



During assembly this afternoon, I spoke to the children about ways they could help their parents at home over the half term break. I hope you are spoiled by tidy bedrooms, no arguments, completing homework without complaint and dishwashers being emptied. I have asked your children to email me and tell me what they've done (with you present and from your email address) so we can celebrate their kindness after the half term break... Wishing you all a restful and relaxing couple of weeks.



This Week's Shooting Stars



Zoe	Consistent hard work and enthusiasm
Kyeisha	Fabulous dancing during her PE lesson
Isabel	Choosing and completing an activity independently
Saniya	Showing great understanding of new phonic sounds learnt this week
Max	Listening to the instructions carefully to complete his RE work
Ari	Showing great concentration to produce neat, cursive handwriting
Quinn	Fantastic effort with her reading
Haadi	Participation during PE lessons and willingness to try new things
Form 1	Excellent progress during dance
Form 2	Excellent progress during dance
Tobias	His hard work and dedication to writing the story of Theseus
Suleman	Improving his ability at formal division
Siyona	Making excellent contributions to our guided reading sessions
Hussein H	Writing a description of a cave and creating an atmosphere of suspense
Zack H	Demonstrating excellent focus and behaviour for learning
Alayna	Demonstrating focus and resilience during Maths lessons
Oliver	Achieving highly in his written work about Nelson Mandela
Zakariya	An excellent report about the sun in science
Jayden	Excellent engineering skills during Form 6's Topic work

A **Head Teacher's Award** has been awarded to **Avi M** – Nominated twice this week for his excellent guitar playing with Mr Webster and some fantastic French work with Mrs Boxer. Also, **Joshua G** for a fantastic British Values piece about overcoming adversity to gain liberty which was, of course, rooted in his favourite subject – football! A perfect example of how St Martin's teachers help children to use their own interests to inspire excellent work. Also, to **Shaan** for taking pride in his work and writing a magnificent poem – amazing!

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.

Freddie

Ali H

Mila M

Amba

This week We welcomed Zengha Wellings-Longmore from the RAF museum who told the children the fantastic story of Sam King. She encouraged the children to participate in the telling of the story with props such as hats and aeroplane models as well as pictures and musical instruments for EYFS to create a carnival atmosphere. It was a wonderfully uplifting assembly which the children thoroughly enjoyed and special commendations must go to all the children involved in acting – your confidence and expression was fantastic.

EYFS have been reading a book a day linked to Black History alongside their work on the core texts 'Pumpkin Soup' and 'How to catch a star'. In Maths they have been painting their numbers, copying the correct formation as well as using the interactive board and other large scale variations. They have also been comparing heavy and light objects. In English they have been reading and writing their tricky words with activities such as digging them up in the sand or hunting for them. The children particularly liked walking round the school on Thursday morning to see the Topic Homework of all the other children and coming back to find post-it notes of praise on their own work.

Form 1 completed their wonder session on the book 'Owl Babies' for next half term thinking of facts they already knew and questions they want to investigate. They have been increasing the pace of their number bonds to 10 by throwing dice and counting on to 10. In English they have been writing sentences with rhyming words and writing a Thank you letter to Mr Mitchell for their visit to the synagogue last week. During British Values Day the children were thinking about individual liberty and understanding the British Flag. In Science the children have been thinking about garden plants and evaluating their broad bean 'observation over time' investigation. They were fascinated to see how one plant had died and the soil had become infested. In French the children have been learning to say and answer 'How are you?'

Form 2 did their wonder session for 'Claude in the City' and have been writing adventure stories in their own chosen setting with their own characters and problems. In Maths they have been progressing their tables at their own current level, with some children working up to their 8x tables. In Topic the children have been drawing their own treasure maps and writing directions. In DT the children have finished off their light house projects and in Science they have been making conclusions about the properties of materials. For British Values day, Form 2 were thinking about Democracy with Mrs Boxer and creating some wonderful long pieces of writing.

Form 3's wonder session was all about 'Escape from Pompeii' and in English they have been learning about poetry from Benjamin Zephaniah, Abe Gibson and Maya Angelou to create their own performance poetry. The children have been writing their own version of 'The song of the sirens' thinking about sounds Odysseus would have heard at home and on his journey and performing these in their own ways. In Maths, the children have been extending their use of fractions into addition and subtraction of fractions and word problems involving fractions of a whole. In Art the children have painted their clay pots and in Topic they have filmed their own Greek myths. In Science they have written up their experiments and in computing they have been thinking about IT networks. For RE the children were making posters to promote respect and tolerance which linked nicely to British Values day in which Form 3 enjoyed creating laws and rules for their own cities.

Form 4 went to the National Art Gallery this week where they were enthralled in sketching paintings and understanding the artist's intent. They have been learning the story of Baroness Floella Benjamin including her experiences of racism, which she spoke to the queen about, and her journey to success in TV and politics. In Maths, the children have been learning the bus stop method for division of numbers with some children working in the thousands. In English, the children have been writing descriptive sentences to describe scary settings. For British Values day, the children in Form 4 were thinking about mutual respect and tolerance and considering people who have different life experiences but all deserve mutual respect such as disabled people, including those with Autism and people with religions different to our own.

Form 5 have been thinking about the rules of divisibility, common multiples and greatest common factors in Maths. In English, the children have been planning exciting sci-fi novels. In Science, they have been thinking about the relationship between the Sun, Earth and Moon and in Art, the children made their Space related final pieces of abstract art. In their British Values Day, Form 5 were thinking about people who have had to overcome adversity to gain individual liberty. They have been thinking about the UNICEF rights of the child and how we demonstrate these at school and in British life.

Form 6 have been analysing high level texts in their English lessons as well as practising exam papers. In Maths, the Form 6 pupils were creating algebraic expressions and looking for the Nth term. For their Wonder

Session, which was moved from the start of term, the children have been making sugar cube igloos and evaluating their processes and outcome against the design brief with what went well and what would make it even better. In Art, they have also been evaluating – thinking about their lino printing. In their Dance session, the children have delivered a rehearsal performance to Form 4 of their interpretive, modern, storytelling pieces. In French, Form 6 have been learning and using classroom language and in Music, the children were understanding ostinatos and creating their own group composition.

After Half Term the children will return to school on Monday 30th October with an assembly about the history of All Hallows Eve and the meaning of symbols related to Halloween.

Children will begin their new class text and most classes will be having their WOW day to launch their new units of work.

The first week back will also be IEP review week. If your child has an IEP and you have not yet booked your appointment to see Mrs Davies, please do so as soon as possible.

On Wednesday, Form 4 and 5 will be going to the British Library for their class trips this half term.

4+ Assessments

We would like to Thank the EYFS team who have been undertaking 4+ Assessments for Reception September 2024 or Nursery Staggered starts this year, we have met some wonderful prospective children and families who we are keen to welcome to the St Martin's community. Thank you everyone who has recommended us to their friends and families, please do let us know if you know anyone who may be interested so that we can help guide them through the admissions process.

Topic Homework Walk About

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to come and see our children's wonderful work on Thursday. Having the homework in on the Wednesday certainly increased the amount of work for parents viewing this early in the session. Many Thanks to you all for supporting your children in creating such fantastic pieces.

Longtown Meeting

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Form 4 meeting about the upcoming Longtown trip. The full details and information for this trip, including a kit list, are in the parent area of the website.

500 Words

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Marsh Henry has been accepted as a judge for the BBC 500 words competition. This is the largest UK story writing competition for 5 – 11 year olds. If you have not yet entered your own story and would like to do so, all the information can be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

A big well done and congratulations to **Mia P**, who bought in two medals for swimming and sport to schools to show her friends. Very well done, we are very proud of you. We love celebrating our children's 'out of school' achievements in school Should your child achieve something very special, please let us know so we can celebrate together.

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
13th November:	JLE Exhibition – morning only (Form 5)
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:	FoSMS Charity Silent Disco – after school until 5.30pm – More details to come!

Autumn Term 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

