



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



St Martin and St Mary Church of England Primary School Newsletter No.4 – Friday 19th December 2025

What a busy and joyful Autumn Term it has been at St Martin and St Mary CE Primary! This month has been filled with wonderful highlights including the Elf Run, our festive Christmas Fair, the heartwarming Nativity, the beautiful Christingle service, and of course, the much-anticipated Christmas parties. We also say a fond farewell to Mrs Britton, who is retiring after an incredible 36 years of dedicated teaching. Her commitment and passion have left a lasting impact on our school community, and she will be greatly missed. As we approach the festive season, I would like to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Wednesday 7th January 2026 for another exciting term of learning and growth.

Reminders Another reminder to all parents **not** to drive up the school drive at all during the school day or walk up the drive, please use the footpath and crossing.

As we are a 'healthy school', packed lunches and snacks must be healthy. **We do not allow crisps at playtime as a snack.** More information is on our [website](#). Toast and other items are available to purchase at tuck shop for 25p. Please make sure your child has enough money if they are buying toast.

Arbor app Please make sure you have downloaded the Arbor app. We will not be sending out reminder emails/text messages. **All** communications/reminders will be through the app.



Notifications must be turned on.

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.

Nativity & Elf run Thank you to all of our families who came to watch the fantastic Nativity performances. The ticket sales have raised over £900, which we can use to purchase new resources for our classrooms. Thank you for your support. What a fabulous time the whole school had during our Elf run. Thank you for raising £437 for St Johns Hospice. They are truly grateful.

Thank you Thank you so much to Daniella Draper who has kindly donated Christmas gifts to some of our families. Thank you also to the Windermere and Ambleside Lions who have kindly donated £500 towards our IT upgrades which will be happening over the holidays.

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

Attendance

Our PTA kindly donated a prize for the 57 children who had 100% attendance this term. This is a fabulous achievement! Well done. If your child is unwell it is important that you keep them at home. **Please contact the office daily to inform them of your child's absence. Thank you.**

A message from Mrs Britton

As this is my last Christmas at school, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all of you and your families. It has been a privilege to teach so many children from our Windermere community over the past 36 years. A special joy has been seeing former pupils grow up and now bring their own children to school—many of whom I have had the pleasure to teach as well.

I also want to extend my gratitude to the governors, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to support our school, often without much recognition.

Finally, a big thank you to all the wonderful staff, past and present, from St Martin and St Mary's and Windermere Junior School. I have been fortunate to work alongside such dedicated colleagues who have supported me professionally and personally. You have truly been my school family, and I will miss you all dearly.

Christingle

Despite the awful weather, we enjoyed a lovely Christingle and we were fortunate, as we were in school that our nursery children could join us – what a treat for them!

During our service, we celebrated Jesus, the Light of the World, and the new life and hope he brings – and we raised awareness to support the work of The Children's Society, who help children and young people across this country hold onto light and hope themselves. If you would like to donate to our Christingle link for The Children's Society, please use the link or the QR code.



<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/christingle/st-martin-st-mary-c-e-primary-school-princes-road>

A message from our PTA chair

Thank you so much for your continued support of the PTA's fundraising events. This term, we have enjoyed a fantastic movie evening and a fabulous Christmas Fair, with our very special visitor helping us raise over **£2,580!** These events would not have been possible without the support of our amazing teachers and parents, and we are extremely grateful for all their help. If you would like to join the PTA or volunteer at an occasional event, please feel free to email me at athompson@windermere.cumbria.sch.uk I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the new year with more exciting events planned. Amy Thompson.

Christmas Services in our community

Sunday 21st December 6pm Carol Service – St Mary's Church and St Martin's Church

Christmas Eve 3pm Christingle Service - St Martin's Church

11.30pm First Eucharist of Christmas - St Martin's Church

Christmas Day 10am Holy Communion - St Martin's Church 11am Holy Communion - St Mary's Church

A message from our Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Governors, I would like to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2026. Once again it has been a very busy Autumn term and our thanks goes out to our staff team along with all of our families for making this another amazing start to the academic year.

Louise Swindlehurst, our Interim Head Teacher has led our fantastic team again this term and we are delighted to have her in this role. Louise has continued to show great leadership and management of our lovely school and her interim headship will continue until at least the end of this academic year.

The Governors are working hard with the Local Authority and Diocese to appoint a permanent Head Teacher; however, this process has been complicated and lengthened by a number of issues, not least our financial position. Please trust that we will keep you updated and know that in the meantime, Louise will continue in her interim role. Louise continues to be supported incredibly well by all members of our school community and for this, I thank you. Jen Braithwaite.

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

Date	Theme/Event
Tuesday 6 th January	School Inset day. School closed to pupils.
Wednesday 7 th January	School opens
Tuesday 13 th January	PTA meeting – all welcome
Wednesday 14 th January	KS1 animal encounter with Zoobidoo
Week beginning 26 th January	Sponsored Read
Tuesday 27 th January	KS1 walk to Millerground
Wednesday 28 th January	Year 5/6 Tenner Project
Wednesday 4 th February	Year 5/6 Tenner Project
Thursday 5 th February	KS1 Church visit (provisional)
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
Friday 13 th March	Year 5 cool aeronautics trip
Thursday 26 th March	Whole School Easter Service
Friday 27 th March	Break up at 2pm.

Friendship Love Forgiveness Trust Honesty Faith