



A very warm welcome to the first St Martin's Post of the new academic year. It has been an incredibly enjoyable week, and the children have settled so well into their new classes. The atmosphere around school has been both purposeful and engaging and we are so proud of all the children's efforts.



## This Week's Shooting Stars



**Avi P:** Good phonics knowledge

**Somto:** Being a kind friend and showing the new children around the EYFS

**Alessandro M:** A super star at tidy up time

**Aariyan:** Settling into his new school with confidence

**Kyeisha:** Ordering number and matching pictures

**Freddie M:** Working hard and achieving so much in just a few days

**Ali:** Being so kind and helpful in the classroom

**Quinn:** Showing she can add 3-digit number

**Freddie G:** Scoring a hat-trick in a football match

**Shaan:** Well-presented work in English

**Mila M:** Excellent behaviour and effort in lessons

**Amba:** Using high-level vocabulary in her writing

**Yugo:** Excellent scientific contributions in class

**Raphael:** Demonstrating St Martin's values in his first week at our school

**Form 6:** An amazing start to the academic year!

A **Head Teacher's Award** has been awarded to **Israel** and **Leela** for being so engaged and enthusiastic during Mr Zucker's first assembly. A huge well done to you both!

**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.

**Kyeisha**

**Charlotte L**

**Sara**

**Zahi**

**This week** we have welcomed back the children who have all settled remarkably well. We also had our welcome assembly in which the children had a Q&A with Mr Zucker.

In **EYFS** this week we have been having a fun time exploring the school, learning where we can find things and understanding how our EYFS works. We discussed our family and things that are special to us. We also drew ourselves and spoke about things we are good at and that we enjoy.

In **Form 1**, the children have been sharing what they have been doing over the holidays. They have also been writing questions about our core text, Hansel and Gretel. During our Maths lessons, we have been looking at ordering numbers to 20 and matching amounts to said numbers. For our Science topic about plants, we have started to undertake a cress seed experiment. We are going to plant the seeds under different conditions and then record how they have grown over an extended period of time to determine which conditions are best suited for growing plants from a seed. This year for our Geography, we are going to be focusing on maps. To begin our topic, the children drew a birds-eye view of the school grounds.

**Form 2** have had a busy few days this week. They have learned about the seasons in French, what good news Christians believe Jesus brings, revised the continents and oceans of the world and begun their DT topic by thinking about the function of a lighthouse. In Maths they have been demonstrating their knowledge of number bonds, multiplication and mental arithmetic. They have also written a letter and demonstrated their spelling skills in their English lessons.

**Form 3** have had an excellent start to the year and have been very excited to begin their learning. They have spent this short week getting to know about life in Form 3 and classroom expectations. They have begun to use their inference skills to make predictions about our class story (Stone Age Boy). In Maths, they have begun to add 3-digit numbers together. They have discussed staying safe online in Computing and thought about what being online actually means. They have also classified digital devices and learned that they work by using an Input-Process-Output system (ask them to explain it!). In PE they played ball games and began a dance unit. They finished the week by learning about wheels and axles in DT, as well as identifying their learning targets for the next few weeks. A busy start but full of fun and engagement!

**Form 4** had a great start to the term. They introduced themselves by describing their interests and special talents. They also set up a class agreement, setting out aspirations and goals for the coming year. In Maths they explored place value and times tables. In English they began to read their new class reader (The Ice Palace) and explored the use of metaphorical and descriptive language. In Science they have learnt about the different processes of melting, freezing and evaporating in changing the state of a material from a solid, to a liquid, to a gas. In Art, they have used cross-hatching to produce effective landscapes and in Computing they have explored the key SMART safety rules for being safe online. They have also begun their Geography topic by looking at different geographical vocabulary.

This week, in English, **Form 5** have made inferences about their new class text, Cosmic, and provided reasoned justifications for their ideas. They have also written mnemonics to help them remember the order of the planets and the dwarf planets. In addition, Form 5 have learnt how to use semicolons and adverbials. In Science, Form 5 have completed an investigation around how meteors collide with the Moon's surface and the crater that they leave behind. The Moon's surface was simulated with corn flour. The children tested different variables such as the height objects are dropped from and the mass of the objects.

In **Form 6** Geography we have been exploring the polar regions and the significant contribution that they make to the world around us. In Maths we have been investigating the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. In RHSE we have been asking what it means to be part of a school community and how do we demonstrate St. Martins's values. The children have also created a mural of our school values. In English the children have been making inferences using visual stimuli. They have used their evidence and explanation skills to infer the new class text, Northern Lights.

**Pupil Voice Process** We are soon embarking on the selection for our pupil voice roles. Speeches for the school council, eco-council and healthy school council are part of the children's homework this week and will be read to classes on Thursday. On Thursday, the children will also be voting to elect to these posts. Please understand that this is a democratic process and part of our teaching for British Values. Whilst they will not be able to hold positions on more than one of the pupil voice councils, children may get to hold a position even if they have held it before if their classmates elect them to do so. It would not be democratic to tamper with these results. Please prepare your child for the fact that they may or may not get a role they apply for but emphasise that putting themselves forward and going through the process is a wonderful learning experience either way.

## **Next Week**

Celebrating our multicultural community is an important part of St Martin's ethos. To that end, we invite all parents to send a small family photo into school next week, as well as a few sentences on your family's heritage and history. These photos will be displayed on our school world map.

On Thursday the children will be sharing their pupil voice speeches with their classes and elections will take place.

Next week you should receive an invitation to your parent/teacher meeting. If the time allocated is not convenient, please e-mail your child's Form teacher on the Form e-mail address to arrange a mutually convenient time.

## **Staff**

A warm welcome to our new peripatetic musical theatre teacher, Miss Ovidia, who has joined our community this week. Miss Ovidia is a singing teacher and performer originally from Oslo, Norway. She graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2021 with a BA in Musical Theatre. She most recently appeared as Miss Honey in the original Norwegian cast of Matilda the Musical, and features on the cast recording. Miss Ovidia is passionate about helping her students find confidence in their voices, and enjoyment through performance. She is looking forward to working at St Martins!

**Collection** Please be reminded that pick up is at 3.30pm (Lower School) 3.40pm (Upper School) at the end of the day or 4.40pm at the end of club. If your child is attending a club, it is expected that they will remain in school until the end of the club. If you are collecting children from tea-time club (i.e. between 4.45pm and 5.30pm), please come to the fire door to the right of the main door – Mr Guyster's room. Many thanks

## **Uniform Reminders**

Children are welcome to wear summer or winter uniform until half term with full winter uniform required after half term.

Children with hair below the collar must have it tied back with a dark blue / navy elastic.

St Martin's School branded water bottles, available from the uniform shop, are the only water bottles allowed in school.

PE trainers for Lower School must be entirely black and for upper school entirely white – please no colourful designs, laces, ticks or multicoloured soles.

School shoes when worn with uniform (not PE kit) should be formal black leather shoes – no trainers please.

Please ensure all uniform is clearly named so we can return it to your child if it is mislaid.

## **Autumn Term 2024**

Return to School: Wednesday 4th September 2024

Half Term Break: Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November 2024

Term Ends: Friday 13th December 2024

## **Spring Term 2025**

Return to School: Wednesday 8th January 2025

Half Term Break: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025

Term Ends: Friday 28th March 2025

## **Summer Term 2025**

Return to School: Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Half Term: Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025

Term Ends: Friday 11th July 2025