

St Martin's Post

Issue 234

17th November 2023

Please find attached a flyer for the St Martin's School end of term Disco and Pizza Supper. It is always hugely well attended and is the highlight of the children's term. Thank you to FoSMS for arranging this fun event and to our wonderful staff team who will be staying late in order to supervise the children. All proceeds will be donated to Grief Encounter. Please let us know your child's favourite songs so they can be included on the playlist! Thank you for you generosity in the cake sale, we have so much left over that we will be holding another one on Monday.



This Week's Shooting Stars



EYFS Representing our school beautifully on our school trip

Saniya Always being kind and thoughtful to her peers

Dahlia Amazing knowledge of subtraction

Kishi Achieving well when learning subtraction facts to 20

Ari Trying hard to show improved concentration skills in class

Krishav M Excellent descriptive writing skills

Shaan Excellent spelling skills

Kush Excellent spelling skills

Oye Excellent teamwork in our assembly preparation

Amba A superb acting performance in our residential 'Longtown' play

Bhim A superb effort when preparing for our residential assembly

Form 4 Bravery, resilience and fortitude during our Longtown residential adventure

Ali H Excellent concentration when following instructions

Yunrui Effective persuasive writing. Well done!

Lara Excellent scientific writing. Keep up this brilliant work!

Beau Independently enhancing her scientific research

Four **Head Teacher's Award** have been awarded this week! – Firstly to, **Zoe** and **Krishnan** for writing this year's fantastic anti-bullying assembly. Well done also to **Victoria** for a wonderfully thoughtful piece about the connection between internal and external pollution and also to **Avi** for undertaking his charity prefect role with compassion, honesty and integrity. Well done and thankyou to you all.

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.

Saniya Leela Sid Aarav H

Form 5 have been thinking about the changes in Mill Hill over time for their History unit in Topic. We have sent out a selection of surveys about different aspects of provision in Mill Hill. Each survey was created by a group of Form 5 pupils and therefore, in the interest of fairness, we would be incredibly grateful if you could spend a little time to complete all the surveys that were sent out in an e-mail from the office this week.

This Week

We have been celebrating Interfaith Week this week with all year groups visiting the church for a range of age-appropriate workshops with Father Steven. On Monday we dressed up for Diwali and a range of activities took place throughout school. On Thursday, Christmas arrived at St Martin's with the Christmas tree and decorations making the school look very festive for the last three weeks of term. A Special Thank you to Mr Lacey, Mrs Appleby and the children who helped with this and especially to our Music and Performance prefect, Mia, for creating a festive playlist to greet our guests in the entrance area. Our festive post box is now open if your children would like to send cards to their friends and teachers. Today saw the culmination of inter-faith week with a wonderful assembly from representatives of different faiths. Thank you to our visitors Mr Haria (representing Jainism), Dr Al-Khaja (representing Islam) and Mrs Wilson (representing Judaism) for their time and passion speaking to our children about their faith and the similarities and values shared.

We were also thinking about anti-bullying in our assembly on Monday by celebrating what makes us all unique and thinking about this year's theme 'Make a noise about bullying' consider ways we can call out and report bullying. Thanks to all of the school council for delivering this assembly but especially Krishnan and Zoe who wrote the assembly.

EYFS read a story called Kindness is my Superpower by Alicia Ortego. They talked about the kindness that Jesus taught and watched the parable of the Good Samaritan. The children discussed how they could be kind at home and at school and coloured in hearts with messages of kindness written around them. On Tuesday they went to the RAF museum on an adventure to find teddy's medal. On Wednesday, they had their second Welly Wednesday with den building which the children really enjoyed; so much in fact that they have continued building dens in our playground and in the classroom. In Maths, the children have been focusing on subtraction and understanding that it means we 'take some away'. In Phonics the children have been working on the correct formation of letters.

Forms 1 learnt about the way in which Jesus taught people to be kind to everyone. They watched an excerpt from Songs of Praise about a church service where animals are honoured. The children joined in with the hymn 'All things bright and beautiful.' For English this week, the children have started to look at the features of a letter, we wrote some thank you letters to Father Stevens of St. Michael's Church for showing us around. During Maths lessons this week, the children have started to learn their subtraction facts from 20; subtracting 1- and 2-digit numbers from 20. For their History topic, Form 1 went on an amazing trip to the Museum of Brands. While they were there, they were able to see how household products and materials have changed over time.

This week Form 2 have enjoyed their trip to church as part of interfaith week, produced leaflets describing the Form 2 Museum that they have created from their 'precious things'. They have begun to learn about 3D shape in Maths. Best of all - the lesson they have most excitedly waiting for.. in Kids Kitchen they made and decorated bone biscuits for Claude (the character from our book); they designed their decoration before applying it to their homemade biscuits.

Form 3 have been making posters about treating the world and animals fairly and in the way we would wish to be treated. Their Inter Faith project concentrated on the Islamic idea of being 'Khalifah' to protect God's world. The children have linked this learning to persuasive writing in English lessons. In Maths they have been looking at money word problems and recapping multiplication and division. During Science, Form 3 examined soil and classified organic and in organic matter. In Topic, they have begun making double page spreads of facts about our chosen areas of interest about natural disasters and have also been paying close attention to the volcanic news coming from Iceland. In DT, the children are making progress with their moving models of natural disasters and in French they have been continuing their learning about 'Les vetements' and which clothes to take on different activity holidays.

After looking at the meaning of The Golden Rule and considering the Hindu perspective, Form 4 considered how the Hindu teaching of 'ahimsa' - non-violence – and how it is reflected in the way that Hindus live their lives. They made the connection that many Hindus are vegetarian – in order to not cause harm to other living beings. Looking closely at some vegetarian Indian recipes, they began to create a promotional poster for the opening of a new vegetarian Indian restaurant, highlighting the ethical nature of them. On Tuesday Form 4 also made clay Diwali lamps to take home and considered illuminated letters in their Topic lesson linked to

interfaith week. Form 4 have had a busy week since returning from their residential trip at Longtown; writing short play scripts about their adventures in preparation for Monday's class assembly. They have explored conductors and switches in their Science unit about electricity, equivalent fractions in Maths, completed colourful Viking long ships in DT and practised dance and gymnastics in PE.

In addition to their church visit, Form 5 also had a visit to JLEx at Borehamwood Synagogue where they enjoyed learning about the important ceremonies and celebrations in the Jewish faith. In English, they have been learning persuasive features when speaking and writing, including the subjunctive and use of punctuation for emphasis. This has linked with their writing on shared values and morals for interfaith week. In Maths, the children have been developing their long division using factors and they also participated in the Primary Maths Challenge. In French lessons, Form 5 have continued to learn about descriptive language linked to clothing.

Form 6 considered the Golden Rule according to Christianity and Confucianism (Humanist perspective) as well as how Buddhists live their lives according to the Golden Rule. They looked at external pollution - waste/gas/oil/greenhouse gases etc. - and considered 'internal' pollution such as overeating, cigarettes, alcohol and drug abuse. Taking this further, in line with our 'thoughtful' school value, Form 6 went on to consider how internal pollution can also be in our mind - being negative, jealous, greedy, obsessive etc. and how this can affect our mental health with conditions such as depression. They considered and wrote arguments about the thinking question: What is the connection between internal and external pollution? They have also been working hard in Maths to learn about Tessellation and Statistics and participated in the Primary Maths Challenge. In English the children have been mastering discursive writing and practice of 11+ papers and their writing has extended into Topic by creating fact files about Roman civilisation. The Roman theme continues in Science, with the children exploring Roman inventions and how they link to modern society and Latin by learning nouns and verbs relating to Roman homes.

Next Week

On Monday, Form 4 have their class assembly all about their recent trip to Longtown. The parents and siblings of Form 4 pupils are invited to watch this with Form 3 at 9am.

Also on Monday, some of the Form 6 pupils taking the 11+ London Consortium Exam will be undertaking mock exams.

On Wednesday, we are welcoming a consultant from the ISA who will be working with the school business team to review our compliance procedures and highlight any areas of development.

On Thursday, please wear purple and bring your donation to our chosen charity for this year, 'Grief Encounter' – please see further details below.

Also on Thursday morning, we will be working with individuals who have been selected to perform at the winter show.

Winter Show Performances

Thank you to everyone who auditioned for the Winter Show performance. Mrs Mbah and Miss Cobbson will be discussing the auditions and teacher recommendations on Monday to select the final performers and these will be announced to children in assembly on Monday with parents being informed that afternoon. If your child has been selected, please be aware that they may be withdrawn from lessons for rehearsals. We ask that you ensure they practise their performance piece at home to fully prepare for the day.

Charity

Thank you to everybody for your support with our recent charity events. Our Children in Need cake sale today was a huge success and raised a wonderful £206.00. On Thursday, we are supporting our charity 'Grief Encounter' with their 'Go Purple' event and asking everyone to wear purple and donate what they can to this amazing charity. Over the past few years two children in school have lost a parent and others have lost close family members. Grief Encounter have been a wonderful support to us and to some of these families and we are keen to recognise this and Thank them for their work. We are asking for a minimum donation of £2.00 to help support children who are suffering with their grief. For more information about this wonderful charity and the event please visit https://www.griefencounter.org.uk/event/go-purple-2023/

If you have not already done so, please remember to complete the online options form for next term's club options by 5pm on Thursday 23rd November. Please remember, clubs will be filled on a 'first come, first served' basis.

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 5.45pm – see attached flyer!

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 Sept 2024

Autumn Term 2024

Return to School: Wed 4th Sept 2024

Half Term Break: Mon 21st Oct – Fri 1st Nov

Term Ends: Friday 13th Dec 2024

Spring Term 2024:

Return to School: Wed 8th Jan 2025

Half Term Break: Mon 17th Feb to Fri 21st Feb

Term Ends: Friday 28th March 2025

Summer Term 2024:

Return to School: Tue 22nd April 2025

Half Term Break: Mon 26th May - Fri 30th May

Term Ends: Friday 11th July 2025

Autumn Term 2024:

Return to School Wed 3rd Sept 2025