

NEWSLETTER

Strive † Aspire † Succeed

Spring Issue 01—10th January 2025



Welcome back to the start of the Spring Term. We hope the children enjoyed their snack and catch-up with their friends in classrooms on Tuesday morning. We have an exciting term planned and look forward to lots of enriching learning opportunities. We started the week with a double rainbow over the school on Monday afternoon, captured by Miss Delpech and ended with a hard frost!



Christmas card fundraising In December we raised a fantastic £622 by parents ordering Christmas cards through xmas4schools. A fantastic amount, the highest we have raised through this initiative. A special thank you to one of our parents, Mrs Rafter, who gave up a huge amount of her time helping to organise and coordinate this project.



St Martin's Year 6 Digital Detox

Monday 20th January –
Friday 31st January 2025



A Specsavers investigation shows that children aged between 5-16 spend at least 6 hours a day looking at screens. When they turn 11 this number increases to almost 9 hours a week. At St Martin's we are going to have a 'digital detox' for just 11 days to see how it impacts our mental health and daily life. We would like some Year 6 children (and their parents if they wish) to join us in reducing or limiting their screen time during this period of time. For more details, letters were sent out this week. [Click here to view letter](#) if you haven't seen it. If your child is in Year 6 and would like to join, please sign the slip and return to Mrs Heasman in Pine class.

WE'RE NOT ANTI-TECH, WE'RE PRO-CHILDHOOD
(Smart Phone Free Childhood)

Aspens newsletter [Click here](#) to read healthy food facts in the January Aspens newsletter. Also, see page 5 for special lunch menus on 16th and 23rd January.

Next Manner of the Week

We look at the person who is speaking to us.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 13th Jan— After school clubs start for Spring Term

Fri 17th Jan—Spotlight on learning Assembly, Vole class, 9am, large hall

Thur 23rd Jan—O2 Young Voices Choir concert, O2 arena, 7pm

Fri 24th Jan—PTFA meeting, 9am, in school

Fri 24th Jan— Spotlight on Learning assembly, Otter class, 9am, large hall

Mon 27th Jan—SEND coffee afternoon, 2.30pm, infant hall

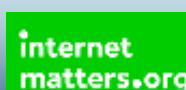
Mon 27th Jan—PTFA secondhand uniform sale, 3.10pm, large playground

SEND coffee We have our next SEND Coffee Afternoon on **Monday 27th January at 2.30pm** in the small hall. If you would like to attend, please email inclusionadmin@stmartinsepsom.school



Forest School clothing To clarify, the children will go to Forest School in all weathers. Please remember to have their wellies and coats in school on the correct days.

Message from Mrs Kelleher Happy New Year! Thank you so much to *all* of you who sent cards and gifts, both individuals and classes. It was so very thoughtful and generous of you all. What a term. Bring on the Spring!



English as an additional language

We are looking to create a wonderful display of all the additional languages in our schools. As part of this we would love to receive a postcard or Christmas card from any of our EAL families, written in your first language. If you would like, you are more than welcome to translate your message into English underneath. Once complete, please hand these into the school office.

Thank you!

English as an Additional Language books We now have lots of EAL books in our library and around school, please encourage your child to take a look. If there are any other languages that you would like to be represented, please do let us know. Likewise, if you have a book that you would like to share with the schools, we would love to hear from you.



Book Corner

Happy New Year from the Book Corner!

Our library was particularly popular at lunchtimes as the chilly temperatures set in. It was wonderful to see so many of the children snug and cosy on the sofas reading a variety of books and magazines with their friends.

Thank you to Emily from Oak class for her donation of books to the library. Thanks also to Arthur from Pine class for his donation of books.

New books from the very successful book fair are continuing to be introduced this week to a great level of excitement. The books are released over the course of the week so that all year groups get a fair chance to select the newest titles. I have informed the children if they have a brand-new book to return it in their next library session so that the maximum number of children can also have access to the newer titles. New books really do increase reading enthusiasm, and I have tried to make sure that we have sourced some of the most requested authors and books.

As we are introducing the new books to the library, I would be grateful for no further book donations at this time.

I do hope that everyone had a restful break and found time to read some wonderful books or listen to some audiobooks. If you want to share a story you have really enjoyed, we would love for you to share a short book review. Please write a summary of the story in two sentences and explain why you think your friends will like it. Give your review to me during lunchtime or your library session to be included in the Book Corner.

Should you have any questions about the library or upcoming Book Fairs please do not hesitate to contact me on Librarian@stmartinsepsom.school



School Attendance

Each week in the newsletter we will tell you the school attendance for the previous week and list the classes who had the highest attendance. This will commence again next week for the start of the Spring term.

A few attendance reminders at the start of the Spring Term



Please make sure your child arrives at school promptly. This gives them time to settle in the classroom, be present for the register and ready to start their learning. It can be very disruptive for those children who regularly arrive late and miss vital instruction time from their teacher at the beginning of the day.

All pupil attendance is monitored weekly. If we have any attendance concerns, the school we will get in touch to look at ways of working with you to improve this.

If you are reporting absence for your child, please email or phone the school office as early as possible in the morning with the reason for absence.



Attendance Ladder





PTFA news

ptfaepsom@gmail.com

We are on Facebook and Instagram  

Next PTFA meeting is:

NEW DATEFriday 24th January at 9am
Venue: to be confirmed

Dates and Information

Happy New Year and Welcome Back to the Spring Term!

We hope you all had a lovely break and are looking forward to the term ahead.

Our key updates for you this week are as follows:

Secondhand Uniform Sale on Monday 13th January rescheduled to Monday 27th January

Apologies to all parents and carers but we have had to reschedule the next uniform sale for a couple of weeks. The sale will now take place on Monday 27th January after school from 3:10pm in the Junior Playground. (This is subject to weather & having enough volunteers.)

If your child needs uniform before the next sale please speak to the school office and they will assist.

Help needed please: We need the volunteer support of a couple of Reception parents and carers to help Jenny Bond set up / run the uniform sale between 2pm – 4:30pm on Monday 27th January and / or restock the shelves on Monday 3rd February. If you can help for both or either, please reach out to your Class Rep!

Year 6 Hoodie Orders & Trailblazers Event

Please order your Year 6 Hoodie if you haven't already! The deadline is next Wednesday 15th January!

The 2025 Year 6 Trailblazer event will take place on Sunday 8th June! For more details see the email sent to year 6 parents today or the poster on page 4.



Upcoming PTFA Meeting Changes

The next PTFA Meeting scheduled for next Friday 17th January @ 8am in the school library will now take place on **Friday 24th January @ 9am** in the school (venue TBC).



PLAY THE PTFA LOTTERY: RAISE FUNDS AND WIN MONEY FOR YOU!

Each year the PTFA runs a lottery called "the 100 Club" giving you the opportunity to win cash prizes as well as raising funds for the school.

How it works - £2 buys you one ticket for one month. You and your family can buy as many tickets as you wish. The prize pool is 45% of the money raised each month, with the rest donated to the PTFA.

A draw takes place on or around the last Friday of each month and if you win, a bank transfer will be made to your account. Further information is available via the online store below.

Buying tickets - scan the QR code above with your phone camera to be taken to the online store (<https://st-martins-epsom-ptfa-100-club.sumupstore.com>).

If you have any questions, please contact: Alan Becken at smartins100club@gmail.com





In 2024, Year 6 raised money for charity and their Leavers Party through several events, one of which was the Junior Trailblazers Hike.

Forty kids walked 25 km from Leith Hill to St Martin's, raising over £10k. They were accompanied throughout, they completed a few shorter training hikes together in the preceding months, and they had a huge amount of fun. It was designed to bring them together before departing for various secondary schools and to make them aware of charities that need our support.

In 2025, we plan to go again on Sunday 8th June.

More details will be published over the coming weeks when we'll start to register interest but please save the date.


- While 25 km is far, the kids are more than capable.
- It'll take 7 - 8 hours, but with three main stops and several short breaks.
- There is no need to accompany your child, but you are welcome to do so.
- We have First Aid trained and DBS checked parents involved.
- Competing alone promotes independence, but it is a fun event for you to enjoy with them.
- Assuming we can secure a sponsor, we plan to provide t-shirts to all participants, kids and adults. The kids looked great wearing the same gear.
- We need people to support the three main formal stops, to prepare for the kids' arrival and arranging water, juice, snacks, etc. You don't need to walk to participate.
- Ideally, we'd aim to raise at least £100 per person, but participation is more important.

This is a great opportunity for the kids to bond through raising money for charity before leaving St Martin's in the summer for their next adventure.

Thanks in advance for your support.


Gretchen Rusby-Gale, Angela Ford, Joanne Becken, Kalli Pasqualucci, Leanne Walsh and Ashleigh Mayger.

Why School Meals are GREAT



Lunch time is an important part of a child's school day, giving pupils a break with friends and the chance to recharge their batteries. But why should you choose a school meal? Take a look at the ten great reasons we have come up with!

- 1 School meals are delicious, healthy, safe, varied and could be free!
- 2 Measures have been taken around staff training, food safety and enhanced cleaning to ensure that all of our dinners are safe.
- 3 It would save you hours making packed lunches for your child!
- 4 Children receiving Free School Meals have exactly the same choice as everyone else and no-one will know that your child's meal is free.
- 5 You can see the menus and choices online, and on the app, so you know exactly what they'll be eating.
- 6 The school catering team is fully trained and ready to cater for children with allergies or other special diets.
- 7 School meals help encourage good eating habits from an early age and provide the opportunity to further develop their social skills as they sit down with friends to enjoy their meals.
- 8 There are plenty of opportunities to try new foods and more fussy eaters are much more likely to try new things if their friends are eating the same meals as they are.
- 9 It's easy to apply - speak to your school office for details or check your eligibility here: www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals
- 10 You'll be supporting the school too. Schools receive extra government grants for every child who is claiming Free School Meals. That can be used to pay for more books, computers, special events and much more.



Save Money

Potential saving of £450

LUNCHTIME FREE MEAL

Healthy, nutritious and freshly made daily

EVERY child in Reception Year 1 & 2 can have a **FREE** school lunch.

Please contact reception for details

FOOD FESTIVAL

By Aspens



LUNAR NEW YEAR

23rd January

Golden Dragon Sweet & Sour Chicken Noodles
(Wok Fried Oriental Veg)
Or
Fortune Veggie Chinese Noodles
(Wok Fried Oriental Veg)

And

Lunar Luck Ginger & Coconut Cookie





Aspens Fun Lunch!

Don't miss out on **Thursday 16th January**

Beef Burgers
Or **Vegetable Fingers**
Chips and Sweetcorn

Pasta or Jacket Potato
with Assorted Toppings

Chocolate Cake
Fruit
Yogurt

Order an Aspens Lunch and if you Find a Lucky Ticket under your plate you win a Prize!

Aspens



TRY OLYMPIC FENCING



EPSOM FENCING CLUB

VENUE: BLENHEIM HIGH SCHOOL
KT19 9BH

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE FOR MORE
DETAILS AND A BOOKING FORM:

www.epsomfencingclub.org

or txt 07799 346829

Next Beginners Classes start Wed 15 Jan 2025
The next Junior (9-13) Fencing Beginners 10 week course
will start Wed 15 Jan 2025 7-8pm at Blenheim High
School, Longmead Road, Epsom, Surrey, KT19 9BH.

Adult class (14+) is 8-9pm. Cost is £120 for Junior Course
and £130 for Adult course: [More details here:](#)

There is also new option for parents to take part at the
same time as your child (if they are U14 at 7pm-8pm it
would be a separate class, or 8-9pm if they are 14 and
over (both in same class). Parent and Child Course
(P&C12) cost is £240 for both which is a 10% discount.
Adult class (14+) is 8-9pm.

If under 9, we also have a class on a Sat 10-11am in
Merton SW20 9DB for 7-12 year olds (and then 11-1pm
for those who have fenced before and have their own
kit).

Please also reply to info@epsomfencingclub.org if you
are interested in attending.