star- Alicia H
- Purple tie- Amelia-Rose R
- Value- Carolyn J
- YEAR 2: Star- Adara C
- Purple tie- Emmanuel I
- Value- Anthony A
- YEAR 3: Star- Harvey P
- Purple tie- Maisie F
- Value- Abigael M
- YEAR 4: Star- Precious H
- Purple tie- Lennocks R
- Value- Reggie W
- YEAR 5: Star- Noah MC
- Purple tie- Chloe Mc
- Value- Winter K
- YEAR 6: Star- Alfie S
- Purple tie- Ava F
- Value- Ethan G

Extra Curricular Clubs

Clubs will begin on **Monday 16th September**. The survey to sign up is available until Sunday.

Certificates

Certificates – we have introduced a new certificate for children who demonstrate our **Catholic Social Teaching values** throughout the week. Each class has their own one that they are working on.

For Parents

Each week the newsletter will contain all the activities parent's can be involved in for the following week. We hope this will better help you keep track of everything that is going on.

EYFS Parents Meeting

There will be a welcome meeting for the **EYFS parents** on **Wednesday 25th September** at 2.30pm in the hall.

Updating Information

If you have changed your phone number, email address or moved house over the summer please can you let the office know. It is also really important that we have at least **3 emergency contacts** on the system. If we do not the office staff will be in touch over the next week or two.

Safety Advice

This guide offers insight into the challenges faced by children [returning to school](#) and how best to provide support to young people transitioning back to education.

Fire Procedures

We have been updating our fire procedures. From now on if parents are on site when the fire alarm goes your fire assembly point is in the far left corner behind the large climbing frame. If the fire alarm goes off at the beginning or end of the day then the external pedestrian gate will be closed and even though the car park gate will be open for access for the fire brigade, we ask that parents remain off school grounds so we can easily keep a track of the children.

Thanks.

School Council

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Please see below for this year's school council as voted by the children ...

YR – Arthur and Maddison

Y1 – Fraser and Alexis

Y2 – Ruby and Teddy

Y3 – Louis & Harper

Y4 – Reggie & Imogen

Y5 – Joaquin and Athena

Y6 – Laura & Roman

They will receive their badges in next weeks assembly.

Assembly/Mass Key Dates

Assembly dates:

Y6 - 4th October

Y5 - 11th October

Y4 - 18th October

Y3 - 8th November

Y2 - 15th November

Y1 - 22nd November

Mass Dates:

Y5&6 - 18th September

Y3&4 - 2nd October

Y1&2 - 16th October

Whole School - 6th November

Y5&6 - 13th November

Y1&2 - 20th November

EYFS - 27th November

Whole school - 4th December

Free School Meals

If your child is now in Year 3 or your circumstances have changed and you think you may be entitled to **Free School Meals** we advise all parents to complete the online application form

<https://cyp.halton.gov.uk/Synergy/Live/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

The school council will be running our annual coffee morning for MacMillan cancer charity on **Friday 20th September**, we would appreciate any donations of cakes before Thursday. Everyone is welcome.

PE Days

Here are the PE days

YR - Friday

Y1 - Tuesday and Thursday

Y2 - Thursday and Friday

Y3 - Monday and Thursday

Y4 - Monday and Thursday

Y5 - Monday and Thursday (swimming)

Y6 - Monday and Thursday

It was lovely to see most children in their purple PE kits.

We have a small supply of shorts in school, if you would like to purchase them from school please get in touch with the office who will set up the payment for you. If your purple PE kit has not arrived yet please let the class teachers know otherwise any child who does not have full PE kit should come in wearing their school uniform and they can get changed for their lessons.

Key Dates

Wednesday 25th September - School Photos

11th-18th October - Book fair

Thursday 10th October 2.30pm - First Holy Communion Meeting

Wednesday 16th October 1.45-6.15pm - Parents evening

Thursday 24th October - Burwardsley Residential Y3

28th October – 3rd November - Half term

Friday 15th November - Children in Need

Stay And Pray

Y6 - 24th September

Y5 - 1st October

Y4 - 8th October

Y3 - 15th October

Y2 - 22nd October

Y1 - 5th November

YR - 12th November

Pre-School - 19th November

Stay and Pray is at **8.50am** in class on the above dates, parents and carers are invited to join.

Christmas Key Dates

10th December - EYFS Performance

12th December - KS1 performance

17th December - KS2 performance

13th December - Christmas Dinner day

16th December - Whole school panto trip

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Change can be hard for children to manage. Going back to school after a long summer break might cause them to feel uncertain about their friendships, school routines and relationships with new teachers. However, trusted adults play an important role in providing both practical and emotional support.

1 LEARN WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU NEED

Figure out a list of all equipment needed for the start of the school year, so you can comfortably get your hands on the necessary items in time. If children have any financial issues and receive free school meals, the school may be able to provide some monetary aid or offer other support.



2 COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL

If you notice that a child is feeling anxious about a change of teacher or school, arranging a one-to-one meeting with their new teacher can be a good way to alleviate some of the anxiety. Just knowing that they understand the child's worries and will be able to help them if the need arises can build the foundations of a good working relationship. Knowing that you can contact them with any queries can also be reassuring.



3 CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

There will be plenty of information about the start of term on the school's website to keep you updated. Furthermore, you should be able to find other useful information such as contact details for staff, important school equipment, clubs, and news about any special events on the school calendar for the year. It could be helpful to look through this with children for anything which might reassure them.



4 HELP TO MANAGE FRIENDSHIPS

If a child is feeling anxious about making new friends – especially if they're moving up to secondary school – it can be a good idea to remind them of what they could do or say when meeting new classmates. Investigating the extracurricular activities available could be a good way to open a conversation about their hobbies and pastimes, and joining such clubs could allow new friendships to be built on this mutual interest.



5 PLAN SELF-CARE

Talking to children about how they can manage their self-care can be an effective way of helping them understand its importance. This might involve playing a computer game they love with friends, a weekly visit to the library, getting to bed at the same time each night, or a range of other activities that support their wellbeing and provide the familiarity and safety of a routine that works for them.



6 MANAGE TRICKY FEELINGS

Explain that it's okay to have difficult feelings around returning to school. This can help reduce any shame or embarrassment a child might be feeling over these emotions. Emphasise that other children – even some of the teachers – will be feeling the same way. Consider practical ways to manage these feelings and help children feel more in control of their emotions. Some examples include fidget toys, breathing exercises or a notepad for doodling.



7 SECURE A SCHOOL UNIFORM

Parents and carers should try to buy a child's uniform for the new academic year well in advance of the new term (although allowing for potential holiday growth spurts) and give them time to adapt to any changes. Make sure they can comfortably change into and out of it for PE lessons. Double check the requirements for PE on the school's website, as some schools will also have requirements for PE kits.



8 PREPARE FOR TRANSITION DAYS

Ensuring that children attend transition days is a vital step in preparing for the new year. Some schools also have transition evenings for parents and carers to attend, offering extra opportunities to reach out for any additional support.



9 READ THE MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

If a young person struggles with their mental health, it's important to understand their school's mental health policy and provision to know what support is available. This should be on the school's website. A range of aid is typically on offer – from individual timetable amendments to group sessions on emotional wellbeing. You can then discuss these options with the child to reassure them that help is there if they need it.



10 LEARN ABOUT SEN SUPPORT

If a child has SEN and receives help in school, try to confirm exactly what support is available, to ensure they'll be having their needs met. If they're moving up to secondary school, it's a good idea to meet with the SENCO to ensure that all teachers receive the most relevant, up-to-date information about the child's needs and have a contact to liaise with if these change over time.

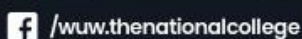


Meet Our Expert

Amy Sayer is a freelance mental health trainer for schools, an author and a content writer. She is an Associate for Diverse Educators, a fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and ITT wellbeing coach. Amy has previously been a SMHL coach, helping many different settings audit their mental health provision and support them to create and implement a strategic plan based on the specific needs of each setting.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-going-back-to-school>



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Stay And Pray

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

Optional - The supermarket has joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative – look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage

Optional - Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most, such as (Blank – for schools to input what they want)

**INTRODUCING
CASHPOT
FOR SCHOOLS**

You scan we donate **££s**

Parentkind

ASDA

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT

**CASHPOT
FOR
SCHOOLS**

Only with
**ASDA
Rewards**

Download and
opt-in today

Selected stores. Minimum spend £2+. Exclusions apply including Asda Express & George.com. Subject to availability. UK 18+. App & Opt-in required. 0.5% of the value of a customer's eligible shop is donated. Publicly funded primary schools, must register with Parentkind charity 1072833. Full T&C's at asda.com/cashpotforschools. Rewards T&Cs at asda.com/rewards/terms. Ends 30.11.24