



A huge thank you to our FoSMS committee for coordinating our children's Christmas party at the end of last term. It was joyful to see the children having so much fun whilst looking forward to their Christmas break. An extra special thank you to Mrs Dadoun who as FoSMS Head, did much of the planning, alongside Mrs Patel who put the music together and who both along with Mrs Tripathi, bought your children their going home chocolate gift – it was exceptionally kind of you and very much appreciated by all the children.

We wish all our families a happy and healthy new year. We look forward to helping your children flourish during 2024.



This Week's Shooting Stars



Avi P	Settling into our morning routine with confidence – well done and welcome!
Reyansh	Settling into our routine so well – welcome to St Martin's!
Carter	Settling in and making new friends – we are so happy you joined us!
Haadi	Showing wonderful badminton skills!
Leela	Showing kindness and cooperating well with her classmates
Kiaan	Returning to school with determination to succeed
Claudia	An improvement in her speed reading – fantastic
Mia P	Fantastic speed reading
Sophia E	Answering comprehension questions involving inference and reference to text, with confidence
Kabir	Having a wonderfully positive attitude to his work
Elenor	Working hard on her handwriting and presentation of her work
Zakariya	Great contributions in science – sharing his knowledge about forces
Lara	Achieving highly during her interview with Lily from Cogheart

A huge congratulations to **Ilias** this week for receiving a Head Teacher's Award for showing great effort and concentration when drawing his self-portrait. Well done! Fantastic Work!

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 morning break-time on Monday -

Isla

Adam H

Mila M

Avi B

Changes in circumstances

The safety and wellbeing of our children is always our priority at St Martin's, we ask that you keep us informed of any changes to personal circumstances so that we have all the relevant information to keep your children safe and happy. If you have changed your address, phone number, emergency contact details etc., please ensure you inform the office via e-mail. Additionally, if there are any events happening in the home which may be upsetting or unusual to your child e.g. family bereavements, parents travelling, visiting family members etc, please inform your child's class teacher or the member of our leadership team on the door at drop off so that we can fully support your child.

This week The children have enjoyed seeing all their friends and sharing their holiday news in EYFS. They have also been thinking about repeating patterns with different coloured objects in their Maths and enjoyed listening to their new book 'Oliver's vegetables'. They have used the theme of vegetables to write labels, descriptions and sentences about different vegetables. In expressive arts and design, the children have been drawing their own self-portraits by looking closely in a mirror and finding their facial features. In knowledge and understanding of the world, the children were thinking about Christianity and communion in particular by looking at special items from this occasion. In PE, EYFS were balancing, catching and throwing to help develop their co-ordination.

For Maths this week, Form 1 have been learning how to weigh the mass of objects using both non-standard (how many cubes) and standard (grams on digital scales) forms of weighing. The children have also started to learn their 3 times tables. In English this week, the children wrote about what they did over the holidays. They have also started to look at their core text, 'Where the Wild Things Are', by Maurice Sendak. They looked at the front and back cover of the book to try and make a prediction of what might happen in the story. For their Topic lesson, the children became palaeontologists and had to search for dinosaur bones in the playground and then tried to place them back together.

In their English lesson, Form 2 were thinking about rhyming words and using bullet points to write their new year goals which they had discussed and set in their RSHE lesson. In Maths, Form 2 were thinking about inverse calculations of addition and subtraction leading to 2-digit numbers and thinking carefully about the place value of their answers. In Topic, the children began their new unit of work on the Normans with a discussion about who should be the king after Edward the Confessor.

Form 3 began their core text, 'Stone age boy' with a diary entry written in the past tense and converting 1st person to 3rd person. Also in their English lessons, the Form 3 pupils were thinking about prefixes, suffixes and root words. In Maths, they were learning about angles and turns and in DT they have been investigating wheels and axels which originated in the stone age. In Digital Literacy, the class enjoyed finding images and text online to use in their Computing lesson when they were publishing signs and posters that conveyed clear messages.

Form 4 have been finding fractions of amounts in word problems in Maths. They too have started their core text by reading the blurb and making predictions about the 'Demon Dentist' and then finding quotes and making inferences from the text. In their Topic work, Form 4 have been learning about key figures in their Tudor unit including Henry VIII, his wives, Chancellor Thomas Cromwell and Cardinal Wolsey. In Science, they have begun their healthy eating unit by thinking about the different food groups and what they do for the body and in Computing they have started to use logo for programming.

Form 5's core text this term is 'Cogheart' and they have been enjoying a variety of Victorian objects to draw inferences from and launch their text. They have written interview questions for the characters and created a 'role on the wall' for them followed by a drama session in which they role played the characters in interviews. In Maths, Form 5 have been converting fractions decimals and percentages. In Science, the Form 5 pupils have been planning a variety of friction enquiries. In Topic, they have been thinking about the great exhibition and examples of inventions from the industrial revolution.

Form 6 have been watching versions of the whole school show for this year and begun editing the script with dramatic interpretations and personalisation. In Maths they have been thinking about linear sequences and in Topic they have been considering the nature of global trade to form their own lines of enquiry. In RSHE the children heard the famous Martin Luther King speech 'I have a dream' and were encouraged to think about their own big dreams for the future and how they might achieve these. In Latin, the children were thinking about genitive case and showing position.

Next Week

Monday 8th January – NSPCC Virtual Assemblies: Speak out, stay safe.

Wednesday 10th January – Form 6 will be visiting the Verulamium (re-scheduled from last term)

Wednesday 10th January – EYFS Welly Wednesday outing

Wednesday 10th January – 11+ Parent Workshop at 2.30pm (Form 5 parents only please)

Achievements

Congratulations to Isla in Form 5 who is performing at the Radlett theatre in Beauty and the Beast Jr as the enchantress and who has also been appointed as understudy for Belle!

PE

We were very impressed by the provision of Lower School PE last term. The lesson structure, skill development, engaging activities and behaviour management that Mrs Bent has implemented have led to calmer, more purposeful lessons that have improved pupil attainment and enthusiasm. As a result, Mrs Mbah has asked her to extend her role to include Upper School and we are delighted that Mrs Bent has accepted. Mrs Bent and all class teachers have received PE specific training, covering: the elements of every PE lesson, the progressive learning objectives relevant to the year groups, warm-ups, cool-downs, knowledge of health and fitness and assessment. Mrs Mbah will continue to conduct lesson observations and monitor the provision of PE as a specialist in this area and swimming will still be delivered by specialised swimming coaches. Please be aware that your child's PE days may have changed. The PE for this term is as follows.

EYFS – Tuesday Agility; **Thursday** Balance and co-ordination

Form 1 – Wednesday Net games (TT); **Friday** Invasion games

Form 2 – Wednesday Invasion games; **Friday** Net games (TT)

Form 3 – Tuesday Net games; **Wednesday** Invasion games (TT)

Form 4 – Wednesday Invasion games (TT); **Thursday** Net games (TT)

Form 5 – Wednesday Invasion games; **Friday** Net games (TT)

Form 6 – Tuesday Net games; **Wednesday** Invasion games (TT)

*(TT) indicates a lesson taught by Mrs Bent and the Form teacher together.

All Upper School children will receive a 2-week intensive swimming course in which they swim daily for two weeks – please see diary dates for these weeks. During this time, the above PE lessons may be cancelled and replaced with lessons missed during the swimming times. Please ensure during swimming lessons your children bring the relevant items needed – navy blue swimming costume or trunks (available from the uniform shop) a towel, shower gel or soap and a navy swimming cap (also available from the uniform shop.) Please remind your children of our expectation that all children must listen attentively and behave impeccably to ensure these lessons are enjoyable, beneficial and safe. Thank you.

Poet visit

We have been welcoming our associate poet, Mr Neal Zetter, to St Martin's School and Nursery each year for the last four years. He delivers assemblies, visits our children in class and shares his poems in an interactive way. This very special, sustained contact helps our children to build a good rapport and develop meaningful relationships with a known adult that helps to give purpose and significance to their own poetry and writing. We are delighted that Mr Zetter will be returning to share his poems with our pupils on the 22nd January. 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. The children love to share their progress in their poetry writing with him year on year. Please support this element of our 'small school, big community' program with purchases of his new book – 'The shape of rainbows'. Mr Zetter will personally dedicate and sign pre-ordered copies of the book during his visit for the children to take home with them on the day. Please complete the pre-order form attached and return to the office together with the correct money. This money will be given directly to Mr Zetter, please do not send it to the school bank account.

Welcome

We have welcomed Reyansh, Carter and Avi to our EYFS and wish them well as they start their journey at St Martin's in Nursery. A special Thank you to Gabriel and Zayn Ali for their support and help holding the new pupil's hands to show them where to go. Also, welcome back to Nyla in Form 2 who has returned to our St Martin's family. We are delighted to welcome you back.

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

- 8th January:** NSPCC Virtual Assemblies: Speak out, stay safe.
- 10th January:** Form 6 Verulamium visit
 EYFS Welly Wednesday
 Form 5 11+ Parent Workshop (2.30pm)
- 15th – 26th January:** Form 3 and 4 Swimming every morning
- 15th January:** Form 6 trip to Natural History Museum.
- 16th January:** London Borough of Barnet visit to see the Junior Travel Ambassadors.
- 18th January:** Form 6 trip to Houses of Parliament.
 Form 2 trip to Tower of London.
- 19th January:** Form 1 trip to Natural History Museum.
- 22nd January:** Resident Poet, Neal Zetter, visit.
- 24th January:** EYFS Welly Wednesday.
- 26th January:** Form 5 trip to ragged school.
 Pre-loved uniform sale
- 29th Jan – 9th Feb:** Form 5 and 6 Swimming every morning.
- 29th January:** EYFS yoga studio trip.
- 1st February:** Form 3 trip to Hampstead Heath.
- 2nd February:** La Chandeleur day
- W/b 5th February:** Children's Mental Health Week
- 6th February:** Safer Internet Day
- 7th February:** EYFS Welly Wednesday / Form 3 and 4 to MMK for an Art session
- 8th February:** Topic Homework Walkabout: Parents welcome from 8.10am – 8.40am
- 18th March:** Parent workshop on E-Safety at 5pm

Today we celebrate 10 years of Mr Guyster! Mr Guyster joined us on 5th January 2014 as a part time Latin teacher and now, 10 years later we are delighted he is now our well respected and valued Deputy Head and Head of English. Mr Guyster, thank you for all that you've done – we look forward to seeing what the next decade brings.