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

St Martin and St Mary Church of England Primary School

CARLISLE DIOCESE

St Martin and St Mary Church of England Primary School Newsletter No.3 – Friday 27th November 2026

As always, school has been bustling with activity and excitement. We took time to mark Remembrance Day with respect and reflection. Our House Captains and Vice Captains laid wreaths and crosses at the war memorial, honouring those who have served. Thank you for all of the Children in Need donations we raised £343.30. Looking ahead, we have many exciting events on the horizon as we prepare for the festive season. Keep a close eye on the school calendar so you don't miss out on any of the wonderful activities planned for Christmas!



School Christmas lunch - This year, school Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 16th December. Christmas dinner orders must be placed on SchoolGrid **by Monday 7th December 2026**.

Reminders When parking outside school please park considerately and keep the safety of others in mind. Please do not block driveways on Oldfield Road. Please remember that we share Prince's Road with St Cuthbert's School and we must keep their families safe too.

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.

Outstanding payments – Please can all outstanding payments be settled as soon as possible. Wrap around care, swimming lessons and trips have not been paid for. There is currently **£2030** outstanding from families. If you are experiencing difficulty in paying, please contact the school office. As you can imagine this makes it difficult for school to provide other niceties for the children.



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 EYFs and KS1

Link for children in KS2

Link for parents

Staffing Updates We say a sad goodbye to Louise Harrison today. We wish her the best of luck with her new job. We hope to see you out and about in the community. We will miss you.

Dolce We are very excited about the release of the new menu coming in January 2027! Keep your eyes peeled.

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**

PTA– Dates and Events Last week, every family received an update letter about PTA events in the run up to Christmas and our Christmas Fair. All of these dates are available on the school calendar on the website. https://www.trybooking.com/uk/HFDX Tickets are selling out fast for our movie night!

Shoebox Appeal A thank you - Collecting for this year's appeal has finished but thanks once again for your school taking part. There will be 1831 children who will be so excited to receive one of our superb boxes. So much joy has been given to children who have nothing, but only possible because of the dozens of helpers who work each year towards this week. One hundred of the boxes will be going to an orphanage in Ukraine for 14 -18-year-olds whose lives have been shattered by war. The other boxes are now in Wrexham to be transported out to Romania, Ukraine, Moldova, Bosnia and Georgia.

FIDS Feel, Imagine, Do, Share Our FIDS groups are now well underway and the children are working together across school to find solutions to problems within our school, locally, nationally and worldwide.

Attendance You may well have heard about Mrs Stephenson's very exciting worship time recently! She has started a new attendance initiative that will run every month as Mrs Stephenson's motto is 'Attend Every Day – Every Day Matters!' There will be prizes each month for children who have the best attendance they can, this ensures that if children are ill and must be absent from school, they may still receive a prize! Punctuality is also important so please ensure your child arrives at school on time. For Key stage 1 and 2 the doors will close at 9am. If your child's door is closed when you arrive, please take them to the main office to sign in late.

Christmas performances and KS2 Christmas Church Service 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 and details have been sent out to families last week on how to purchase tickets. Our whole school Christingle service will be at St Mary's Church on Thursday 17th December.

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

Date	Theme/Event
Wednesday 25th November	Year 6 maths reasoning The Lakes School
Tuesday 1st December	PTA Movie Night – That Christmas.
Wednesday 2nd December	11.45am January Nursery Starters Meeting KS2 visit to Windermere School to watch 'Into the Woods'
Thursday 3rd December	Reception and Year 6 Measurement checks
Monday 7th December	Whole school Nativity dress rehearsal
Tuesday 8th December	Nativity
Wednesday 9th December	Nativity
Thursday 10th December	Nativity Mini Police & Choir to sing at Birthwaite
Friday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day Mini Police & Choir to sing at Marchesi Centre
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Dinner Christmas Fair
Thursday 17th December	Whole School Christingle St Mary's Church
Friday 18th December	Christmas parties **Pre School/Nursery finish at 12 noon.** **Reception to Year 6 finish at 2pm**
Tuesday 5th January	**School reopens**

Friendship Love Forgiveness Trust Honesty Faith