## **NEWSLETTER**

Strive † Aspire † Succeed

Summer Issue 01—19th April 2024



#### This week .....

Welcome back to the start of the Summer term at St. Martin's. This week has started off with year 5 commencing a fortnight of daily swimming lessons at the Rainbow Centre in Epsom, year 6 netball success and all Juniors being able to use the school field at lunchtime now that we are heading towards warmer weather. Please read the newsletter carefully each week to read about what is happening at school, upcoming dates, PTFA news and our Stars of the Week.

Chores for Change Our Pupil Leaders have been busy adding up all the chores and helping to count the money! We have been utterly overwhelmed by your efforts in completing over 4,800 chores and raising around £1,400 for our charities! The final amount will be in next week's newsletter as there is still money to come in. We can't thank you all enough for your phenomenal efforts.....our St. Martin's children are utterly amazing. Kindest regards, Mrs Dove and Pupil Leadership Team







**Cookery Club** There are still spaces available for Years 3-6 at our after school cookery club 'Grow Cook Enjoy'. See the poster on page 7 of the newsletter or visit the school website 'Clubs' section. for more information. The club runs on Mondays, Wednesday and Thursdays.

**Helmets request** Key Stage 2 are needing helmets for the children to wear for use with the new go-karts in school. If you happen to have a KS2 appropriate size helmet at home that is no longer needed, we would be very grateful for any donations. Thank you!

**Next Manner of the Week**We eat with our mouth closed.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ......

Mon 22nd—Fri 26th April—Year 4 Bikeability Level 1, Group 1

Mon 22nd—Fri 26th April—Year 5 swimming

**Wed 24th April**—Early Years trip to Godstone Farm

**Fri 26th April**—PTFA Film Night, Yrs 1 and 2, 3.30-5pm, large school hall

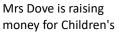
Mon 29th April—Fri 3rd May—Year 4 Bikeability Level 1, Group 2

Tues 30th April—Whole class photos

Keep an eye out in the newsletter in the next few weeks for key 'Diary Dates' for the Summer term to help you plan ahead.

London Marathon We wish Mrs Dove good luck for the London Marathon which she is running on Sunday. It looks like the weather is going to be favourable for the competitors.

Mrs Dove is raising



Cancer & Leukaemia Group (CCLG) and the Royal Marsden, two charities that are especially close to the St Martin's community. If you would like to donate please click <a href="https://example.com/here-to-view-her-JustGiving">here-to-view-her-JustGiving</a> page.















# Important message about social media and smart phones

We are dealing with an ever – increasing number of issues due to children's use of social media or because they are accessing inappropriate material on certain apps, accessed through their smart phones. These have often been upsetting for those involved. We have spent a lot of time educating the children around these issues, which is an important part of our curriculum, however dealing with the individual issues is taking an increasing

amount of school time. Children in primary school should not be accessing several of the apps they are using and in many cases are not mature enough to manage the consequences of these appropriately.

To continue to successfully safeguard our children, we are not permitting children to bring smart phones to school from September 2024. For the current Year 6 we ask that you only bring your smart phones if you absolutely need to and that you continue to leave them in the correct place once at school but if you have access to an alternative phone this would be preferred.

By not allowing smart devices in our schools, we hope to limit these issues as well as support the parents who choose not to let their child have a smart device yet. We will still allow what is known as a 'dumb' phone, which allows you simply to make phone calls and receive messages. These are the basic Nokia or Motorola phones that were available prior to smart phones. These can be purchased new for roughly £20, this is a massive saving compared to the price of a new smart phone and will still enable children to be contactable when walking to and from school.

We appreciate that it is a parent's right to choose when their child receives a smart phone and many parents have concerns when deciding whether or not to give their children a smart phone. There is also growing evidence which shows that smart phone use in childhood has damaging negative mental and physical effects on long-term health.

Some of our parents have joined together in pledging to support a new initiative 'A Smartphone Free Childhood'. We would like to support these parents and most importantly support safeguarding around phones and social media. Will be sending out further information on this initiative in due course.

We would also like to remind parents that apps such as WhatsApp, TikTok and Snapchat, as part of their terms of service, have age restrictions. These are put in place in order to safeguard children and young teenagers.

















#### **School Attendance**

Each week in the newsletter we will tell you the school attendance for the previous week and list the classes who had the highest attendance. If you have any queries or concerns about your child's attendance, please email the school office.

Week before Easter attendance : 25th–28th March 2024

Infants— 94.4%

Juniors— 94.1%

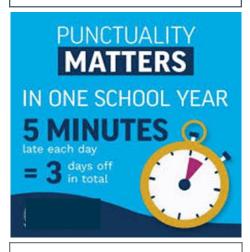
Highest class attendance 25th-28th: Juniper 99.2% Well done!

Whole of Spring term highest class attendance:



Maple, Squirrel and Vole— 96.5%





#### **Punctuality**

Being late on a regular basis adds up to a loss of learning time.

Don't be late through the gate!
Please make sure your child comes to school on time every morning. Arriving late means your child misses important instructions on their learning for the school day. It also disrupts the class and is unsettling for your child.

The school gates are open between 8.45
-8.55am. We also open the large hall from 8.30am to children from Year 2
upwards where parents wish to drop a bit earlier.

#### **Active Ambassador**

This week's Active Ambassador is **Advait** in Year 5 for his fantastic positive attitude during his swimming lessons and demonstrating both courage and determination to progress. Well done Advait!



**Netball** Our Year 6 netball team played their last match of the season this week and truly went out with a bang! With a squad of over 20 children, they all played brilliantly against Auriol resulting in a double victory for St Martin's with scores of 9-1 and 21-1. We are incredibly proud of all the children, remaining undefeated in their league matches, and are so impressed with their achievements this year - we look forward to them carrying on their netball success at their secondary schools.



**Aspens April Newsletter** Please <u>click on the link</u> to view Aspen's April newsletter. For the Summer menus, see pages 8-9 of today's newsletter.





#### The Book Corner

Many thanks to Harris from Hawthorn class for a wonderful bag of book donations received this week and to Annabelle from Rabbit class who donated a new David Walliams book to the library.



Big news for this term is the Scholastic/ Travelling Books Fair is coming back to St Martins.

### This time with a promotional offer of buy two books get the third for free!

In addition, if we sell more than £300 worth of books at the fair the school will start earning rewards towards new books for the school. Every purchase helps us towards this goal. Last fair we raised over £250 to spend on new books for the school!

#### ©Competition Time

Please get involved with promoting our book fair by <u>designing a poster for the fair</u>. There are five £5 vouchers to be won for use at the bookfair.

#### Please include:

'Come to the book fair!' or similar.

Dates: 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> May, Time: 3.30-4pm, Place: St. Martin's Library

Make your poster bright and eye catching, you can use paint, colouring pens, pastels or design one on a computer. Please bring any entries to the office or bring direct to the library. You could also email them to librarian@stmartinsepsom.school. Don't forget to put your name and class name on the back of the poster! Closing date is Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May. Winners announced 2<sup>nd</sup> May during celebration assembly.

#### **Values Tie and Stars of the Week**



Badger- Values Tie: Pheobe and Esmee. Superstar: George Star of the week: Isabella for being a Thinking Thedrick, always working hard in all areas of her learning, continuously striving to improve and get better especially when writing. Well done Bella!

Dormouse-Values Tie: Ela and Suviru. Superstar: Alex

**Star of the week: Nola** has been a real Thinking Thedrick this week. She has really thought about the sounds we have learnt in phonics to help her sound out and blend words with more independence. Well done Nola, keep up the super work!

Fox - Values Tie: Havin and Vlad. Superstar: Nova

**Star of the week:** A big well done to **Izaaz** for stepping into the Summer term with a positive attitude. He has returned back to school with a smile on his face, a ready attitude and eager to display all of his learning during class inputs! Keep on working on that big voice for us!

Hedgehog- Values Tie: Callum H and Jesse. Superstar: Esme

**Star of the week: Amelia** has been a real Thinking Thedrick, thinking hard and staying focused in 2's, 5's and 10's. Keep up the great work Amelia!

Mole-Values Tie: Freddie and Sophie. Superstar: Freya

**Star of the week:** Alex has had an amazing first week back. I was blown away with Alex's amazing digital art. His pictures were brilliantly drawn and coloured in very neatly. He has come back to school with such a positive attitude and you can see the positive impact across all of his work. Well done, Alex! Keep it up.

Otter- Values Tie: Aras and Marly. Superstar: Ciela

**Star of the week:** This week **Lily** has been a real resourceful Reggie and Curious Cully, asking questions to better understand her learning. Lily has begun to take full ownership of her learning and has made such wonderful progress in her reading, writing and maths. Well done Lily, keep up the hard work!

Rabbit- Values Tie: Annie and Kasper. Superstar: Noah

**Star of the week: Rabbit Class** have absolutely blown me away this week and I am so incredibly proud of you all! With many changes, you have shown great resilience and have all had a fantastic week, displaying all of our learning behaviours. Well done, Rabbit Class.

Squirrel- Values Tie: Olivia and Alex. Superstar: Florence

**Star of the week: Daniel** has really impressed me this week with how hard he has been working on his handwriting since being back from the Easter break. He has been taking his time to make sure his work is neat and tidy. Well done Daniel, keep it up!

Vole – Values Tie: Albie and Erin. Superstar: Ruby

**Star of the week: Lacey** has been a fantastic resourceful Reggie showing perseverance throughout her learning. She always tries her very best and has a brilliant attitude when facing challenges. Keep up the good work, you should be very proud of yourself. Well done, Lacey!

**Meerkat**– **Superstar:** Well done **Jason**, who has produced some fantastic writing this week for our wishing tale cold task.

Holly- Values Tie: Annie and Max. Superstar: Lucy Star of the week: Florence has come back to school after the Easter Holidays with a fantastic attitude towards her learning. I am so proud of the progress she is making, well done!

Juniper- Values Tie: Ava and Cassidy. Superstar: George Star of the week: Eloise has shown amazing progress in her joined up handwriting and willingness to learn this week. Keep up the great attitude!

Willow— Values Tie: Jemimah and Marcus. Superstar: Myla Star of the week: Well done to Johnny for being an absolute star in our first week back at school. I am very proud of your continuous hard work and effort and can always rely on you to show our school values. You are a true role model for your peers. Keep up the amazing learning Johnny!

Maple—Values Tie: Anouk and Erika. Superstar: Bea Star of the week: Narin for always promoting our school values and working really hard to progress her learning; particularly her writing and maths. Well done Narin, keep it up!

Poplar – Values Tie: Ayo and Sacha. Superstar: Akhira Star of the week: Mason for trying really hard and for his excellent behaviour.

Plum- Values Tie: Elodie and Oliver. Superstar: Violet Star of the week: Esma for her wonderful use of language in her suspense cold write task, especially the word 'vicious'. Well done Esma!

Hawthorn— Values Tie: Harris and Aisha. Superstar: Henry Star of the week: Zohayb for trying incredibly hard at swimming this week, getting out of his comfort zone and really pushing himself to learn to swim. You'll be like a fish in no time - keep it up!

Hazel- Values Tie: Emily and Reuben. Superstar: Kaleb Star of the week: Charlotte for her outstanding progression in swimming.

Beech- Values Tie: Ayse and Oscar H. Superstar: Emily Star of the week: Annabelle for your positive and enthusiastic attitude towards all your learning and your consistently fantastic behaviour. You are such an asset to Beech Class!

Pine— Values Tie: Kaitlyn and Abigail. Superstar: Dylan Star of the week: Evelyn for coming back to school with such a fantastic learning attitude and working incredibly hard in all her lessons.

Oak—Values Tie: Jacob and Mayowa. Superstar: Poppy Star of the week: Elizabeth for all of her hard work on improving and consolidating her maths.

Chestnut—Values Tie: Stacy and Yan Kiu. Superstar: Eliana Star of the week: Carys for being an all-round star and putting her all into everything she does, always, and always with a smile.





#### PTFA news ......

ptfaepsom@gmail.com

We are on Facebook and Instagram





The next PTFA meeting is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 8pm, in the Barley Mow pub. We will be discussing the Summer Fair, as well as other agenda items so if you have any queries, please come along.

#### Dates and Information .....

Fundraising hike this Sunday—Our family fundraising hike is this Sunday at 10.30am, Horton. Please come along and support us with your families/dogs etc. We are raising money for both the PTFA and The Royal Marsden. All details are below.

If you can't attend, or would like to sponsor us, please consider giving at this link: https:// www.justgiving.com/page/st-martins-spring-family-hike

Movie Night - Years 1 & 2 on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 3.20-5pm. The film being shown is 'Migration'. Tickets £5, available on Scopay now.

Children will go directly from the classroom to the hall and parents will need to collect at 5pm. Please fill out this form if you would like your child to attend. Click here to complete form.

Golf Umbrellas We have our own branded St Martin's golf umbrellas to keep you dry in all this unsettled Spring weather. They are available on Scopay at £16 and can be collected from the school office. If you are in need, this is a great way to support the PTFA and keep yourself dry!



Spring Family Hike Please sign your family up to the hike this Sunday 21st April 2024 at 10:30am. We will be hiking from Horton Country Park to The Barn K9 and back to help raise money for The Royal Marsden Charity and the PTFA. At the halfway point, we will be stopping at The Barn for a picnic. If you and your family would like to partake in this event and help raise money for a worthwhile course, please complete the registration the online registration form: https:// forms.gle/Fw1CUAKJoCLG2HX67

Summer Celebration, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July Our Summer Celebration will be held on the evening of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July. We have had an initial meeting among committee members to discuss how the format of this should go. If you have ideas or proposals, please come along to our next PTFA meeting (14th May). We are looking to open the stalls up to small businesses as well, so if you would like to have a stand, please contact the PTFA.

Raffle We will be running a summer raffle. We are in the process of sourcing prizes, but if you know anyone who is able to donate or has links to a company that would donate to our raffle, we would be so grateful.

Estate Agent Boards Does anyone have any links to an estate agent that may be interested in sponsoring our Summer Celebration evening? Do let us know if you can help.

100 Club We have a good number of sign ups for the 100 Club but are always looking for more to join the St Martin's Lottery. How it works - £2 per month buys you one ticket, which enters you into the monthly draw. The prize pool is 45% of the money raised each month, with the rest donated to the PTFA. A draw takes place on or around the last Friday of each month and if you win, a bank transfer will be made to your account. NEW - You can now buy tickets online, just click this link or scan the QR code.

If you have any questions, please contact: Alan Becken at <a href="mailto:stmartins100club@gmail.com">stmartins100club@gmail.com</a>

Committee We are looking for more committee members for the PTFA and particular for leadership. Can you help? Would you like to dip your toe in to start and see how it goes? Please contact us if you would like to be involved at whatever level. Thank you.

Funding this term We are hoping to raise money this term to pay for a Playframe for the field. The amount we need to put towards this is £6,000. We hope that we can raise that money from the events and activities we carry out this term. Thank you in advance.



The Junior Trailblazers recently enjoyed 2 sunny training hikes. On 24th March, conditions remained difficult during an 8 mile loop in Epsom and Ashtead Commons. It was tough going.

We resisted calls to rename the event 'Junior Mudfest' and were rewarded with a warm spring day on 13th April, when we visited Ashtead and explored the Downs further on a 9 mile hike. A highlight was some excellent drone footage from our tech guru!

Several new faces have completed at least 1 hike and we'd love to see more of you on the next one.











We still need a principal sponsor to help us provide team t-shirts for the event (with company logo!). If you know of a local company who are keen to support us, please let us know.

39 Year 6 children have now signed up for the 25 km hike from Leith Hill to St Martin's on Saturday 15 June. **Next training walk**: Saturday 27th April.

If you'd like to register, please do so at this link.

Funds are being raised for the Year 6 Leavers party (PTFA) and Action-for-AT.

For more details, please contact David Fortune (07980 018744), Stuart Molyneaux (07872 177106) or David Barker (07736 278118).

