



A very warm welcome back to all our families and pupils, old and new. We hope you have had a restful summer and your children are ready for another wonderful year. It has been heart-warming to see our children happily return to school, welcoming new friends and settling into their new classrooms. Wishing everyone celebrating the mooncake festival a very happy mid-autumn on Saturday!



This Week's Shooting Stars



Ethan	For being independent and settling in the EYFS
Reuben	Being kind to his friends
Tobias	Showing focus and concentration in class
Ali	For settling in to Form one so well and contributing brilliantly to class discussions
Iman	For already proving to be a lovely member of her new class. Welcome!
Zoe	For bravely settling in to her new class so well.
Ariana	Being a kind peer mentor to Yugo this week
Emika	A super start to Form 4 keeping the St Martin's values
Dylan	Enthusiasm and focus, especially when answering questions
Beau:	Excellent contributions during every lesson
Shungo	A fantastic week at St Martin's School
Yugo	Being a selfless team player this week
Yunqing	Trying her best in all her lessons... being an achiever
Molly	Being kind to everyone – an exceptional team player
Zack H	Being an amazing team player and inviting a new child in his class to join in break time play
Beau	Excellent contribution to every lesson

Head Teacher's Award Mrs Mbah has been incredibly impressed by all our new starters, especially those in EYFS, who have had a tremendous start to the new year. However, a special Head Teacher's award goes to **Shungo** for his start to school this week because starting a new school, in a new country and with a new language is incredibly difficult and he has overcome these challenges and any anxiety to not only settle well and play with his new friends but also achieve in his learning of dictionary skills and maths in particular. Well done and welcome!

Golden Tea is an opportunity for children to show Mrs Wilson the work they have completed that week of which they are most proud, whilst enjoying juice and biscuits together. The following children will meet with Mrs Wilson during break-time on Monday

Amar M

Siyona

Sarah

Joshua J

Term Dates 2022 - 2023

Autumn Term 2022

Return to School: Wed 7th Sept 2022
Half Term Break: Mon 17th Oct - Fri 28th Oct 2022
Term Ends: Friday 9th Dec 2022

Spring Term 2023:

Return to School: Wed 4th Jan 2023
Half Term Break: Mon 13th Feb to Fri 17th Feb
Term Ends: Friday 31st March 2023

Summer Term 2023:

Return to School: Tue 25th April 2023
Half Term Break: Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd June
Term Ends: Friday 14th July 2023

Autumn Term 2023:

Return to School: Wed 6th September 2023

Please find attached a Nasal Flu vaccination E-consent letter. Vaccinations will take place on Monday 7 November. This is available to Reception – Form 6 inclusive but it is not compulsory. If you would like your child to have the Nasal Flu spray, please complete the attached e-form. Please note that there is porcine gelatine contained in the Nasal Flu spray. This and other product information is contained in the information link in the e-consent letter.

A huge thank you to FoSMS (Friends of St Martin's) who have already been busy organizing the first exciting party of the academic year for your children. Please save 3.30-5.30 on Friday 9th December for a full school disco. Full details will be provided in due course. Welcome and thank you to Mrs Dadoun our new FoSMS chair and to all this year's class reps.

This week

Staff have received training for safeguarding, health and safety and curriculum development in our INSET. Our focus this year has been on well-being and safe spaces as well as our brand new digital literacy subject which complements our computing lessons in developing our pupils' information technology skills by including in depth e-safety, retrieval and evaluation of online content, word processing and typing skills, creating digital content and cine-literacy. Many of our staff also undertook paediatric First Aid training to ensure we continue to have a full complement of first aiders in school and on any trips. Well done to all who completed this training.

We have been so pleased to see children coming back so enthusiastic and keen to learn. Children have enjoyed seeing their friends again and getting to know their new teacher and classroom. Class information including curriculum maps, reminders of PE and homework days, key vocabulary and timetables are now available on the pupil portal. Please ensure your child can access this for all their homework moving forward.

Please remind children that this week's homework is to prepare their speeches for pupil voice roles; the explanation for which was in Mrs Mbah's welcome back letter.

Next Week

On Monday our visiting poet, Mr Neal Zetter, returns to share his poems with our pupils. We are so proud to have built such a strong relationship with Mr Zetter and to have these opportunities for the children to continue to connect and develop their rapport with him. Please support this element of our 'small school, big community' program with purchases of his new books if you can. He will be available with copies of his latest book and the option to pre-order his upcoming new release after school.

On Wednesday 14th September at 3.45, Form 4 parents are invited to a parent workshop to discuss the upcoming trip to Longtown.

On Thursday 15th September Form 3 will be going to the British Museum for our first of many trips this year and we will be holding elections for our pupil voice roles in school.

On Friday 16th September we have been invited to attend the Dutch War Memorial Service at Mill Hill Cemetery and I am honoured to be taking some of our pupils to this meaningful occasion.

Next week is also assessment week, in which your children will be undertaking baseline assessments. Please remind your child to try their best but not to worry – the purpose of these tests is to inform the teachers' planning and highlight any gaps or misconceptions that need to be addressed.

Key Dates this half term

14th September at 3.45	Form 4 Parent workshop to discuss Longtown.
15th September	Form 3 trip to the British Museum / elections for our pupil voice roles
16th September	Dutch War Memorial Service at Mill Hill Cemetery- Mrs Wilson is honoured to be taking some of our pupils to this meaningful occasion.
w/c 12th September	Baseline assessment week
Mon 19th – Thurs 22nd Sept:	Form 5 residential trip to Adventureways
Wednesday 21st September:	Form 1 trip to Watersplash Farm
Friday 23rd September:	Food Bank collection
Monday 26th September:	Rosh Hashanah – All children will need a packed lunch on this day as our kitchen is closed. Please ensure you have submitted any request for leave forms, if applicable.
Wednesday 28th September:	Parent teacher meetings
Thursday 29th September:	Form 4 Artist visit
Tuesday 4th October:	Form 5 and 6 trip to Science Museum
Wednesday 5th October:	Yom Kippur; please submit any request for leave forms, if applicable. EYFS trip to Science Museum.
Thursday 6th October:	National Poetry Day
Tuesday 11th October:	Form 2 trip to Cutty Sark
Wednesday 12th October:	British Values Day in School
Thursday 13th October:	Topic homework walk about.
Friday 14th October:	Diwali celebrations – please feel free to dress in traditional clothes.

For many people in the UK, Her Majesty the Queen has been a reassuring symbol of certainty and continuity throughout their lifetime, and part of the fabric of national life for 70 years. The Queen guided the UK and the monarchy through generations of change, winning respect and admiration around the world for her dedication to duty. Hers was the wisdom born of a lifetime of unwavering commitment, which serves as a reminder that we are all the product of the past as well as citizens of the present and applicants to the future. A figure of immense global stature, Her Majesty was one of the most instantly recognisable people on the planet, an unfailingly courteous figure who exemplified the dignity, tolerance and civic spirit that are a model to us all – indeed, exemplifying all the St Martin's School values that we hold dear. Today, and in the days to come, the country will be remembering a covenant between monarch and people that enshrines something rare and special in national life.

During Celebration Assembly this afternoon, your children held a 2-minute silence – the maturity and respect shown was a credit to you and to our school. We are acutely aware that some of our children may find the Queen's passing invokes strong feelings of sadness or loss. We are all here to help and will support all pupils who require this help.

There will be opportunities for reflection and remembrance in upcoming assemblies, and we will monitor the timeline for the national period of mourning and be in touch with everyone where it affects the school calendar.

Our sincere condolences go to the Royal Family for their very sad loss.

Joanna Wilson

