

# NEWSLETTER



Strive † Aspire † Succeed

Spring Issue 01—9th January 2026

Welcome back to the start of the Spring Term. Please look through the newsletter each week to see what is going on in school and upcoming diary dates.

**Spring Term Lunchtime Clubs** Spring Term staff led lunchtime clubs will commence week beginning Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January. For this half term, clubs will run week beginning 19.1.26, 26.1.26, 2.2.26 and 9.2.26.



Early next week, we will send out the lists of clubs available to children and the link for parents/carers to sign up for a club for a child in Year 1 and/or 2. Please note that lunchtime clubs for Early Years children will commence in the Summer term.



**Family Support Worker drop-in clinic** On Tuesday 20th January, from 1-3pm, our school's Family Support Worker will be in school for a drop-in clinic. If you have any worries you'd like to chat through, advice needed or support around your children's behaviour, emotional wellbeing, housing, finances, your own emotional health or anything else that is impacting family life please get in touch.

To book an appointment in advance, please email me directly on [howens@schoolsoutreachservice.org](mailto:howens@schoolsoutreachservice.org) with your name and preference of appointment. You will be allocated a set time from there. Heather Owens-Leather—Family Support Worker

**Mandarin Club** Shujie who runs the after school Mandarin Club on Fridays would like to offer a one session **free trial** to see if your child would enjoy learning a new language or improve on what they have already been learning. If your child is interested in trying the club, please contact Shujie using the details on the [leaflet on the school website](#).

## Spotlight on Learning Assemblies ...

Throughout the year, each class will be leading an assembly, sharing what they have been learning. These pupil-led sessions will give the children an opportunity to discuss their favourite parts of the curriculum so far and show some of their work. Parents and carers are invited to attend their class' Spotlight on Learning Assembly. Each assembly will be held at 9am, in the large hall and will last approximately 15 minutes. In the interests of the pupils leading the assembly, we request that you consider carefully whether it is appropriate for any non-school age children to attend.

See table on right for Spotlight on Learning Assemblies in the Spring term.

Class	Date
Vole	16-Jan
Hedgehog	23-Jan
Chestnut	30-Jan
Hawthorn	6-Feb
Poplar	27-Feb
Juniper	6-Mar
Rabbit	13-Mar
Otter	20-Mar
Pine	27-Mar

**Next Manner of the Week**  
We use our cutlery correctly.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY .....

**Mon 12th Jan**—Early Years Road Safety Magic Show

**Mon 12th Jan**—PTFA meeting, 8pm, Derby Arms pub, Epsom Downs

**Fri 16th Jan**—Spotlight on Learning Assembly, Vole class, 9am, large hall

**Fri 16th Jan—Fri 30th Jan**—Year 6 Digital Detox Initiative

**Fri 16th Jan**—PTFA second-hand uniform sale, 3.25pm, large playground

**Mon 19th Jan**—Spring Term Lunchtime Clubs start

**Mon 19th-Fri 23rd Jan**—Zactiv Sponsored Sports Week

**Tues 20th Jan**—Family Support Worker drop-in session, 1-3pm

**Thur 22nd Jan**—O2 choir Young Voices concert, O2 arena London, leaving school @12.30pm

**Fri 23rd Jan** - Spotlight on Learning Assembly, Hedgehog class, 9am, large hall

**Fri 23rd Jan**—Football league match HOME v St Clements School, selected children, 3.45pm

**Christmas decorations** We would be grateful for donations of any Christmas decorations or artificial trees that you might be clearing out in January if you are thinking of throwing any out! Thank you in advance.



## Attendance Penalty Fines

A reminder at the beginning of the Spring term: From September 2025 our school began formally enforcing attendance penalty fines in line with

[Department for Education \(DfE\) guidance](#) and our [Attendance Policy](#). While this has always been part of our school's policy, we will now be taking a firmer approach to unauthorised absences.

Regular attendance at school is not only a legal requirement but also crucial for children's learning, progress and overall development. Missing school days can have a significant impact on both academic outcomes and a child's sense of belonging and routine.

**Penalty notices may be issued where there are unauthorised absences, including unauthorised holidays taken during term time or persistent absenteeism without valid medical or exceptional reasons. All schools are required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons during a 10 week period. These absences do not have to be consecutive.**

The current fine is £80 per parent, per child, rising to £160 if not paid within 21 days. This follows the national guidance set out by the government and our local authority.

We strongly encourage all families to support their child's education by:

- Booking holidays outside of term time
- Attending medical appointments outside of school hours where possible
- Ensuring children attend school regularly and on time

We remain committed to working in partnership with families to promote excellent attendance and provide early support where there are genuine difficulties. If you are facing challenges with your child's attendance, please speak to your child's class teacher or the school office.

Every request for absence will be considered on its own merit at the headteacher's and Attendance Officer's discretion. We may require medical evidence where applicable.

If you need to put in a request for absence for your child, a form must be completed and returned to the school office for the attention of the Attendance Officer. These are available from the school office or website. This must be done at least 2 weeks in advance of the requested dates.

## School Matters!



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**



### Book Corner .....

Happy New Year to all.

I hope that you all enjoyed a well-deserved break. The library has been a popular option for the chilly lunchtimes this week. It has been lovely to see friends catching up over games of Top Trumps, building marble runs or drawing together.

**2026 is the National Year of Reading.** We would like you to suggest any ideas that you have that would encourage a love of books in your house.

Please enter our poster competition to celebrate the National Year of Reading. The winners will be prominently displayed in the library and around the school. Open to all year groups and in any format. Please send entries to [librarian@stmartinsepsom.school](mailto:librarian@stmartinsepsom.school) or hand in to the school office by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January. Please have a think about how you feel when you are reading a favourite book, or an action book, a scary book or a funny book.

Would you like recommendations from your friends or family for your next book?

See how many of these titles you can find in the library? What sort of books would you like to see more of? Recently we have been growing our graphic novels selection. Is there a series that you love and think your friends would enjoy?



Thank you to Olivia from Hazel class and Mrs Miller from the staff for their generous donations of books.

Wishing you all a very happy year of reading!

Please contact me if you have any queries regarding the library at:

[librarian@stmartinsepsom.school](mailto:librarian@stmartinsepsom.school)



## PTFA news .....

[ptfaepsom@gmail.com](mailto:ptfaepsom@gmail.com)

We are on Facebook and Instagram  

Next PTFA meeting:

Monday 12th January at 8pm

Venue: Derby Arms pub

### Dates and Information .....

#### Zactive Sponsored Sports Week

During w/c Mon 19th January all children in the school will participate in their year group voted sports activity as part of the fund raising for the recently launched Zactiv Health & Wellbeing platform and programme now available in the school.

Please help your child gather together some sponsorship for their participation in the chosen activity using the sponsorship form sent home in book bags at the end of last term. Also excitingly the new series of Gladiators is starting on BBC1 on Sat 17-January at 5:45pm, which is great timing for the children to see Zactiv and his fellow Gladiators in action!

#### PTFA Quiz Night—Friday 30th January

Put your knowledge to the test at our annual Quiz Night. Join us for an enjoyable evening with plenty of chances to get the answer right, win prizes, have a few drinks and enjoy dinner from the chippie!

Gather together a group of up to 10 team members, or we can add you to a team, and get your tickets now on our Sumup store - <https://stmartinsepsom-ptfa.sumupstore.com/product/quiz-night-2026>. Ticket sales close and food orders need to be confirmed by Friday 23rd January.

Don't forget to name your team, be creative as there will be a prize available for the best team name! Once decided, please email your team name and members to [ptfaepsom@gmail.com](mailto:ptfaepsom@gmail.com).

#### Lost Property

The lost property baskets will be sorted on Thursday 15th January. Please check the baskets prior to this date if you know your child has any missing items.

Any remaining named items will be returned to the office so that staff can try to return them to children. Any un-named items of good quality uniform will be sold at the next PTFA uniform sale. All other un-named items of clothing will be taken for clothes recycling.

#### PTFA Uniform Sale

The next PTFA Uniform Sale will take place on Friday 16th January at 3:25pm in the Junior Playground (weather dependent).

**FRIDAY 30 JANUARY 2026**

# QUIZ NIGHT

Infant School Hall

Doors open: 6:15pm  
Quiz starts: 7:00pm  
Food served: 8:00pm

Licensed Bar

£18 - Ticket includes food  
(Fish/spring roll/veggie burger & Chips)

Teams of up to 10 members  
Prizes for best team name & overall winners!

**PLEASE BUY YOUR TICKETS FROM THE PTFA SUMUP STORE:**

Buy tickets before 23 January  
Adults only

## NEXT MEETING

Monday 12th Jan

# 8.00PM

Derby Arms  
Epsom Downs  
KT18 5LE

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