



We are just three weeks into the new term and have already experienced rapid progress and made some valuable changes to our school. The new reading scheme is here ready to be rolled out after further staff training. The new maths scheme is also up and running. We continue to welcome your feedback and ask you to continue communicating with us by email. We hope that providing dates to the end of term will also be helpful.

**Charking!!** We have implemented a new marking scheme called 'charking' (children's marking) which is often referred to as triple marking. You will find that your child's work is now marked in two colours; pink for 'great' (tickled pink) and green where improvement can be made (green for growth). In addition, we ask that children respond in purple (or another non-standard colour) to their marking so their teacher knows they have read it, taken all praise on board and understood when improvement can be made.

**Toilets** All toilets were redecorated over the summer holiday. They are cleaned every day after school by our professional cleaner. We have however been made aware that on occasion they need attention during the course of the day. We have now set up a system whereby all toilets will be checked for cleanliness after every morning and lunch break. All upper school girls are now also welcome to use the girls toilets previously reserved for Year 6.

**Environmental Prefects** Environmental is a great job helping others to respect nature and keep their playground and school the way it should be. We would like our school mates to be co-operative and encourage them to keep their environment healthy and tidy. By Natasha and Adam (unedited)

### Autumn Term 2016

Half Term Break: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Term Ends: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Chickenshed Theatre Visit (PS, Rec and Year 1) 14<sup>th</sup> October

R.E Outing (Years 1 & 2 & 3) Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October

**\*\*Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 2.15pm\*\***

**Our Harvest Celebration – all Parents welcome**

**\*\*Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 4pm \*\***

**Our Christmas Concert – all Parents welcome**

Christmas Lunch & Fun Day (Pre School stay all day)  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Pantomime Trip (whole school) 6<sup>th</sup> December

FoSMS Children's Christmas Party: December 9<sup>th</sup> (after school)

**Lots more information to come but please 'Save the Dates'!!**

### Spring Term 2017

Return to School: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Half Term Break: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Term Ends: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

### Summer Term 2017

Return to School: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Half Term Break: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017

Term Ends: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### Autumn Term 2017

Return to School Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September

**Concerts, Shows and Celebrations** Our Harvest Celebration is a short 'Giving Thanks' multicultural celebration. The children have been learning some beautiful songs which we know you will all enjoy. It is impossible to ensure every child in the school has a solo singing or speaking part and we know this can be disappointing. Please remember if your child was not given a 'part' for the Harvest celebration there are many more occasions where they could – Most notably, class assemblies, and our Christmas and summer shows. Thank you for understanding.

**Your child's birthday** We love celebrating birthdays at school! Please continue to bring a (nut free) cake or treat for your child's classmates on the day of their birthday. We try to make their birthday at school really special. Every child who celebrates a birthday during the week will be invited to stand up at assembly on Friday. The whole school sing 'happy birthday' and they chose their birthday sticker. If you would like to invite your whole class to your child's birthday party please do give the invitations to your class teacher and they will ensure they are distributed.

**Golden Tea Time** Our first Golden Tea Time took place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Tyler, Max S, Serena and Dylan, had afternoon tea with Mrs Wilson and showed her their school books. They talked about the pieces of work they were most proud of and enjoyed some valuable time with their Head Teacher. Mrs Wilson said, 'this was the highlight of my week. The children spoke with confidence and excitement. It was a complete joy. I look forward to meeting with more children over the coming weeks and months.' This week, Chloe B, Yunqing, Noah M and Adam were chosen at random during assembly this morning.

**FoSMS** Thank you to everybody who came to the first FoSMS meeting of this academic year last night. Lots of exciting ideas were discussed. Your children are invited to an end of term Christmas Party at Hartley Hall straight after school on the last day of term – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Disco, pizza and some fun surprises... Lots of details to come but save the date now!

Would you like your Christmas Cards to be designed by your children and professionally printed? Another exciting venture FoSMS are arranging... Watch this space!

If you would like to get involved, please speak to or email Sarah Smith, our FoSMS Chair - [friendsofstmartinsschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstmartinsschool@gmail.com)

### Open Days – Suggested Visits for year 5 and 6

Haberdashers' Boys School	8 <sup>th</sup> October 1pm-4pm
Christopher's School (Day and Boarding)	24 <sup>th</sup> September
Tring Park (Day and Boarding)	7 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct
The Royal Masonic School for Girl's	9 <sup>th</sup> October 10.30-12.00
Merchant Taylor's School	24 <sup>th</sup> September
John Lyon Boys	October 1 <sup>st</sup> 10 - 1pm
Highgate School	8 <sup>th</sup> October (morning)

### Jewish Holidays

We are aware that in October many of the year's Jewish festivals take place:

The most widely celebrated are as follows:

Rosh Hashanah (New Year)

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October

If your child will not be at school on any of these days or for any of the other festivals not noted above, kindly email Mrs Jacobs on [info@stmartinmillhill.co.uk](mailto:info@stmartinmillhill.co.uk) at your convenience.

This will allow the teachers' time to plan accordingly.

**Books** We have massively expanded the school library for all ages. So much in fact that our wonderful librarians are having difficulty keeping up! We will continue to put the very best books into the library whilst removing older books for charitable donation. If you have any books at home that your children enjoyed but are no longer reading, could you share them with others by bringing them into school for our library?

and Random Acts of Kindness and 'Cheating Star' awards will be given to hard and b

Do you know who teaches your child music or who makes their lunch? Do you know who their football coach is or who reads with them? Next week's Newsletter will feature a full listing of all teachers, assistants, volunteers and peripatetic staff. We hope you find this helpful!

**Feedback** Thank you for your valuable feedback! I have received some wonderful ideas and suggestions to further improve this Newsletter. Many parents have also said it is really helpful and I am thankful for all feedback. Any suggestions? I'd love to hear from you... [Joanna.wilson@stmartinmillhill.co.uk](mailto:Joanna.wilson@stmartinmillhill.co.uk)