



A very warm welcome to what promises to be a valuable and exciting academic year and to this, the first edition of the St Martin's Post. The aim of the St Martin's Post, which you will receive weekly is to keep you informed of everything that goes on in our school from homework to timetables and from events to assemblies, from Pre-School to Year 6. Our plan is for the children to provide input into the design, content and publishing of the newsletter but for now it remains in the hands of the staff... More details to come!

Assemblies

We would love to invite you to see your children partake in their class assembly. Assembly begins at 9am and is usually finished by 9.25.

Friday 30th September – Form 3

Friday 7th October – Form 2

Friday 14th October - Form 4 & 5

Friday 21st October – Form 6

Pre School, Reception and Year 1's will take place after half term.

Head Boy and Head Girl's message

We have been at St Martin's for almost all our lives and it has been a journey to remember. St Martin's is more like a family than a school and learning feels more like fun than a chore. I think it will give everyone who comes here the best possibility for a great secondary school. A warm welcome to all our new pupils. We look forward to getting to know you. By Adam and Natasha (unedited)

Clubs and Music Tuition

Your children thoroughly enjoy the after school clubs we provided and the music tuition on offer. Should you wish to add your child to a club, please do let us know. There are currently spaces on all clubs with the exception of Bead Art. We also have space for any child who may want to learn the piano, trumpet, flute, guitar, drums, classical singing and limited spaces on musical theatre.

Homework from Monday 12th September, 2016

- Yr-1 Set weekly on a Friday. Please also ensure daily Spelling & Times Tables practice.
- Yr-2 Set twice weekly. Tuesday for Friday and Friday for Tuesday. Times Table practice daily.
- Yr-3 Four times per week
- Yr-4/5 Set daily in Literacy & Maths. Weekly on a Friday for other subjects
- Yr-6 Set daily

We understand the pressures of your evenings and family weekends. We know many of your children do numerous extra-curricular activities which your children enjoy. We encourage this, but respectfully ask that all homework is completed on time. Homework is set to reinforce that day's / week's lessons and late submission may affect the lesson flow and the children's progression.

Charity

We encourage our children to be kind, helpful and thoughtful and respectful of others. Bringing charity money for our weekly collection is one way in which they can do this. Charity money can be brought into school any day and is counted and the total announced in assembly weekly.

New Website Update

We know you have been anxiously awaiting the launch of our new website. Please bare with us! In line with some exciting new projects we have delayed the launch until we are able to make some exciting final decisions. We hope that this Newsletter may, in the meantime, help to convey information effectively.

Lunches

Our children love the lunches we offer. The menus are on the notice board at the front of the school and on our website. Please note, we never serve pork or beef products. We are also a nut free school so kindly ensure any food brought into school is nut free.

Dates

Tues 13th Sept at 3.30pm: Year 2 Tea
Wed 14th Sept at 3.30pm: Reception Tea
Thurs 15th Sept at 3.30pm: Year 1 Tea
Wed Oct 19th: Yr 1,2 &3
Religious Ed morning outing – details to come

****Thurs Oct 20th at 2.15pm****

Our Harvest Celebration – all Parents Welcome –

More Details to come

Half Term: Monday 24th – Friday 28th October
Wed 2nd Nov: Open Working Morning
Sat 5th Nov: Open Day 11am – 3pm

Houses

From Reception to Year 6 your children are split into one of three 'Houses'

Highwood: House Captain, Kirill
Goodwyn: House Captain, Max
Newcombe: House Captain, Koutaro

House points are given for effort, good work, exemplary behaviour and kindness.

The House Captain's collect the House Points from the teacher's every Friday and every child's House Point score is read out in assembly on a Monday morning. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the children's achievement and encourage some friendly competition! The House cups are awarded at the end of each term to the child who earns the most House Points in Lower, Upper and Middle school.

Other Announcements by Year

Pre School – We encourage you to allow your children to stay all day on a Tuesday. Our French programme begins in Pre School and starting early has proven beneficial for future years learning. Please speak to Mrs Jacobs in the School Office should you wish to do so.

Reception – Please bring P.E Kits on a Monday for preparation for Tuesday's P.E Lesson

Year 1 – Please ensure that children's reading records are kept up to date. We hear them read on a Mon, Wed & Fri

Year 2 – We have been learning about alliteration and similes. Have fun practising over the week end!

Year 3 – Well done to Brooklyn. Year 3's first Star of the Week!

Year 4 – Please remember homework needs to be completed every day.

Year 5 – Please discuss and research your school requirements for Year 7 and share your thoughts with Dr Walak so he can tailor your learning appropriately.

Year 6 – Year 6 have been studying Shakespeare this week. What's your child's favourite play? Your first discussion on Growth Mindset was outstanding. Well done to you all.

New Library Opening!

Our librarians, Eli and Chiara are delighted to announce they will be cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony of our new and improved library on Monday morning. The library has been renovated, redecorated and new books added – with many more to come!

All children and staff will be present whilst Eli and Chiara explain their new initiative.. 'Break Time Reading Club!'

They will prepare a rota for Pre School and Reception to come to the library one break time a week (or more if they choose!) to listen to them read a book of their choice. Other classes will of course be welcome to join too.

We are immensely proud of our librarians for their passion, drive and leadership. Well done to you both.

A big welcome to all the new children this academic year; whether you are part of our new Pre School class or new starters throughout the rest of the school. We are delighted to welcome you.

There are lots of people at St Martin's who are here to help you. Next week you will all receive a detailed list of 'Who's Who?' and who you should contact in any occasion. We hope you will find this very helpful.

Thank you to all parents who came to the meeting at school to meet Dr Walak last night. He is preparing a Vision Statement which outlines what he covered in the meeting last night. These will be in your children's school bags on