

Welcome Back Welcome back — and a warm hello to all our children and families! As we begin this new term, we're excited to see friendships grow and cooperation flourish across the school. Here at St Martin and St Mary, we believe learning is at its best when children work kindly together, help one another, and try new things as a team. Please can I remind you that your child needs a coat and drinks bottle with them every day. A reminder of our uniform expectations can be found on our [website](#). We can't wait to watch every child thrive as they learn, laugh and cooperate with their friends. This term, we are thinking about our School Vision and our value of **Friendship and Cooperation**.



Attendance Well done to all of those children who received a treat at the end of last term for excellent attendance throughout the summer term. We look forward to rewarding those children with excellent attendance at the end of Autumn Term too. Please inform the school office before 9am on each day of absence if your child is going to be absent from school due to illness. Absence requests forms are available here

<https://www.windermere.cumbria.sch.uk/absence-requests>



Swimming Pool Thank you to all of our families and members of the local community who have supported our public swimming sessions throughout the summer holidays. They proved very popular! Year 5 and 6 have started their swimming lessons this term and it is great to see the pool continuing to stay open.

Parents' Evenings In the week beginning the 19th October, we will have our first Parents' Evening of the year. This will run over 2 evenings to try to ensure all parents can attend. If you can't

attend, please try to make an alternative appointment to speak with your child's class teacher.

House Captains I am pleased to announce the following children have been selected as House Captains for this academic year. Each candidate prepared and presented a speech to their classmates, demonstrating their leadership qualities, confidence, and commitment to our school values.

- Helvellyn Captains: Anya and Matt. Vice-Captain: Mia.
- Bowfell Captains: Mila and Noah. Vice-Captain: Lula.
- Skiddaw Captains: Jack and Bethan. Vice-Captain: Pippa.
- Great Gable Captains: Oscar and Ella-Rose. Vice-Captain: Sophie.



Thank you to all Year 6 children who stood for election and showed great courage and enthusiasm.

PTA Thank you to everyone who attended last week's PTA AGM and to the volunteers who give their time to support our school. Remember, we are all members of the PTA: in the current climate the school increasingly relies on their financial support to pay for the extra things that make school life so special — trips, clubs, equipment and those lovely treats at events. With the Christmas Fair coming up, the PTA would be very grateful for donations of raffle prizes, unwanted gifts or new items we can use for hampers and stalls. If you can help, please drop donations at the school office; every contribution, however small, really helps. Don't forget to sign up for the Movie Night this Thursday - [The Rise of Gru](#).

Arbor app Please make sure you have downloaded the Arbor app. All communications/reminders will be through the app; [Getting started - Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App](#).



Acceptable Use Agreement – This year we are asking families to complete our Online Safety Acceptable Use Agreement online. This is an important agreement and a good opportunity for you to talk with your children about how to stay safe online and in the digital world.

Our AUAs are full of good advice that you could implement at home to keep your children safe and happy. We also have further information and resources on our school website, and, as you know, our school subscribes to National Online Safety, a helpful resource that all parents can access for free;

<https://www.windermere.cumbria.sch.uk/online-safety/>

Please can you click on the relevant link below and discuss the agreement with your child. When you click 'submit', we will know that you have shared and understand this agreement. Many thanks.

[Link for children in EYFS/KS1](#)

[Link for children in KS2](#)

[Link for parents](#)

Christmas performances and Christmas Church Service The Reception and KS1 Christmas Nativity performances will be taking place Tuesday 8th, Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th December at 9.30am. These are ticketed events – more details to follow. We will be holding a whole school Christingle service at St Mary's Church on Thursday 17th December – more details to follow.

Cygnets Playgroup 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](#)

Administrator and Clerk to the Governors vacancy We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, highly organised and approachable Primary School Administrator and Clerk to Governors to join our school team. For details of the role, please refer our [school website](#).

Pre-School & Nursery open afternoons We will be offering tours to prospective parents of our Pre-School and Nursery on Wednesday 11th November.

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

Date	Theme/Event
Thursday 1 st October	PTA Movie Night
Wednesday 7 th October – Friday 9 th October	Year 5 Patterdale Residential
Week beginning 19 th October	Parents evening
Thursday 22 nd October	9.30am EYFS/KS1 Harvest Festival 1.30pm KS2 Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church
Friday 23 rd October	Individual Photographs PTA Tuck Shop 3.15pm
Week beginning 2 nd November	Bikeability
Monday 2 nd November	Flu Vaccines
Wednesday 4 th November	Year 4 Art Workshop
Wednesday 18 th November	Year 4 Art Workshop
Tuesday 8 th December 9.30am	Nativity
Wednesday 9 th December 9.30am	Nativity
Thursday 10 th December 9.30am	Nativity
Thursday 17 th December	Whole School Christingle
Friday 18 th December	School breaks up at 2pm

Friendship Love Forgiveness Trust Honesty Faith