

# St Martin's Newsletter






Autumn TERM 2025/2026

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September

## Attendance

A fabulous first week back with a whole school attendance of 96.2%. Remember anyone arriving at school after 8:50 am will be marked late. Let's be an attendance HERO!

			
	Attendance	Lateness	Class Dojo
Nursery	96.55%	0	Not started
Reception	100%	1	Not started
Year 1	99.38%	1	4.7
Year 2	98.81%	3	12.2
Year 3	94.94%	1	5.4
Year 4	98.31%	8	2.8
Year 5	100%	0	6.5
Year 6	85.63%	5	4.2

Year 2 win the bonus break for most average dojos this week.

## St Martin's Stars

Well done to all our certificate winners this week!

			
	Shining Star	Purple Tie	Our Values
Nursery			
Reception	William R	Olivia P	Lucas
Year 1	Chimara	Isla	Cody
Year 2	Frankie	Ellenor	Amelia
Year 3	Dylan	Adara	Hannah
Year 4	Maisie	Louis	Annie
Year 5	Isaac	Sapphire	Amelia F
Year 6	Lucas	Eva	Aoife

## Safety Advice

This guide [explores VPNs](#) – what they are, why young people use them, and the potential risks they carry. It offers practical tips for parents and educators to help keep children safe online.

## Message from Mrs Ming

What a lovely first week back we have all had. The children all looked so grown up in their new uniforms and most had grown at least 5 cms in 6 weeks!

It has been lovely hearing all the stories of their summer holidays and they have all come back excited and enthusiastic to learn. The classes have been very busy applying for their roles and voting for their class representatives. A list is attached to this newsletter, and I would like to say a big well done to everyone.

## Parent Notice Board

Whole school Mass 10am Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Y5 and Y6 Mass 10am Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September

Y5 Stay and Pray Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 8.50am

Y4 Stay and Pray Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 8.50am

Y4 and Y2 Mass 10am Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October

Y3 Assembly Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 9am

## Clubs

The survey for clubs will be sent out on Monday and clubs will begin week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> September.

## PE days and Extra opportunities

PE is on Thursday for Y1, 2, 3, 4, & 6

Swimming until October half term

Thursday for Y3

Friday for Y5

Judo is on Friday for Y5 until October half term

Y5 will be learning Brass instruments on a Tuesday Morning

Y2 will be having Music and Movement lessons on Tuesday Afternoon

Y3 and Y4 have singing lessons on Wednesday Mornings

## Catholic Life and Reflection

The Wednesday Word is a resource for parents to use when discussing the [weekly Gospel](#) with their families.

All parents and families are welcome to join us for our whole school Mass to celebrate the beginning of the new school year on **WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPT at 10am.**

## Pupil Leadership Team

Y6 Leaders

Head students - Lillie and Ewan

Class Captains –

Joaquin & Penelope Pre-School

Winter and Blossom YR

Ella C and Eliza Year 1

Aoife Year 2

Athena Year 3

Laurence Year 4

Zac Year 5

Tech gurus - Frankie and Noah

Sports ambassadors - Heidi, Luca, Eli and Oliver

Library monitors - Ella H, Martin and Jayden

Hall monitors - Sophia MP, Sofia L, Chloe, Noah

Phone monitors - Ella H and Eva

Mug and cup monitor – Lucas

Road Safety Officers – Cathyrn & Damien Year 5

Class	School Council	Eco Heroes	Attendance Ambassadors
YR	Olivia & Leo		
Y1	Kai & Everleigh	Hunter & Isla	Bobby
Y2	Theo & Alex	Frankie & Romaisa	Ellenor
Y3	Jasmine & Josh	Ava & Teddy	Patrick
Y4	Harvey & Ava	Freddie & Halle	Maisie
Y5	Sapphire & Amelia F	Evie & Charlie	Amelia B & Mason
Y6	Chloe & Oscar	Aoife & Eva	Joaquin & Emily



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about VPNs

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

VPNs are commonly used by young people to get around blocks on school networks or parental controls. This could include accessing social media, gaming sites or adult content that would otherwise be filtered out.

### ACCESSING INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

When a VPN is active, content filters can no longer see which sites a child is visiting. This means they could access inappropriate content without detection. This also makes it harder to intervene when a child is engaging in risky behaviour, as it may be difficult to detect it's happening.

### REDUCED TRANSPARENCY

VPNs may make parental monitoring software ineffective, stopping parents from monitoring their child's activities, including their ability to identify potentially harmful or inappropriate content or online contact. This in turn may prevent parents from protecting their children from attempted sextortion or other online threats.

### FALSE SENSE OF ANONYMITY

Children believing that VPNs make them 'invisible' online may seek to explore unsuitable internet content, including content which might otherwise be blocked. This may result in them seeking and accessing increasingly inappropriate – or even harmful – content.

### INCREASED EXPOSURE TO MALWARE

Many free VPN apps are poorly regulated and may carry hidden malware. Young people installing unverified software could unknowingly open up their device (and home network) to spying, data theft, computer viruses, or even remote access by criminals.

### RISK OF MALICIOUS VPN PROVIDERS

Although VPNs may increase privacy from network or service provider filtering and monitoring, this results in providing user and usage data to VPN providers. Some VPN providers may track user activity and sell that data to advertisers – or worse, malicious third parties. Not all VPNs are trustworthy.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### EXPLAIN THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF VPNs

Explain how VPNs can help protect user data and therefore may be appropriate when using public or other unsecured Wi-Fi, or while dealing with sensitive corporate or personal data.

### EXPLAIN THE RISKS OF VPNs

Discuss online risks, including harmful, disturbing, and criminal content. Inform children about criminal contact, such as sextortion, and how VPNs may restrict adults from monitoring children's internet use and helping them avoid these risks.

### FREE ISN'T FREE

Discuss the risk of 'free' VPNs and how they may sell or use people's data, which adds privacy risks. Additionally, discuss the potential for added malware in VPN downloads, and how these compromise devices and apps, leading to potential fraud or theft.

### CHECK DEVICES FOR VPNs

VPNs can be installed as both apps and browser extensions, so regularly check these on the devices used by the young people in your care. If they have been using VPNs, discuss it, listen to their reasoning, and inform them of the associated risks. In some cases, it may be appropriate to block VPN use via parental controls and other settings.

### DISCUSS ONLINE BOUNDARIES

Reinforce the importance of keeping safe online and how filtering and monitoring helps keep young people safe – explain this to them rather than just 'being strict'. Encourage an open conversation around what they're accessing and why.

### Meet Our Expert

This guide has been created in collaboration with Gary Henderson, director of IT at a large independent school in the UK, an ambassador for the Association of Network Managers in Education and the Vice Chair of the Independent Schools Council Digital Advisory Group.



The National College