



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



St Martin and St Mary Church of England Primary School Newsletter No.2 – Friday 25th October 2024

October Break – It has been a busy and fun packed 8 weeks, full of fun and learning. Well done to everyone in school and at home who has helped all our children get used to life back in school after the summer break – which feels like a distant memory. It was lovely to see so many of you in school this week for Parents' Meetings. In our Parent and Family Questionnaire, some parents stated that they didn't get enough information about their child's learning. I hope that people found these meetings useful and informative. However, you can always contact staff in school if you would like an update on how your child is getting on.

Over the half-term break, Mr Norris is planning to run around the island of Arran in memory of his Mum who recently passed away. Nat will run the 57 miles around the island over two days. As Nat says, *'This run is not just a physical challenge but a tribute to the strength and resilience Mum showed throughout her life. Every mile I run will be for her and for the countless others who find solace in the care of Trinity Hospice. My goal is to raise funds that will allow this charity to continue providing the same compassionate care to other families facing the most difficult times of their lives.'*

We wish Nat all the best in his endeavours and fundraising effort – we really hope the weather is kind. If you would like to support Nat through a donation, the GoFundMe link is below. You can also make a donation in person or directly to Trinity Hospice. <https://gofund.me/e15b5a33>



PTI Mark – We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the PTI Mark. The PTI are an education based charity that support and recognise excellent teaching and curriculum delivery. They provide training and guidance to ensure all children have a high-quality, research based learning experience at school. The PTI Mark is an accolade that reflects the excellent work of all our staff in school and the amazing learning that takes place. Well done to everyone who has been involved.



Acceptable Use Agreement – If you haven't done so yet, please can you click on the relevant link below and discuss this agreement with your child. Many thanks.

Link for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2; [Reception, Year 1 and Year 2](#)

Link for children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6; [Year, 3, 4, 5 and 6](#)

PTA – Dates and Events - Yet again, our amazing PTA have put together a range of exciting events and activities across the school year to engage your children and also raise money to support our learning in school. Here are a few dates for the year ahead;

Monday 11th November – 3.30pm - PTA AGM

Thursday 21st November - Movie Night

Tuesday 3rd December - Christmas jumper day in return for bottles (KS2 children)/chocolates (KS1 children)

Friday 6th December - Christmas Fair

Friday 7th February - Sponsored Bounce (KS1)/Sponsored Walk (KS2)

Thursday 6th March - Movie Night

Thursday 1st May - School Disco

Saturday 17th May - Fundraising Extravaganza

Friday 20th June - Cake Sale

Wednesday 2nd July - Non-uniform day in return for bottles (KS2 children)/chocolates (KS1 children)

Friday 4th July - Summer Fair



Attendance – Many children have started to collect their ‘raffle tickets’ by being in school each and every day. Remember, for each week of 100% attendance your child will have an entry into our school attendance lottery. Every week of 100% attendance is an extra ticket and an increased chance of winning a prize.

Admissions – change to PAN Sept 2026 - Our Admissions consultation remains open. More details here; <https://www.windermere.cumbria.sch.uk/admissions/>

Governor Annual Report to Parents – Emailed with this Newsletter, you will have received a copy of our Annual Governor Report to Parents. This is an annual update to keep you informed about the work of our Governing Body, who they are and what they are doing to support the work and future of our school.

Morning Club – In September, we extended the hours of our Morning Club (care for younger children from 3 years upwards before school) as many parents expressed an interest in accessing this provision to support their working hours. We now offer this club from 8am for a cost of £5. We have a very small number of children using the club and therefore we are not covering our staffing costs. We will review this at Christmas but we may have to consider adjusting this club if more children don’t begin to use it regularly. I apologise to those of you who currently rely on this provision. The club can also be used on an adhoc basis too – just book in by contacting the school office as and when you need it. [early-morning-club-and-after-school-club-school.](#)

Cygnets – Playgroup – From Wednesday 6th November, (9.15am to 10.45am) we are running a playgroup in school called ‘Cygnets’. We are very excited about this and would love to see lots of babies and toddlers in school with their families. More details can be found on our website or by following this link; [Cygnets Playgroup](#)



Happy Home Learning – You have all been sent information about the workshops being delivered in school, by Nicola Crompton, designed to help you support your child’s learning at home. Remember, you need to sign up to these before Monday 4th November if you would like a place. You can do this via this link; [Happy Home Learning](#)

More info here; <https://happyhomelearning.co.uk/>

Healthcare Plans - We are updating our medical and dietary records. If your child has a medical need or a dietary requirement please can you complete the healthcare plan form that was sent via email to all parents/carers on 3rd October. This is separate from SchoolGrid (Dolce) so if you have informed them of any dietary requirements then school need to know as well please. Currently, we have over 80 children with existing healthcare plans, however, we have only received 6 responses back. If we do not receive a response then the office will assume that your child no longer has a medical need / dietary requirement.

School dinners – Action required - please can I remind parents again that you must order your child’s school dinners by 8.55am in the morning. Please can I also ask that if your child is off school unwell that you cancel their school dinner by 8.55am to avoid being charged. We have had a number of families forgetting to order lunches that has sometimes resulted in the children not getting the lunch of their choice. This is causing upset, particularly amongst the younger children, which we want to avoid.

Parking - Please can I remind all parents and carers not to drop off and/or collect your child from the school drive. Instead, please park on the road and walk up the footpath. Can I also remind you not to use the disabled bay opposite the school office unless you are a blue badge holder. We have a number of families that need to use this space and it needs to be kept clear for those that genuinely need it.



Scholastic Book Fair – Thank you to everyone that came to our book fair this week. Lots of the children got to spend some time downstairs looking at the books, which they really enjoyed. We have raised a staggering £910 which will enable us to buy some new books for school. Thank you to Mrs Stephenson and Mrs Swindlehurst for their help in arranging it and to those members of the PTA that helped with the fair.



ASDA Rewards Cashpot for Schools - To donate to St Martin & St Mary Church of England Primary School ASDA rewards cashpot, please sign up via this link: <https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>. Once opted in, ASDA will add £1 to our cashpot for each family that signs up to help get you started. ASDA will also donate a percentage of your shop to your chosen school each time you shop and scan. This won't affect your own cashpot earn. There are 36 days left for families to sign up and start earning.

Job vacancies – We are currently looking for supply midday supervisors to cover absences. The hours are 1.5 to 1.75 per day, from 11.45-1.15pm or 11.45-1.30pm dependant on where in the school cover is required. If you are interested in applying for this post, please contact the school office for more details.

Christmas



It's that time of year again where we are starting to think about Christmas. We will be having our school Christmas lunch on Wednesday 11th December and would like to give each child a Christmas cracker to go with their meal. The children love them and it really helps to make it special. If anyone is able to donate a box of crackers, it would be very much appreciated. Please take any donations to the school office.

Advance notice of Christmas performances and Key Stage 2 Christmas Church Service

The Reception and KS1 Christmas Nativity performances will be taking place on Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December at 9.30am. These are ticketed events and further details will be sent out nearer the time on how you can purchase tickets.

Our KS2 children will be having their Christmas church service on Wednesday 18th December at 1.30pm at St Mary's Church. Parents are welcome to join us.

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

- Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November – Half Term
- Monday 4th to Tuesday 5th November – Year 5 Residential to Patterdale Hall
- Friday 8th November – 3.30pm – Swimming pool meeting – all welcome
- Monday 11th November – 11.30am – Year 6 at the War Memorial
- Monday 11th November – 3.30pm - PTA Annual General Meeting
- Saturday 16th November – 10.00am to 12noon – Pre School & Nursery Open morning
- Thursday 21st November – PTA Movie Night
- Monday 2nd December – 2.30pm – Nursery New Parents Meeting
- Tuesday 3rd December – PTA Christmas jumper day in return for bottles/chocolates for the raffle
- Friday 6th December – 3.15pm – PTA Christmas Fair
- Tuesday 10th December – 9am - Nursery come and play session for new starters
- Tuesday 10th to Thursday 12th December – 9.30am – Reception & KS1 Nativity Performances
- Wednesday 11th December – Christmas dinner (whole school) – please order your child's Christmas dinner via SchoolGrid in the usual way
- Friday 13th December – 9am - Nursery come and play session for new starters
- Wednesday 18th December – AM – Nursery Christmas Party
- Wednesday 18th December – 1.30pm –KS2 Christmas Service at St Mary's Church – parents welcome
- Thursday 19th December – AM – Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Party
- Thursday 19th December – PM – Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Party
- Friday 20th December – AM – Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Party
- Friday 20th December – **Term ends today at 12.00noon** for Pre-School & Nursery children
- Friday 20th December – **Term ends today at 2.00pm** for Reception to Year 6 children
- Monday 6th January – Inset Day
- Tuesday 7th January – Spring Term begins