

# St Martin's Newsletter






Autumn TERM 2025/2026

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September

## Attendance



A fabulous first week back with a whole school attendance of 97%. Remember anyone arriving at school after 8:50 am will be marked late. Let's be an attendance HERO!

			
	Attendance	Lateness	Class Dojo
Nursery	97.25%	0	2.2
Reception	98.11%	4	8.1
Year 1	98.25%	3	7.7
Year 2	90.77%	0	7.9
Year 3	99.25%	1	6.4
Year 4	97.91%	2	7.2
Year 5	97.5%	1	7.4
Year 6	92.57%	2	4.7

Year R 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	Theo H		Bonnie-Faye
Reception	Maleea K	Reuben L	Layla C
Year 1	Amira A	Everleigh J	Georgie J
Year 2	Ellenor MK	Amelia R	Alex C
Year 3	Ruby-Rae C	Jasmine D	Phoebe T
Year 4	Kasi N	Freddie MP	Elsie C
Year 5	Imogen T	Kai A	Tommy H
Year 6	Winter K	Chloe M	Chloe M

## Safety Advice

This guide will help you to understand the risks, spot the signs, build children's resilience and safeguard against the harmful effects of [conspiracy theories](#).

## Message from Mrs Ming

We have all enjoyed another lovely week, with the children really settling back into working hard – so many have been to show me their excellent work this week and I have been very impressed.

A small reminder that smoking and Vaping is not allowed on school property even outside please.

Also due to the high numbers of children leaving school early, from next week you will need to provide evidence of an appointment/reason if you need to collect your children early from school. Thanks for your cooperation as always 😊

## Parent Notice Board

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

Y3 Stay and Pray Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 8.50am

## Clubs

Clubs until Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October

Tuesday:

Y3 and Y4 Commando Joe's with Mrs Ming and Miss Rowe

Y1 and Y2 Book and Biscuit club with Mrs Monks

Thursday:

Y5 and Y6 Multisports club with Mr Cullen

## 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 Y5 and Y6 for Mass on **WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> SEPT at 10am**.



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

### ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

### MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

### GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

### CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

### ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

### PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

### MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

### REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

## Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>

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