



# 'Be Smart... Be the best that you can be...'



**St Martin and St Mary Church of England Primary School Newsletter No.5 – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025**

I can't believe we have already arrived at the end of January. It has been a super busy month with some difficult weather conditions to deal with as well. Thank you to everyone for your support as we deal with these challenges. We still have a busy few weeks in school in the run up to the half-term break.

I'm sad to say that Jo Fahy-Coward is leaving our school at February half-term. Jo has been a longstanding parent, volunteer, Midday Supervisor and more recently Teaching Assistant in our school. She is moving on to pastures new, working as a Teaching Assistant in a Kendal school. They are lucky to have her and we wish her all the very best in her career. Thank you, Jo for all your hard work and dedication.

The Governors and School Leadership Team are working together in readiness for Louise Swindlehurst's move to Headship after the Easter break. We are arranging staffing for the children in Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) and will update you about this as soon as everything is organised.

**PTA Sponsored Walk** – Many of you have already completed a consent form for the KS2 sponsored walk up Orrest Head. In light of the numbers of children involved, we have decided to change the walk and amble up School Knott instead (a larger summit and no busy roads to cross). We have adjusted the online consent form to reflect this (on Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Jan). For those of you who completed the consent form **before** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January we will assume that you are happy with the change of destination unless you contact school to say otherwise. We will complete the walk in 4 house teams and meet on the summit. If you can volunteer your time to join us on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February that would be appreciated. We ask parents to walk with their child's house team. Please remember, that the Sponsored Bounce, for younger children (Pre-school to Year 2) is on the same day. Please encourage your child to collect some 'safe' sponsorship from friends, family and neighbours to support our amazing PTA.



**SCARF** - Children's Mental Health Week is next week and on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February (walk/bounce day) children are invited to wear a scarf to school to support this important initiative. All week we will be thinking about how we can be kind and look after each other in school. We'll also revisit the things we can do and the people we can talk to if we're not feeling 100%.

**Attendance Raffle** – Here is Manfred, the first winner of our attendance raffle with his prizes. Well done to him! As you know, the raffle has reset. We have a 12-week term where children can earn a ticket every week. I wonder who will win the prize at Easter...



**Arbor App** – Thank you to everyone who has been able to set this up on your phones, tablets and devices. The App allows you to update contact information, consent preferences and medical information amongst other things so it will prove very useful in making sure we hold the correct information about your children and you.

**Aimee Galloway** – I am a delighted to announce that Aimee Galloway, one of our Pre-School teachers, is expecting a baby in late May/early June. Congratulations to Aimee and her partner, Jake.



**World Book Day** – this is a long way off (Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March) but we wanted to tell all parents that we won't be dressing up as book characters this year. There is no need to spend money or time and energy coming up with something special for your child to wear. It will be a non-uniform day instead with other fun events on the day.

Every year, Wallie Thompson (our longstanding IT technician), organises a **Christmas raffle** for the staff in school. This year, the staff team raised an amazing £188. This amount has been donated to St John's Hospice, a place that has a very special connection to our school. The hospice provided incredible care, support and compassion to Alison Williams, our Pre-School lead, and her family, in the last few months of her late husband, Jason's, life last autumn.

We say goodbye to Wallie in April as a new organisation takes oversight of our IT provision in school. We'd all like to thank Wallie for his hard work in school for many years. He has been a friend to this school for a very long time and will be missed by all.

**Stair lift Installation** – I mentioned the stair lift that has been installed in school and we wanted to thank the various organisations that have contributed. The stair lift has already proved incredibly useful for a number of children in school and will continue to do so for years to come, so thank you so much from all of us. Our thanks go to;

- ✓ Elite Roofing and Cladding Ltd
- ✓ Buildzone UK Ltd
- ✓ Saint&Serenity
- ✓ Four Seasons
- ✓ Spray It UK
- ✓ SMCA Enterprises Ltd

We would also like to thank local business, **Daniella Draper**, for giving Santa an extra hand at Christmas with some extra gifts for children at our school. Your compassion and support has gone a long way to make Christmas a little bit more special for those young people and families.

**Parents' Evenings** – we are really looking forward to seeing many of you in school for Parent's Evenings in the week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> February. Please do take this opportunity to come and talk to teachers about your child's successes, their learning and how you can support them further in their childhood journey.



**Recruitment Morning** - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February – We are always keen to understand who, in our local community, might have an interest in working in school. There are so many different roles to fulfil in a big school. I know that there are many local people who might have an interest, skills or qualifications that would suit them to working in school. We are holding a 'Recruitment Morning' so that interested individuals can visit school, have a guided tour and ask any questions that they might have about working in school.

If you or someone you know is interested, please direct them to have a look at the details on our [school website events page](#) for further information. In particular, if you or someone you know has a Level 3 qualification in Childcare or Supporting Teaching and Learning. If you or they would like to attend, please register your interest via our website using the link above. In addition, just to be clear, this particular open morning is for potential employees rather than parents looking to enrol their children at our school. Only registered individuals will be accepted on the day, so please fill in the online form before coming along.

**Cross Country** – in recent weeks, many of our children have participated in both local and regional cross country events. It has been amazing to witness the commitment, talent and enthusiasm of our young runners.

Some of you might have noticed (or your children might have told you?) that we have had to have our EYFS toilets refurbished after a roof leak in December. This wasn't planned or budgeted for, but has made a real difference to an environment in school that gets a lot of regular use. Thank you to everybody for their patience and understanding (especially our teachers) whilst this work has been completed. I am pleased to say that we have been supported by funding from the John Braithwaite Trust to complete this work.

**Cygnets – Play Group** – Our school is still open each Wednesday to welcome younger children and their parents for a morning of play, craft, baking and much needed conversation. More details can be found on our website or by following this link; [Cygnets Playgroup](#)



**Swimming Pool Update** – our new committee have been meeting routinely to develop an action plan to secure the long-term future of our pool. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time, enthusiasm and expertise to move this forward. Very soon, we will launch our very own pool website to promote the pool, support fundraising and keep everyone up to date with events and activities. In the meanwhile, families are invited to support us at a **Pool Maintenance Day on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** beginning at 10am. Please can you contact school if you plan to come along and help so that we can allocate jobs.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, the PTA are planning a huge Fundraising event, involving all our local schools and pool users. There will be a Car Boot Sale, events on the school field and a Sponsored Swim to raise money towards our Fundraising Target of £10,000. This amount will support pool running costs and upkeep through this season. You can still donate money using our GoFundMe page or directly to the school office. Thank you so much in anticipation of your support. <https://gofund.me/951808ba>

**Poppy Appeal** – I am delighted to say that our school raised £347.70 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. This is a fantastic amount and will go towards funding the Legion's ongoing work in supporting the Armed Forces community, serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.

**Year 4 Brewery Dance Platform Performance** - Our Year 4 children have been invited to perform at The Brewery Dance Platform on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March. The performance will begin at 7pm and a letter will be going out to parents shortly with further details. **Tickets go on sale on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February (next week).** This information will also be on the booking page of the Brewery website and with the Brewery Box Office team. Information on how to book is below;

Via the website: <https://www.breweryarts.co.uk/> and search Schools Dance Platform – please note this will not be live until Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Over the phone: 01539 725133 – phone lines are open for enquiries Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-5pm, Sunday 2-4pm. You can leave a voice message at any time and the team will respond as soon as possible. Please leave a message with your name and contact number.

*Some additional reminders...*

**Illness** – It's that time of year where there are lots of viruses going around and we have had a number of children off/sent home with sickness bugs recently. Please can we remind you that if your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, then they can only return to school 48 hours after symptoms have stopped. We realise that it is frustrating if your child seems well enough to be back in school, however, it is important that we try and avoid it spreading to other children and staff.

**Dog Poo** – sadly, some of our children have been coming into school with dog poo on their shoes. I know that there are lots of responsible dog owners out there who always pick up after their pet, but it only takes one discarded pile of poo to get stood in and our school stinks! If you do notice an ongoing problem around school and the wider neighbourhood with dog waste please do report this to the council so that they can attempt to tackle the problem.

## **Important Diary Dates - All dates are in the school calendar on our website for easy reference**

- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February (8.45am – 2.45pm) – Year 6 Tenner Project at the Lakes School
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Wear your SCARF Day for Children’s Mental Health Week – children are invited to wear a scarf to school today
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February (AM) – PTA Sponsored Bounce (Pre-School to Year 2)
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February (PM) – PTA Sponsored Walk (KS2)
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – 3.30 – 6.00pm – Parents Evening
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February – 2.30pm – Year 6 Tenner Project sale in the downstairs hall
- Week Commencing 17<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Year 2 Countryside Explorers trip to Windermere Jetty Museum
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Year 1 Countryside Explorers trip to Windermere Jetty Museum
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February – 9.30 – 10.30am - Recruitment Morning
- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – 10am - School Pool Maintenance Day - please contact school if you plan to come along and help so that we can allocate jobs
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day (Non-Uniform Day)
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March – 3.30pm – PTA Movie Night
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Year 4 Rivers Trip
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – 3.30pm – PTA Meeting – open to all parents and staff
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Year 3 Rivers Trip
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March (PM/Evening) – Year 4 Brewery Dance Platform in Kendal
- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March – 3.30pm – Year 4 Parent’s meeting re: Liverpool Trip in Mrs Greenall’s classroom
- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April – 1.30pm – KS2 Easter Service at St Martin’s Church – parents welcome
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Year 5 Trip to School Knott and Brantfell
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April (AM) – EYFS/KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April – **Terms ends at 12noon today for Pre-School & Nursery children**
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April – **Term ends at 2pm today for Reception to Year 6 children**
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Easter Holidays
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Summer Term begins