



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



St Martin and St Mary Church of England Primary School Newsletter No.5 – Friday 30th January 2026

Is it too late to wish you all a Happy New Year? I can hardly believe we've already reached the end of January! As always, the start of the Spring Term has been incredibly busy and full of exciting activities. You may have seen from our social media posts just how much has been happening in and around school.

Farewell This term we sadly say goodbye to Helen and Emma, who have both dedicated many years to ensuring the smooth running of our school office. Their hard work, commitment and friendly presence have been a valued part of our school community and they will be greatly missed. We wish Helen and Emma all the very best in their future. Michael Corrie also steps down from his role of governor. Mike will always be a friend of our school. Thank you, Mike, for your time and dedication to our school. We wish you and your family all the best for the future. If you are interested in joining our team, please visit our school website. [School Vacancies](#)

Good luck to Reverend James Richards and Reverend Canon Jane Maycock. [An update about Reverend James Richards](#) As Reverend James Richards embarks on a new chapter in Durham, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to him and his family. James has been an integral part of the St Martin and St Mary CE Primary School family for many years, contributing greatly to our school life and community spirit. His thoughtful input and involvement have enriched our school in countless ways, and his presence will be deeply missed by staff, children, and families alike. We are grateful for the positive impact he has had and wish him every success and happiness in his new venture.

Partnership for Inclusion of neurodiversity in schools. We are proud to be part of the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS). This partnership brings together NHS England, the Department for Education (DfE), and local partners to transform how schools support neurodiverse children. The PINS initiative focuses on equipping our staff with specialist training, fostering inclusive whole-school environments, and strengthening collaborative relationships with parent-carer forums. These efforts aim to ensure that all neurodiverse children at St Martin and St Mary can thrive in mainstream education, receiving the tailored support they need to reach their full potential. We are committed to nurturing an inclusive community where every child feels valued, understood, and empowered to succeed.

Outstanding payments – Please pay all outstanding payments as soon as possible. Wrap around care, swimming lessons and trips that are in arrears. If you are experiencing difficulty making payment, please contact the school office.

Social Media for children I have been asked to share this information with you regarding discussions in Parliament as they are considering an Australia-style age limit on social media, which means this issue is live in Parliament right now, and your voice can genuinely influence what happens next. Email your MP here: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.eaction.org.uk/raise-the-age>. Please forward this message and share it in school year groups, class chats, sports teams, and family groups. Anyone can take part, and every extra message increases the impact. This isn't party-political – it's about protecting children from addictive, algorithm-driven platforms and making it easier for families to hold the line together. Moments like this don't come around often. Let's make it count.

Brewery Arts Year 4 Dance Tickets for the Brewery Arts Schools Dance Platform 2026 go on sale on Friday 30th January at 11am. Information on how to book is below. Via the website: <https://www.breweryarts.co.uk/brewery-arts-school-dance-platform-2026/> – please note that this link will not be live until Friday 30th January. Over the phone: 01539 725133 – Our phone lines are open Tuesday to Saturday 11am-6.30pm. In person: Foyer Sales Desk is open Tuesday to Saturday 11am-7pm.

Tesco Stronger Starts We are delighted to inform you that our application to the Tesco Stronger Starts initiative has been successfully selected for the customer vote in Tesco stores. Voting will take place in-store from mid-January 2026 until the end of March 2026. This is a fantastic opportunity for our school community to secure funding, as the project with the highest number of votes across our region will receive up to £1,500.

You can support us by voting at the following Tesco stores in our area:

- Kendal Highgate
- Bowness
- Millom Superstore
- Ambleside

Healthy School We kindly ask all parents and carers to provide children with healthy snacks and packed lunches. We are a nut free school. Please consider including:

- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Wholegrain sandwiches or wraps
- Dairy or dairy alternatives such as cheese or yoghurt
- Healthy proteins like lean meats, eggs, or beans

We ask that you do not send sweets, nuts, chocolates, crisps, and sugary snacks to school.

Dolce Survey We would appreciate it if you could complete this survey to review the provision of our school meals provider Dolce. [Dolce Survey](#)

The Lakes Player’s Pantomime Dick Whittington

Thank you for allowing us to raise vital funds for our swimming pool at the end of each of your performances. We raised a £719.13. Thank you to the families and staff members who shook those buckets!

Sponsored Read Hopefully you’ve all been reading plenty this week. Don’t forget to keep reading and collect your sponsor money in. The book fair will be in school from Monday 9th February.

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

Date	Theme/Event
Tuesday 3rd February	Year 5/6 Tenner Project
Week beginning 9 th February	Scholastic Book Fair
Tuesday 10 th February	Parents evening
Wednesday 11 th February	Parents evening
Wednesday 11 th February	Year 5/6 Tenner Project
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February	Half Term break
Monday 2 nd – Wednesday 4 th March	Year 6 London Residential
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day – Taffy Thomas to visit school. More details to follow.
Friday 13 th March	Year 5 cool aeronautics trip
Wednesday 18 th March	Year 4 Brewery Arts Dance
Monday 23 rd March	Easter Parade in school. More details to follow
Thursday 26 th March	Whole School Easter Service
Friday 27 th March	Break up at 2pm.