



In anticipation of this spell of cold weather, a company came to school last weekend to spray the playground in order to make the surface slip resistant – unfortunately this doesn't make it less chilly! Please be reminded that children need their hat, scarf and gloves as well as full length socks / tights during the cold weather - kindly ensure they are named. Thank you and well done to the School Council who warned us up by selling hot chocolate - and raised a magnificent £138 for their school council project .



This Week's Shooting Stars



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| Ilias | Showing good concentration during our yoga session |
| Matias | Understanding mathematical operations with numbers to 5 |
| Jayden R | Taking on the responsibility of helping to set up the playground activities with enthusiasm |
| Andrea | Persevering whilst learning column addition and subtraction |
| Claudia | Showing perseverance when ordering the words in written sentences |
| Leela | Asking thoughtful questions during our school trip |
| Abir | Modelling excellent behaviour and support as stationery monitor |
| Amba | Writing a fantastic opening paragraph for her fantasy story |
| Sophia E | Writing a creative and descriptive opening paragraph for her fantasy story |
| Dylan | For working hard to edit and improve his diary writing this week |
| Jessica | Excellent reading skills and tackling unfamiliar words with determination |
| Yugo T | For continuously working hard to improve his stories in English |
| Joshua G | For being a fantastic friend and showing kindness and empathy |
| Alayna | For being a fantastic friend and showing kindness and empathy |
| Izzy | Outstanding balanced argument writing |
| Tiam | Working hard across all subjects |
| Yunrui | Being an excellent team player during science lessons |
| Zack H | Demonstrating his fantastic knowledge of current affairs during the Houses of Parliament trip |
| Form 6 | Representing the school in a positive manner on their school trip |

Two Head Teacher's Awards have been awarded this week. Congratulations to **Amba** for bravely presenting her wonderful writing to Form 5 and **Isla** for her commitment and hard work creating a fantastic the Eco-Council display board. 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 morning break-time on Monday –

Tiam

Samarth

Aman M

Zayn Ali

This week EYFS have been developing their knowledge and understanding of different types of vegetables and herbs. They used a mortar and pestle to explore fresh herbs and this tied in with their literacy by expanding their key vocabulary. EYFS made a mix and wrote up the recipe and worked on starting a sentence with a capital letter. During Maths, they learned about tens and one's and how this will help us when doing addition higher than 10.

Form 1 have started to write their own story based on Where The Wild Things Are. They created their own characters, adding similes to their descriptions. During Maths, the children used their known addition facts and table knowledge to answer word problems. They have learned to find the important parts of the word problem to determine what operation they will need to use to answer the question. For our DT, Form 1 have started to create a dinosaur pop-up book fact file. They have also used their topic lesson to find and use interesting facts about their chosen dinosaur. In Science, they have continued to look at the features of different types of animals to classify them into their respective classification groups. The highlight of their week was definitely the trip today to the Natural History Museum to learn all about different dinosaurs and see the moving T-Rex.

Form 2 have made Rapunzel's hair lokshen cakes in Kid's kitchen during Food Technology. They have been to the Tower of London, built by William the conqueror to learn about castles and met a real knight who showed them around and trained the children to become knights. In English, they have been writing a book about how to defeat a witch to understand instructional writing. In Maths, they have been consolidating formal methods of addition and subtraction with exchange. During their Science lessons, they considered which materials will be useful to build a siege tower which will link nicely to their DT unit. In RSHE, the children consolidated their work with NSPCC on Stay Safe, Speak Out.

Form 3 wrote Stone Age diaries in English this week and learning about pictograms and bar charts in Maths. In Science, they investigated different materials to find out if they were transparent, translucent or opaque and in Topic, they created their own Stone Age cave paintings which they are displaying outside their classroom. In RE, they heard the story of Jesus and the leper and considered why Jesus thought it was important that we should show kindness to all people no matter what their circumstances. In DT, they continue to design and build their wheeled models and in IT they used templates and placeholders to create newspapers, invitations, leaflets and other desktop publishing materials. All this and learning to swim too!

Form 4's work has been based around their class reader The Demon Dentist. They designed a dentist drill with electric moving parts and wrote their own stories of a demon character with high level character descriptions. They enjoyed researching for their investigation as to whether Henry was a good or bad king using information found to support a case for the defence or prosecution. Maths was fun this week as the children continued their work on algebraic equations and finding the value of X. Badminton and swimming kept the children active and busy.

Form 5 completed their balanced arguments on the ethics around mechanicals being treated equally in Cogheart's society. They are now building their informative news reports; taking on the roles of investigative journalists and interviewing classmates who played different characters from Cogheart. They will use these answers to inform their news reports and give different points of view to their chosen topic. They have learned the difference between active and passive verbs to add variety to their formal writing. In Science, they learned how levers work and have built their own levers and pivots to help test how much force need be applied to lift a load. In Topic lessons, they studied a variety of Victorian sources to ascertain the negative impacts of the Industrial Revolution on the lives and health of the poor as well as how this benefitted the rich. In Computing, children have been using microcontrollers to program an L.E.D. and have been looking at the effect of a loop in their coding. In Verbal Reasoning, the class have learnt how to decipher number codes written as letters and vice-versa. During French lessons, the children described family members.

Form 6 took part in evolution workshops at The Natural History Museum. In RE, the children discussed the topic 'Who is God and do you believe in God?' also exploring world beliefs without a God including atheism and agonistic. In PE, they played Badminton and Tennis to develop racquet skills and in Football they focussed on defensive positions. During French, Form 6 learned key vocabulary on directions. For Art, they continued experimenting with close, closer and closest using charcoal as their media. Form 6 visited the Houses of Parliament; they visited the House of Commons debating chambers; the Central Lobby and St. Stephen's Hall. They went on a tour of Westminster Hall and learned about the history of the hall dating back to the 11th century. The children also participated in a workshop in which they discussed the importance of Democracy and the history of the significant suffragette movement.

Next Week

Form 3 and 4: Intensive swimming course continues each morning.

Monday: Neal Zetter, our associate poet, returns to school to share his latest collection of poetry.

Wednesday: Parent Workshop on School Lunches 8.10 – 8.40am.
EYFS Welly Wednesday session.

Thursday: Form 4 trip to Fulham Palace.

Friday: Form 5 trip to the Victorian Ragged School.

STEAM Competition There is still time to enter the ISA (Independent School's Association) STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) competition this year and we are looking for ideas from the children to develop their projects. This is a fantastic opportunity for your child to be recognised nationally for their hard work, whilst representing their school and adding achievements to their 11+ portfolio.

Year 3-4: Design and build a device that can propel a soft toy a long distance

Year 5-6: Find a way to drop a raw egg from a height of at least 2m without it breaking

Safeguarding As part of our safeguarding provision, the children are all continuing their work on NSPCC's 'Speak out, stay safe' with follow up lessons. The children's safety is always our priority and our local LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer), Rob Wratten, has asked that we share the attached advice with you to help you ensure your children are safe with the adults who are working with them. This includes questions to ask and things to consider when sending your child to a club or employing a tutor, nanny etc. If you ever have a concern about your child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact us. Mrs Mbah is the Designated Safeguarding Officer and Mr Guyster, her Deputy. Please however note that EVERY adult in school is highly trained and will always prioritise any safeguarding or welfare matter brought to them.

Lunches Workshop Our parent reps have kindly communicated that there are some queries and concerns about school lunches. In response to this, Mrs Mbah will be doing a short overview of our school lunch provision and taking questions on Wednesday 24th January from 8.10 – 8.40am. If you are unable to attend but have any queries about this issue, please feel free to express them by e-mail via the office.

Matilda the Musical Trip Many of you will remember Miss White who ran Musical Theatre lessons in school until last year and also the fantastic Musical Theatre camp we ran over the summer. I am delighted to inform you that Miss White is currently starring as Miss Honey at the Cambridge Theatre in London's West End Theatre District. We have secured a large booking for Form's 2, 3,4,5 and 6 for the matinee performance on Wednesday 27th March. We MAY have some additional tickets available for parents who may like to join us at the discounted rate of £40 per person, please email Mrs Wilson if you would like to be placed on the waiting list – Joanna.wilson@stmartinsmillhill.co.uk. Thank you

Young Voices The annual choir trip to the O2 Arena to perform as part of the Young Voices choir is fast approaching – Tuesday 30th January. If your child is in the choir, please encourage them to keep practising the songs at every opportunity!

Clubs Pupil voice is very important and we are delighted that our children have the confidence and ingenuity to ask for things they feel would improve their school. A few of our Form 6 pupils have asked if they can run lunchtime clubs and we are excited to announce that we are now running a 'Bracelet Club' led by Beau and Mrs Botchwey on a Thursday lunchtime and 'Japanese Club' led by Shungo, Avi B and our parent governor, Mrs Harun, during Friday lunchtimes.

Congratulations Having worked on his skills and portfolio over the last 2 years, Husain has made a variety of projects including the School Council suggestion box, a bug hotel for EYFS and now a wonderful bird table for the front of school. We are delighted to announce that he has been shortlisted for the 11+ DT scholarship at Merchant Taylors and was one of only 6 pupils given the opportunity to visit their workshop to showcase his skills for a day this week. We wish Husain the very best of luck.

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 Monday - 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.

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

- 22nd January:** Resident Poet, Neal Zetter, visit.
- 24th January:** EYFS Welly Wednesday.
- 25th January:** Form 4 trip to Fulham Palace Museum
- 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.
- 30th January:** Choir Young Voices trip
- 31st January:** La Chandeleur day
- 1st February:** Form 3 trip to Hampstead Heath / Form 2 Class Assembly
- 2nd February:** Setsubun
- 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

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| 29th February: | Form 4 Royal Observatory trip |
| 4th March: | Form 1 Tate Modern trip |
| 8th March: | Form 3 Golden Hinde trip |
| 11th March: | Form 5 British Museum trip |
| 12th March: | Form 6 Bank of England trip |
| 14th March: | International Maths Day |
| 18th March: | Parent workshop on E-Safety at 5pm delivered by Police Officer, Michelle Davies |
| 20th March: | World Story telling Day |
| 21st March: | World Poetry Day |
| 21st March: | Dress rehearsal |
| 25th March: | Form 2 Southend on Sea trip |
| 26th March: | Whole School Show Matinee at Hartley Hall (details to come) |
| 27th March: | Upper School Matilda trip (please see details above) |
| 28th March: | Easter bonnet parade; Easter Egg hunt; Whole School Show – evening performance (details to come) |

