



Form 5 have enjoyed a wonderful 4 day residential trip where they rock climbed, abseiled, threw axes, did archery, roasted marshmallows over a campfire and so much more! They did, as ever, make their teachers incredibly proud with their positive attitudes and exemplary behaviour. Thank you to Mr Musetti and Mrs Vietro for looking after them with such kindness.



This Week's Shooting Stars



Ari	Using wonderful adjectives when describing the characters from Hansel and Gretel
Ada	Excellent work during phonics and wonderful letter recognition
Dahlia	Her increasing confidence when trying new activities
Ilias	A wonderful first week – settling so well into our class
Freddie	Showing great resilience despite injury
Sara	Determination to follow compass directions
Ali H	Being an achiever in every lesson
Claudia	Fantastic reading of high frequency words in comprehension questions
Tobias	Beautiful behaviour and hard work in every lesson
Sophia E	Working hard in maths
Anushka	Excellent writing in her English and science lessons
Aarav	An excellent attitude in all of his lessons
Victoria M	A positive attitude to her learning and always demonstrating kindness

A **Head Teacher's Award** has been awarded to **James** for superb French language and understanding and to **Jessica** for an excellent piece of homework showing an escape plan for Odysseus! A really huge well done to you both. Congratulations

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

Mila M

Max

Leela

Aum

Parking As always, we ask that you are driving and parking responsibly when you drop off your children. Please avoid doing U-turns in the road as this can limit your view of children crossing the road. Please turn off your engine – spending just a minute to say goodbye to your child helps to put them in a calm frame of mind for learning at school and idling the car generates unnecessary fumes and pollution. We ask that you take the time to find a parking space. We receive complaints from our neighbours when their drives are blocked and parking across a dropped kerb is a parking contravention for which a Penalty Charge Notice can be issued. If you are reminded of any of these things by our staff on the door, please comply with their request and refrain from arguing with them as this causes unnecessary upset for all involved, including all children who may see this behaviour. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

This week The School council all met for the first time to discuss their role and assign actions. They will all be making suggestion boxes for their class so the children can put their ideas in the box.

Some of our Form 6 pupils were chosen to honour the Allied Dutch War Servicemen at a commemorative service in Mill Hill Cemetery by laying flowers on their graves. A special well done to Aman who humbly yet clearly and eloquently read at the service. It is important to St Martin's that we are respectful and aware of history so that we can have gratitude learn from it and improve.

Thursday was International day of peace and the children have been thinking about what peace means to them by writing their thoughts and ideas on doves for the display outside EYFS.

EYFS have been talking about their family and connections and recognising and writing their names in English. They have been thinking about patterns and estimating in Maths and understanding primary colours and colour mixing in Expressive Arts and Design as well as making their rocket pictures for display.

Form 1 have been describing characters in English thinking about capital letters, finger spaces, using 'and', full stops and adjectives in their sentence writing. In Maths they have been continuing work on place value by partitioning 2 digit numbers in tens and ones. In DT, the children have been designing their own habitat for an animal. In Science the children were understanding what makes a plant wild and thinking about some of the common wild plants in Britain. In Topic, Form 1 were beginning to think about compass directions to guide their lego characters around a map.

Form 2 have also been re-capping compass directions to follow directions and also begin to give directions. In English they have been explaining character's personalities. The children have been drawing and interpreting block charts in Maths. For Science they went on a hunt around school for everyday materials to see how they can be used and in their DT this week, the children have been making sushi as part of this term's 'Kid's Kitchen'.

Form 3 were improving their verbs and adverbs in their instructional writing of 'How to defeat Odysseus'. In Maths they have been tackling word problems using their place value knowledge. In Science the children have been thinking about forces including gravity and air resistance in a helicopter experiment with differing variables. For Topic the children were researching Greek Gods and Goddesses and in Art they have made clay models of ancient Greek people.

Form 4 are missing Mr Musetti but have loved their learning with other teachers this week. They have been planning and writing their children's choice narratives with Mr Guyster. In Maths they have been using formal methods for addition and subtraction with Mrs Mbah and Ms Marsh Henry. They have also been writing informative texts about the water cycle in Science and using cross hatching to make pencil drawings of mountains.

On Monday Form 5 were analysing sources of information to gather reliable information about the Space race and developing their interpretive dance linked to the stimulus of Space. From Tuesday onwards they have been enjoying their residential to Adventure Ways which has been packed full of activities and we invite you to view these on our social media channels - Reactions or comments are encouraged. One of the main highlights of this trip is the planetarium dome in which the children learn about planets and constellations in our galaxy.

Form 6 have been continuing their work on Northern lights and recreating the story in Art to inspire their plans for lino printing. In Maths the children have been developing their mastery of sequences and calculations including the relationship between speed, distance and time. In their RSHE the children have been thinking about being a Global Citizen and the UNICEF Rights of the child. In Digital Literacy they have been thinking about cyber bullying and how to ensure private information is kept safe. In Dance they have been thinking about how to ensure smooth transitions between movements and in Music they have begun to compose the Music for their Dances.

Reading Volunteers

We are always grateful to our reading volunteers for listening to our children read and asking them questions about what they've read. If you or someone you know can spare an hour or two a week to help our children be heard regularly, please let us know. Grandparents often love to do this and would be welcome in school. We will complete a DBS check and provide necessary training.

Next Week Monday is Yom Kippur, the holiest day in Judaism; this is a day of atonement and reflection. If your child is taking the day off as a religious observance, please ensure you have completed the request for leave form on the parent area of the website and returned it to office@stmartinmillhill.co.uk

On Wednesday Form 1 will be on a trip to Water Splash Farm.

On Thursday Form 2 have their trip to the Cutty Sark and Form 3 are going to the British Museum.

Additionally this week, the Eco-council will be completing the school Environmental review and teachers and keyworkers are conducting their parent/teacher meetings. Please check your e-mails for your allocated day and time.

Higan (20th to 26th September)

The Japanese Buddhist festival of Higan translates to "Distant Shore". The cycle of death and rebirth (samsāra) is "this shore", and in Buddhism, crossing to the other shore is used to refer to the attainment of nirvana. Celebrated 3 days before and after the Autumnal equinox, it originates from Emperor Shōmu in the 8th century when those working in the fields had more time to themselves and were encouraged to make a renewed effort to follow their religion and change their lives to reach enlightenment. Those celebrating may return to their hometown and/or pay respects to their ancestors.

Exams Many of our Form 6 pupils are currently taking their examinations for secondary places. We are very proud of you all for working so hard and doing your best. We wish you all the very best of luck in your endeavours.

Food Bank Collection – Friday 29th September

Next Friday we are thinking about a range of Mid-Autumn festivals including Harvest, Higan, Sukkot and Mooncake festival. As part of this celebration we are asking you to bring donations to school which we will donate to our local food bank.

On Friday 29th September, please bring donations of tinned, dried and packet goods that have long shelf lives including – soup, pasta sauce, curry sauce, tinned fish and meat, pasta, rice, biscuits, cooking oil, tea and coffee. Other items that are appreciated include long lasting fresh vegetables, personal hygiene products, nappies, baby formula, baby food and cleaning products.

Thank you to Avi, our charity prefect for working with Mrs Wilson to coordinate this charitable endeavour.

Autumn Term 2023

Return to School: Wed 6th Sept 2023

Half Term Break: Mon 16th Oct - Fri 27th Oct

Term Ends: Friday 8th Dec 2023

Spring Term 2024:

Return to School: Wed 3rd Jan 2024

Half Term Break: Mon 12th Feb to Fri 16th Feb

Term Ends: Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Term 2024:

Return to School: Tue 23rd April 2024

Half Term Break: Mon 27th May - Fri 31st May

Term Ends: Friday 12th July 2024

Autumn Term 2024:

Return to School: Wed 4th September 2024

The Big Ambition The children's commissioner has released a questionnaire for all children to complete about how the Government can improve the lives of children. Please can parents of children under 5 complete this and children over 6 be supported to do so themselves. This is a wonderful opportunity for children's views to be heard!

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition>

A huge congratulations to Sid in Form 2 who next week will be making his acting debut on television, as part of the ITV 'Britain Get Talking' initiative. This campaign relates to World Mental Health Day and is an acknowledgement to the decline in children's mental health. It is aimed at encouraging parents/carers to talk more openly with children about what's on their minds. Well done Sid, how very exciting.. we can't wait to see you on television!

Dates for your Diary

25th September:	Yom Kippur (Please complete a request for leave if applicable)
W/b 25th September:	Parent & Teacher meetings
27th September:	Watersplash Farm (Form 1)
28th September:	Cutty Sark (Form 2)
28th September:	British Museum (Form 3)
28th September:	Form 4 and Form 5 rescheduled sculpture workshop
29th September:	Sukkot / Mid Autumn / Mooncake / Harvest Festival – Food Bank Collection
1st – 31st October:	Black History Month
2nd October:	Form 5 class assembly at 9am (Parents welcome)
3rd October:	Science Museum (EYFS, Form 5 & 6)
5th October:	National Poetry Day
9th October:	National Gallery (Form 4)
11th October:	British Values Day
11th October:	Topic homework due in
12th October:	Topic homework walk about
12th October:	Longtown information evening for parents and children at 3.45pm (Form 4)
W/b 30th October:	IEP Meetings
1st November:	British Library (Form 4 & 5)
6th November:	Flu Vaccines (opt in only – Reception – Form 6)
8th - 10th Nov:	Longtown residential (Form 4)
8th or 9th November by invitation:	Come learn phonics with me (EYFS)
10th November:	Remembrance assembly at 10.45 – parents welcome
W/b 13th November:	Anti-bullying and interfaith week
13th November:	Diwali celebrations in school
14th November:	RAF Museum (EYFS)
20th November:	Form 4 class assembly at 9am – parents welcome
21st November:	Verulamium trip (Form 6)
30th November:	Natural History Museum (Form 3)

W/b 4th December: No clubs this week

7th December: Topic homework walk about – 8.10am – 8.35am Parents welcome

7th December: Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch, Chanukah doughnuts and crafts.

8th December: Christmas Party Day