



St Martin's Post

Edition 268

13th December 2024



Somto: For always coming into school with positivity.

Dylan (EYFS): For having a fantastic first term.

Zayn Ali: For using his English skills to write a letter to Santa.

Mia: For always being kind and helpful.

Form 3: For excellent behaviour and wonderful singing in the Winter Show.

Dylan, Kush, Mila, Naoto, Krishnan, Kabir and Tobias in Form 4 for achieving their personalised targets in their hero stories.

Ethan: For achieving highly with his powerful vocabulary in his narrative.

Sophia E: For achieving highly in her informative writing.

Form 6: For having a phenomenal Autumn Term. Every one of you have demonstrated the St. Martin's values throughout the term.

Headteacher Award

The Head Teacher's Award this week goes to **all of St Martin's** for having a truly wonderful term! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all once again for welcoming me so warmly into the St Martin's community. The kindness and positivity I have experienced every day since joining have been truly heartwarming, and I deeply value the relationships I have built this term. We are such a strong and united community, and it's inspiring to see how our school values shine through in everything we do. Thank you for your support and dedication. Wishing you all a restful and fun-filled winter break!





This week at St Martins

As we approach the end of a fruitful term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable progress our **EYFS** children have made. It has been an absolute pleasure to witness how confidently they have settled into their routines, demonstrating both engagement and enthusiasm in their daily activities. Their passion for learning continues to be commendable, and I am immensely proud of each and every one of them. This week has been particularly busy and delightful as the children performed in our Winter Show. I sincerely hope you enjoyed the performances as much as they enjoyed preparing for it. The children also thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime, which not only provided great entertainment but also enriched their understanding of storytelling. In addition to these events, the children have been busy creating crafts, allowing them to express their creativity while developing fine motor skills. We have also focused on writing activities to enhance their literacy and encourage imaginative thinking. In Maths, we explored concepts of length and capacity, helping the children develop a practical understanding of these essential skills.

This week, **Form 1** has been brimming with creativity and festive spirit! In English, the children created and wrote their own Christmas cards for some very special people. They also wrote letters to Father Christmas, explaining why they believe they deserve a gift. In Maths, the children learned to measure in centimetres (cm) using a ruler. They put their skills to the test by measuring and crafting a fantastic beard for Father Christmas! During Art lessons, Form 1 designed and created their very own St. Martin's Value Tree. This beautiful creation has brightened up the classroom with its vibrant colours and thoughtful design.

Form 2 has had a wonderfully creative and productive week! They embraced the festive season with lots of singing, filling their days with music and holiday cheer. In Maths, the children tackled Christmasthemed challenges, seamlessly blending learning with seasonal fun. They also made significant progress in their photography project, capturing impressive shots and honing their skills. Additionally, the children explored the importance of healthy eating, engaging in thoughtful discussions about balanced and nutritious food choices. One of the week's highlights was designing, baking, and decorating dog bone biscuits for Claude, which they thoroughly enjoyed. It's been a week full of creativity, learning, and festive joy!

It has been an exciting and eventful week for **Form 3** as well. The children prepared and performed songs for the Winter Show, which, I'm sure you'll agree, was a spectacular success. In English, they wrote wintry poems, learning to use personification to bring their writing to life. In Maths, they revisited their knowledge of telling the time, strengthening their understanding of this important skill. In Science, the children concluded their learning about rocks and soil by studying and drawing fossils. They also had great fun creating stop-frame animation videos during their IT lesson. The class also enjoyed a delightful Christmas pantomime, which added to the festive atmosphere.





This week at St Martins (continued)

Form 4 have successfully completed their DT project this week, reviewing their Viking warships and reflecting on which elements could have been improved with alternative designs. They also brought in their fabulous Topic homework, showcasing an impressive range of creations, including maps, paintings, replicas of the Sutton Hoo treasures, and detailed recreations of the Bayeux Tapestry. In Maths, the class concluded this term's study of decimals by examining the place value of digits in numbers with 3–4 decimal places. In English, they reviewed and refined their *Beowulf* hero stories, making thoughtful modifications before presenting the final versions to the class. The children also finished their class reader, *Beowulf*, sadly discovering that their 1,500-year-old hero met his end after bravely defeating the death-dragon. To wrap up the story, they wrote one final newspaper article detailing the battle with the death-dragon. Finally, they explored festive traditions by preparing for the Winter Concert and learning about the festival of Chanukah in RE.

In Maths, **Form 5** began their unit on fractions, exploring equivalent fractions and simplifying them. They applied their knowledge of common factors to solve problems and strengthen their calculation skills. To deepen understanding, they engaged in hands-on activities and used visual aids such as fraction bars and number lines, which helped them better grasp the relationships between fractions. In English, the children completed their entertaining narrative writing linked to the theme of time. They polished and published their second drafts, which will be shared with their chosen audiences. This week's Verbal Reasoning lesson revisited key concepts covered so far in Form 5, focusing on vocabulary, letter patterns, and wordplay. In Topic, the class completed their informative reports on the local area. These were carefully edited and finalised for sharing with their audience.

Form 6 tackled a variety of mathematical mysteries using a deck of cards this week. These challenges included working with negative numbers, calculating square roots, and solving codebreaker puzzles. The activities encouraged collaborative problem-solving, where children shared their reasoning and ideas. This approach fostered both engagement and a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. In DT, the children completed their final design and technology briefs using a range of materials. Throughout the process, they evaluated their work, reflecting on the effectiveness of changes made to their original prototypes. Peer reviews and self-assessments encouraged critical thinking, while structured feedback sessions helped them identify areas for improvement. By the end of the project, all design briefs were successfully completed, and comprehensive evaluations summarised their learning and progress. In English, Form 6 honed their entertaining writing skills. They began by describing a setting using a range of figurative language, including personification, hyperbole, and metaphors. They then developed these descriptions into longer winter-themed narratives. The writing was rich with powerful language, advanced punctuation, and vivid imagery. Well done, Form 6!





A message from Mrs Wilson

Thank you so much to the children, parents and staff who gave their time last week to contribute to our recent promo videos. We are absolutely delighted with the outcome and look forward to sharing them in the new year. However, if you've visited our website over the past few days, you may well have seen the first to be released! We hope you love it and agree it gives a really lovely and accurate snapshot of life at St Martin's.

We have also received some really beautiful and heartwarming emails over the past few weeks from parents who have shared their feelings about St Martin's and we are incredibly grateful to you all. We recognise how fortunate we are to have such a warm and supportive parent body and understand the three-way relationship between parents, teachers and pupils is absolutely essential to ensure the very best outcomes for all our children.

Wishing you season's greetings and happy holidays.

Reports

A reminder that your child's school report is available to view on the parent portal. Please log into the portal to access it. If you have any difficulty logging in or require assistance, please contact the school office. Thank you for your continued support.

Golden Tea

Golden Tea is an opportunity for children to show Mrs Wilson the work they have completed that week of which they are most proud, whilst enjoying juice and biscuits together. The following children were chosen at random to enjoy Golden Tea with Mrs Wilson during Monday morning break time next week.

Kyeisha Claudia Aarav Rania





Term Dates

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 2025

Return to School: Wed 8th Jan 2025

Half Term Break: Mon 17th Feb - Fri 21st Feb Term Ends: Friday 28th March 2025

Summer Term 2025:

Return to School: Tue 22nd April 2025

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

Term Ends: Friday 11th July