

NEWSLETTER



Strive † Aspire † Succeed

Autumn Issue 03—22nd September 2023

A big congratulations to the Year 6 boys for a great win at the Epsom College football tournament on Wednesday, remaining undefeated. Well done to them all. Please have a good read through this week's newsletter—we have an Open Morning coming up on Wednesday 4th October which is a chance for you to come into school to your child's classroom and see the work they are doing. Hopefully many of you have been able to come to the PTFA Welcome Picnic after school today and get the chance to meet and chat to other parents. Have a lovely weekend.

Next Manner of the Week

We sit properly at the table.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tues 26th Sept—Epsom & Ewell Tag Rugby Tournament, Priest Hill, 1-4pm

Wed 4th Oct—Coffee morning about volunteering in school, 9.30am, Infant Hall

Wed 4th Oct—Open Morning, 8.45-9.25am

Fri 6th Oct—Epsom College Cross Country Tournament, 2-3pm

Fri 6th Oct—Harvest assemblies in school

Mon 9th-Wed 11th Oct—School Photographs

What's been happening in school this week

Fulham Football Club Fundraising The children all had a great time shooting goals on Thursday and Friday. It was great to see the reception year children join in with such enthusiasm and excitement. Thankfully, the rain did not stop the action since the goals were moved into the infant hall.

A reminder that there are great prizes to be won for sponsorship raised such as a signed football, drawstring bag, a free day of soccer school provision in holidays plus 2x tickets to a Fulham FC match (men or women). Please return all sponsorship forms and money raised to your child's class teacher or the school office by Friday 29th September.



Dog waiting areas Thank you all for your help supporting our trial with the 'Dog Waiting Areas' in the playgrounds. The area in the Key Stage 1 playground is working well and will continue to be in the same space.



The area in the Key stage 2 playground is working less well as adults in the dog waiting areas cannot see their children when they come out of school. From next week, if you bring a dog to school and you wait in the Key Stage 2 (large) playground, please wait/stand by the fences around the outside of the playground which means the dogs will be further in distance from those people waiting who are not so keen on dogs. All dogs should be on leads and well-controlled. Thank you for your consideration.

Early Years drop-off and collection

Parents and carers who drop off and collect children in Early Years—please can you make sure that you enter and exit the Early Years entrance the same way—you must not use the back of the school. During Covid we had a one-way system in place, however it is now essential that you enter/exit from the same entrance for both safeguarding and security reasons.

School Tel No: 01372 846930

Email: office@stmartinsepsom.school



Active Ambassador

This week's Active Ambassador is Meryem in Year 6 for always trying so hard in our games lessons and always putting herself forward for every sporting opportunity she can with a positive attitude.



Football winners! This team of Year 6 boys attended a football tournament at Epsom College on Wednesday morning. The team performed amazingly well, displaying fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the tournament; both on and off the pitch!

They remained undefeated throughout the whole tournament and showed great perseverance, even under pressure to win two penalty shootouts, and progress to the final of the trophy competition. Their super football skills and attitudes saw them win the final 1-0 and bring back a trophy to school. St. Martin's are extremely proud of them and how they represented the school, well done boys!

OPEN DOOR SESSION

Wednesday 4th October (8.45-9.25am)

On Wednesday 4th October we will be holding our first open morning session of the academic year. The session will run from 8.45am to 9.25am. Please be aware that normal school hours apply and children are expected to be in school by 8.55am, as usual.

For this open-doors session, you are welcome to come into your child's classroom and spend time with your child, sharing their learning.

The purpose of this open morning session is:

- To provide an opportunity for parents / carers to come in to school and engage with their child's learning; children will have their books out for you to look through with your child
- To showcase and celebrate learning in our school and school life
- To provide a greater understanding of our curriculum and our expectations

Please note that there is no expectation that you attend this session or stay for the full duration – more open-door sessions will be offered during the school year. There will be an afternoon 'Open Afternoon' on Tuesday 12th December.

School photographs Individual and sibling photos will be happening between Monday 9th and Wednesday 11th October. Please be aware that your children will need to be in **clean, full school uniform** so they look smart for their photos. At present we have planned that the individual photos will be taken on the first two days and sibling photos will be on the last day.

Volunteers coffee morning

On **Wednesday 4th October at 9.30am** there will be a coffee morning in the Infant Hall to discuss volunteering at St. Martins. If this is something you may be interested in doing then please come and join us. We will be discussing the sort of volunteering you could do, as well as safeguarding, training and health and safety. We can give you paperwork to take home with you if you decide this is something you would like to do.



Christmas card fundraising In the coming weeks your children will be completing a beautiful piece of artwork in school that can be used for creating Christmas cards, mugs and other gift worthy pieces! When the art work comes home in your child's bag, please fill in the form clearly, follow the instructions on the accompanying leaflet and send it back into school **via the school office.**

Xmas4schools™





The Book Corner

Welcome to all our new families and I hope that everyone is enjoying the library. Huge thanks to Robyn in Hawthorn and Teddy in Juniper for their donations of books to the library and particular thanks to Abigail from Pine class for a very generous donation of books. The Bunny vs Monkey books flew off the shelves! Thank you to Polly from Chestnut for the fantastic collection of Daisy books.



In November we are expecting the next Scholastic book fair in the library after school. Watch this space for more details and a competition to design a poster for the fair where you could win a £5 book voucher.

If you have ever read a Little people, Big dreams book or yet to discover these beautifully illustrated biographical books on famous people from Jesse Owens to David Attenborough, Polesden Lacey are running a trail at the National Trust property for children from now until the end of October. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/surrey/polesden-lacey/little-people-big-dreams-exhibition-and-trail-at-polesden-lacey>



We have many of these titles in the library and we are hoping to continue to expand our collection as they are popular with both Key stage 1 and Key stage 2.

If you have any questions about overdue/lost library books please email: librarian@stmartinsepsom.school

Having fun with our Fulham FC fundraising event this week!



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. If you have any queries or concerns about your child's attendance, please email the school office.

A reminder that if you are requesting leave of absence from school for your child, a form this must be completed at least 2 weeks before the requested absence, as per our Attendance Policy.

Last week's attendance

Infants— 95.8%

Juniors— 96.6%

Highest class attendance— 100%



**Mole
Holly
Maple**

Well done!!



PTFA Welcome Back picnic tonight





PTFA news

ptfaepsom@gmail.com

We are on Facebook
and Instagram.



Next PTFA meeting is Tuesday 10th October, 8pm

Dates and Information

PTFA Meeting September

Thank you to all class reps and everyone else who attended our first PTFA meeting of the year on Tuesday. We had an amazing turnout and there was lots to discuss. Your class rep has allocated you a stall at Fireworks; Spring Fair and Summer Fair. The classes that didn't attend, these were allocated for you. We will publish them as soon as possible. Minutes will be sent out in due course. There is a lot of information on there so please do take time to have a look.

Parent Survey

Our parent survey closes next Friday, 29th September. We can only improve with your feedback, so please, take a minute to fill it in for us.

Fireworks night, Friday 3rd November

We are looking for volunteers to form a committee for this event. Please get in touch if you are able to help. All stalls have been allocated to all classes so we will send this out asap so you can get planning. Please keep it free in your diaries. The event will run from 5-7.30pm but the set up will be for the day of Friday 3rd November if you are able to help.

Christmas Hamper help

We are looking for coordinators for the Christmas Hamper raffle. If you can help with this we would be grateful. We are also looking for help compiling the hampers. If you would like to do this, please let us know.

PTFA video and survey

We hope you enjoyed our PTFA video. If you didn't get to see it, watch it here. [Click to watch the video.](#)

We are carrying out a survey of PTFA events and activities. It would be great if you could give us a few minutes of your time to fill it in. This was sent out to parents by email this morning. The cut off date for responses is Friday 29th September.

[Complete survey.](#)

100club

Join the PTFA 100 Club - Raise funds and win money!

Each year the PTFA runs a private 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 per month buys you one ticket, which enters you into the monthly draw. The prize pool is 45% of the money raised each month, with the rest donated to 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.

NEW - You can now buy tickets online, just click [this link](#) or scan the QR code.

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





Aspens information

This winter Aspens have decided to withdraw the sandwich option from the Autumn/ Winter menu. This is due to the rising cost of commodities such as dairy, meat & bakery products as well as our intention to supply nutritious hot meal options to our customers during the colder weather. We are hopeful that the sandwich option may return during our Spring / Summer menu.

We are aware of the current difficulties many families face to provide their children a hot, balanced meal. Therefore, we have gone beyond what is legally required in the School Food Standards by our child specific nutrition analysis tool. This means that during menu development, we analyse the nutritional composition of dishes against gender and age specific RNIs (reference nutrient intakes) meaning we are confident that the food offered can meet the dietary needs of all growing children.

In addition, we have also tracked key nutrients over the past 12 months and can share the following successes:

SUGAR

We have seen a 22% decrease in sugar since the last menu cycle in our desserts. Exciting new fruit options such as watermelon have provided innovation whilst reducing added sugar frequency.

SALT

Salt has reduced by 2% on average since September 22

Menu Spotlight - Veggie Korma, Wholegrain Rice, Broccoli is our salt showstopper with only 0.1g salt per serving.

FIBRE

We have increased the fibre in our main meals on average by 24%. The average intake of our recipes is 6.7, one third of a way to the 20g a day children should be achieving.

Menu Spotlight - The Veggie Lentil & Onion Pie, Roasties, Carrots, Gravy contains an impressive 70% of a child recommended daily intake for fibre.

PROTEIN

We have increased protein by 9.5% from the last menu cycle meaning the average protein per portion is 15g and provides a highly satisfying meal.

Menu Spotlight - Our highest protein showstopper is our Meatball Marinara & Pasta, Mixed Salad providing over 70% of recommended protein - regardless of age. Another recipe that provides a great source of protein is the BBQ Drizzle Pizza, Wedges, Peas with over 16g protein per serving. This demonstrates how balanced our recipes are.

PLANT VARIETY

We have increased the amount of plants on our menus by 22% (36 to 44 varieties). Demonstrating how we are supporting gut health and nutrient dense food.

Menu Spotlight - Fruit and veg that have been introduced into the menu cycle include aubergines, beansprouts, pineapple, leeks, spring onions and watermelon.

With regards to carbohydrate counts we can share the following information - All food composition data (e.g the carbohydrate content of our products) are held in our recipe management database. The buying team ensures this information is kept up to date during product switches. This is crucial because foods are constantly being reformulated in response to consumer demand and Government guidelines to make food healthier. Many apps and tools available to the public will use averages when displaying nutritional information, this is why experts say product specific data is key to ensuring accuracy.

Aspens



HARVEST FESTIVAL 2023


This year we will be celebrating Harvest in school as part of our assemblies on **Friday 6th October**.

As in previous years, we invite our school community to donate to our chosen charity - Epsom and Ewell Foodbank. Donations may be brought into school from Monday 2nd October. Please can we ask that children take any donations to their classrooms and not the school office.

The foodbank have asked for the items listed below. Please ensure all donations are well in date, do not contain any alcohol and are sealed. Refrigerated or frozen items won't be accepted.

Requested items:

Instant mash	Cereal (not porridge)	Weetabix
Rice pudding	Chocolate spread	Instant coffee
Biscuits	Noodles	Jam, Honey, Marmalade
Ketchup, Brown sauce, Mayo	Custard	Shampoo / Conditioner
Deodorant	Shower gel / Soap	Chocolate/ sweet treats



Values Tie and Stars of the Week



Badger- Values Tie: Adam and Millie. Superstar: Kayla
Star of the week: Maggie for showing our school values of courage and friendship this week.

Dormouse– Values Tie: Monty and Kamilla. Superstar: Emily
Star of the week: Lilith for always making really good choices and being very helpful towards her peers. She is amazing!

Fox - Values Tie: Naz and Havin. Superstar: Betsy
Star of the week: Thomas - you are a wonderful, confident and happy member of Fox Class. You have made many friends and try to make great choices. Keep it up!

Hedgehog- Values Tie: Isla and Mila. Superstar: Sophie
Star of the week: Wilf-for being a real Thinking Thedrick in English and Maths —Wilf has been thinking hard about his learning and applying it during independent tasks to make his work even better. Well done, Wilf!

Mole– Values Tie: Ethan W-P & Asadullah. Superstar: Sophie B-M
Star of the week: Noa has had an amazing week in Year One! I have been so impressed with Noa’s writing in our English lessons. She has been constantly using her full stops and capital letters when writing her sentences as well as having such beautiful hand writing! Well done, Noa!

Otter– Values Tie: Joshua and Zeekie. Superstar: Chloe
Star of the week: Estelle has really impressed all adults in Otter class. She has started Year 1 with a positive attitude and is willing to give new activities a go even if they prove challenging at first. Not to mention her fantastic sentence that she wrote in English on Wednesday. Well done Estelle!

Rabbit– Values Tie: Michael and Ava. Superstar: Emily
Star of the week: Jacob B has worked incredibly hard this week and has been a fantastic 'Thinking Thedrick' across the curriculum. Well done, Jacob.

Squirrel– Values Tie: Alex and Florence. Superstar: Nancy
Star of the week: Charlie has really impressed me with how hard he has been working in Squirrel Class. He has been a great Thinking Thedrick, giving every piece of work his all and has been taking real pride in his work! Well done, Charlie!

Vole – Values Tie: Olivia and Rudy. Superstar: Stanley
Star of the week: Evie has been a fantastic Resourceful Reggie this week showing creativity and perseverance when making sculptures with different materials in Art. She has also impressed me with her great positive attitude towards writing and ability to take feedback and act on it. Well done, Evie!

Meerkat– Star of the week: Lydia for showing our school value of friendship this week and for contributing well as part of the KS2 pupil forum group.

Holly– Values Tie: Deana and Micah. Superstar: Daniel
Star of the week: Well done Monica for working hard in English this week, innovating our model text 'Jim and the Beanstalk'. Your ideas were so imaginative!

Juniper– Values Tie: Cassidy and Finley. Superstar: Ava H-C
Star of the week: Well done to Emmie (Ka Yu) for not only settling into St. Martin's beautifully but showing super science skills whilst learning about the skeleton and muscles. She has shown a conscientious attitude and labelled her work beautifully. Keep up the excellent quality of work. Well done!

Willow– Values Tie: Myla and Harvey. Superstar: Emily
Star of the week: Well done to Alexa for her fabulous work innovating the story of Jim and the Beanstalk in English this week. I was very impressed by your amazing use of expanded noun phrases and your creative ideas. Keep up the super listening and great participation. Well done!

Maple– Values Tie: Mason and Heidi. Superstar: Isabelle E
Star of the week: Bea for a super, first 3-minute talk. Fantastic work ethic and beautifully presented learning outcomes. Well done, Bea - keep it up!

Poplar– Values Tie: Oscar and Akhira. Superstar: William
Star of the week: Lily - for your excellent reasoning skills in maths this week. You've really impressed me.

Plum– Values Tie: Jonathan and Isabella. Superstar: Nia
Star of the week: Darius for his fantastic groupings of different animals in our science lesson this week. Well done Darius!

Hawthorn– Values Tie: Alfie and Benita. Superstar: Emilie
Star of the week: Elodie for her recent instruction writing in English. Elodie wrote a detailed and accurate set of instructions with very little input from her teacher. I was very impressed!

Hazel- Values Tie: Madeleine and Ralph. Superstar: Joshua
Star of the week: Olivia for her super scientific skills!

Beech– Values Tie: Sidney and Amelia. Superstar: Jessie
Star of the week: Adrian for contributing enthusiastically in all lessons with thoughtful, interesting and accurate answers and ideas. A really positive start, well done!

Pine– Values Tie: Leo P and Charlotte H. Superstar: Josh L
Star of the week: Danny L for his excellent contributions to class discussion; always listening carefully and responding thoughtfully. Keep it up!

Oak– Values Tie: Rita and Jemima. Superstar: Matilda
Star of the week: Hannah for sharing such fascinating WWII family memories with Oak Class. Thank you!

Chestnut– Values Tie: Mikail and Yan Kiu. Superstar: Elsa
Star of the week: Timmy for a great start to Year 6 and, particularly, for excellent work in English, writing some fabulous poems.

