

NEWSLETTER

Strive † Aspire † Succeed

Spring Issue 08—6th March 2026



Willow class was full of magicians, some superheroes and a small capybara!



World Book Day ...

Parent workshop We would like to invite you to a parent workshop, 'Managing Worries and Anxieties'. Join us on **Friday 27th March at 9.10am** in the Happy Shack room and meet our local Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioners who are linked to Mind Works Surrey. Staff will be offering advice and support to help you manage your child's anxieties and worries.

A parental handout will be shared following the event. You are also invited to access additional resources using the QR code below. We look forward to welcoming you into school on this date and hope you are able to join us.
Mrs Hughes, SENDCo



Umbrellas at St Martin's Children are not permitted to bring or use umbrellas in school, including on the playground. Umbrellas can pose safety risks such as tripping hazards, limited visibility during supervision, and the potential for accidental injury from pointed tips or sudden movements in crowded areas.

Parents and carers are encouraged to provide children with weather appropriate clothing—such as waterproof coats with hoods—to support safe and practical outdoor movement during wet weather.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Mon 9th-Fri 13th March—Marchants Hill residential trip, year 6

Mon 9th March—Year 4 Epsom & Ewell Schools tag rugby tournament, selected children, 1pm start, Glyn playing fields

Wed 11th March—Year 4 Spinnaker Day in school

Wed 11th March—SEND coffee morning, 9am, Happy Shack room

Fri 13th March—Spotlight on Learning Assembly—Rabbit Class, 9am, Junior Hall

Fri 13th March—PTFA school disco for Early Years to Year 5, see poster on page 4 for timings

Mon 16th March—Epsom & Ewell Schools netball rally, selected children, Rosebery School, 4-6pm

Tues 17th March—Theatre visit in school of 'The Secret Garden' for all year groups

Wed 18th March—Year 2 trip to British Wildlife Centre

Fri 20th March—Red Nose Day—non-uniform day in school

Fri 20th March—PTFA meeting, 8am, in school, Room 9

Fri 20th March—Spotlight on Learning Assembly, Otter Class, 9am, large hall

Mon 23rd March—Epsom & Ewell Schools Music Festival dress rehearsal, selected children Years 2 and 6, Epsom Playhouse, during school day, packed lunch required

Tues 24th and Wed 25th March—Epsom & Ewell Schools Music Festival, selected children in Years 2 and 6, Epsom Playhouse, 5-7pm

Fri 27th March—Spotlight on Learning Assembly, Pine Class, 9am, large hall

Fri 27th March—Parent Workshop 'Managing Worries and Anxieties', 9.10am, Happy Shack room

Fri 27th March—Last day of Spring Term: Early Finish:

Early Years, Year 1 and 2—1.15pm
Years 3-6—1.20pm

Mon 13th April—Start of Summer term



Ordering lunches Another polite reminder to please remember to order your child's school lunches in advance. The morning cut-off time for ordering is 9am. As already emailed to year 6 parents, if your child is going on the Marchants Hill residential trip next week, please remember to cancel any lunches ordered for Tues 10th—Fri 13th March. Thank you.

Ultimate Frisbee success Last weekend Oscar in Hawthorn Class, Year 5, won gold at the UK Ultimate Frisbee Indoor U14 Championship along with his older brother Charlie and a group of other Year 7/8 boys as part of Epsom Ultimate. This built on from their silver medals last year. Oscar was the youngest team member by 2 school years but still scored goals and made a significant contribution. Well done Oscar.



Some news from our after school Art Club

All the rain we have had recently inspired us to look at Leonardo da Vinci's black chalk and ink drawings of The Deluge (The Flood). As well as a painter, an inventor and a true genius, Leonardo was a great observer of all natural phenomena and he made several studies of water which are noted by physics experts for their accuracy in terms of how water moves and how extreme weather behaves all these centuries later. We tried out some homemade iron gall ink using quill pens, which is what Leonardo would have used.



We have also been painting beautiful Bengal tigers, looking at how the black stripes and markings define the shape of the face. Each one is totally individual and has so much character, reflecting the young artists who painted them!



Attendance

EVERY day
counts
attendance matters

**Attendance last week:
23rd – 27th February 2026**

Infant Attendance: 96%
Highest class was Hedgehog with 98%.

Junior attendance: 96.3%
Highest class was Juniper with 100%. Brilliant!
Closely followed by Willow class (99.3%).



PTFA news

ptfaepsom@gmail.com

We are on Facebook & Instagram

PTFA Spring Disco ticket sales closing Sunday 8th March

The Spring Disco is taking place next Friday. Last chance to buy your Spring Disco tickets and sign up to volunteer!

Access www.pta-events.co.uk/stmartinsepsom-ptfa for all details by Sunday 8th March @ 6pm.

Please refer to the poster on page 4 for the times and venue for each year group.

If your child normally attends Club Vale on a Friday, Club Vale will support taking your child to the disco and / or collecting them from the disco, so these children don't need to miss out. Please let Club Vale know if you would like them to do this for you and let us know when you answer the questions when you buy the tickets online.

We would love to play the songs that the kids want to hear. Please let your class rep know your favourites - each class can propose their top two choices via the class rep!

Note: this is a normal uniform day.

Second-hand Uniform Sale—Online Form Trial

Thank you to those who have given the online request form a go and provided feedback. We have packaged up all 16 requests and the items should be with your child's class from today. If we haven't got the items you were requesting, we would have been in contact with you.

Any unwanted items can be returned to us via the school office. However, if you're happy with what you receive, we would appreciate a small donation via the Uniforms & Merchandise section on www.pta-events.co.uk/stmartinsepsom-ptfa where you also found the original order form.

The second hand uniform sale will change format over the next term - details to follow soon!

Next PTFA meeting:
Friday 20th March at 8am
Venue: In school—Room 9



Book Corner ...

We have had a fantastic World Book Week, packed with a wide range of book-related activities designed to celebrate reading and inspire a love of books.

The week began with an exciting launch assembly on Monday, setting the tone and introducing the children to all the events planned for the week. Throughout the week, the library was open daily, a book-swap table encouraged children to share and discover new stories, and year-group meet-ups gave pupils the chance to enjoy and share stories together. There were coded book trails hidden around the school, a fun challenge to guess book titles from emojis, and the highlight for many children was ending each day with The Masked Reader – Teacher Edition.



Some impressive squishmallows and stuffed toys were popular in Maple class.



Early Years starting the day with some World Book Day themed writing

The week was rounded off with a brilliant World Book Day, filled with excitement as children arrived in their pyjamas and costumes, proudly sharing their favourite books with friends. We started the day with juice and pancakes before enjoying more book-themed activities, including creating book covers and discussing favourite stories.

The whole school has also been immersed in *Journey* by Aaron Becker – a beautifully illustrated, wordless adventure book that has captured the imagination of every year group. With no text to guide them, the children enthusiastically stepped into the role of storytellers, debating what they thought was happening in the narrative, exploring characters' thoughts and feelings, and discussing the significance of colour throughout the story.

Across the school, classes created their own artwork inspired by the magical worlds that lie behind the book's iconic red door and produced a range of high-quality writing. Children planned and wrote playscripts, crafted vivid setting descriptions, experimented with dialogue, and even developed ideas for their own sequels.

The engagement, creativity and outcomes from all year groups have been fantastic. It has been a truly inspiring week of storytelling, imagination and writing!

A huge thank you to all our teachers and support staff for their enthusiasm and hard work during World Book Week, and for continuing to promote a love and enjoyment of reading as part of the National Year of Reading.

A special thank you to all the parents that have supported World Book Day and made it really special for all the children. We hope everyone had a great day celebrating books and reading.



We had some comfortable onesies, a vampire and a witch in Plum class.

Thank you for your generosity—£289 has been collected so far for our World Book Day donation, which will go towards providing the breakfast cost and new books for the library. You can still make a contribution via Scopay if you wish.

Mrs Hawkes and the English team



Early Years finished the day with a trip to the library for some stories about a Mole on a quest and a Supertato with a bubbly problem.

SCHOOL DISCO!



FRIDAY 13 MARCH



Infant Hall:

Early Years:

4:00 - 4:45

Year 2:

5:00 - 5:45

Year 4:

6:00 - 6:45

Junior Hall:

Year 1:

4:00 - 4:45

Year 3:

5:00 - 5:45

Year 5:

6:00 - 6:45

Ticket Price: £6



Scan the QR Code
to buy tickets

Ticket sales close
Sunday 08 March

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stmartinsepsom-ptfa>

Plus... * Grill & Chill hot food * A Bar * A tuck shop for snacks *

Values Tie and Stars of the Week



Badger- Values Tie: Mirabel. Superstar: Hannah C

Star of the week: Theodore is always showing all of our school values and has been writing some AMAZING sentences in class this week!

Dormouse– Values Tie: Raffy. Superstar: Evan

Star of the week: Leila has been such a fantastic Thinking Thedrick in Dormouse Class. She regularly puts her hand up to contribute to class discussions, and this has been particularly evident during our English and Phonics lessons, where she has shared many well-thought-out sentences. Well done Leila, keep up the super work!

Fox - Values Tie: Chijindum. Superstar: Asha

Star of the week: Lily has been a real Thinking Thedrick this week. She has thought about and used Set 1 phonics sounds when writing words independently and has made fantastic progress. Keep up the hard work Lily, you are shining!

Hedgehog- Values Tie: Josh. Superstar: Mayson

Star of the week: Amelia was a real Thinking Thedrick in English. She wrote a lovely description of her innovated setting, remembering everything from our All the Time Toolkit. Well done, Amelia!

Mole– Values Tie: Bethan. Superstar: Amelie

Star of the week: Martha has been working hard with her reading and moved up a level. Keep up the great work, Martha!

Otter– Values: Megumi. Superstar: Evie N

Star of the week: Rein has been a Thinking Thedrick this week, whilst engaging well with the activities for World Book Day! I have loved learning about his imagination and ideas when reading 'The Journey'!

Rabbit– Values Tie: Malakai. Superstar: Sila

Star of the week: Effie was being a real Thinking Thedrick whilst planning her innovation for Journey. Well done Effie!

Squirrel– Values Tie: Vlad. Superstar: Altay

Star of the week: Harrison for your excellent contributions during our shared write in English this week.

Vole – Values Tie: Dylan. Superstar: Yilmaz

Star of the week: Kamila for being a Thinking Thedrick adding lots of extra detail when recording key moments of Florence Nightingale's life. Great work historian!

Holly– Values Tie: Jemiah. Superstar: Freya

Star of the week: A huge well done to Bea! Bea has had a fantastic week at school, showing excellent learning behaviours in all lessons. She has worked attentively and listened carefully, showing particularly excellent focus and enthusiasm during our library session, where she really impressed her teachers. Well done, Bea– keep up the great work!

Juniper– Values Tie: Chloe. Superstar: Ariella

Star of the week: Ciela - well done for your fantastic engagement in our recent French lesson!

Willow– Values Tie: Kimmy. Superstar: Wilf

Star of the week: Well done to Amelia for working incredibly hard in English this week. I am very impressed with your brilliant listening and participation, as well as with your thoughtful contributions to our class discussions. Keep up the great learning Amelia!

Maple– Values Tie: Alec. Superstar: Millie

Star of the week: Albie W for always trying his best with his learning and producing a fantastic piece of artwork inspired by Monet. Well done, Albie, keep up the hard work!

Poplar– Values: Brody. Superstar: Tobi

Star of the week: Evie O for your fantastic work this week transporting us to the woods in Journey through your excellent writing in English and beautiful Monet inspired painting in Art. You used your imagination brilliantly.

Plum– Values Tie: James. Superstar: Liam

Star of the week: Freya for her fantastic use of language in her forest description in English. Well done Freya!

Hazel- Values Tie: Emilia. Superstar: Seb

Star of the week: Ivy for her effort in writing a descriptive paragraph about her page in the book called Journey. Well done Ivy and keep up the effort!

Hawthorn- Values Tie: Lilia. Superstar: Ollie

Star of the week: Maisie for her excellent engagement in class this week and for asking great questions during lessons and contributing so much to class discussions.

Beech– Values Tie: Teddy . Superstar: Niamh

Star of the week: Maxwell, well done for working so hard in maths lessons. You share your answers confidently and are making great progress.

Oak-Values Tie: Sophia. Superstar: Matilda

Star of the week: Nia for all of your incredible contributions across different subjects. Your passion for learning is fantastic to see and you are a pleasure to work with.

Chestnut-Values Tie: Cooper. Superstar: Oliver

Star of the week: Eva for all-round positivity and hard work in every lesson.

Pine-Values Tie: Samson. Superstar: Elsie M

Star of the week: Angelina for her fantastic effort in lessons - working incredibly hard to improve her writing and arithmetic skills - well done!






HOLIDAY COURSES

OFSTED REGISTERED MULTI-ACTIVITY FUN SINCE 1991

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE MULTI-SPORTS, ART, DANCE, DISCO, LEGO BUILDING, PUZZLES, THEMED GAMES & MORE!

*** **CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED** ***

EASTER: 30th March – 10th April

- ST MARTIN'S SCHOOLS, EPSOM (KT18 7AD)
- STAMFORD GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL, EPSOM (KT19 8LU)

Rec-Y6 For Boys & Girls	8.45am Start time	4.00pm Finish time	5.30pm Extended Day Finish
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www.headstartsportscamps.com

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A local charity helping older people to feel less alone.

Age Concern Epsom & Ewell Registered Charity 1139652

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. His work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VO247. He has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.

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