

# NEWSLETTER



Strive † Aspire † Succeed

Autumn Issue 04—29th September 2023



What's been happening in school this week .....

This week we have been able to make the most of the Autumn weather with the children very busy outside on the field, playgrounds and in Forest School. Next week many activities will take on a Harvest theme culminating in a KS1 and KS2 assembly next Friday. If you feel able, we would be grateful for food donations which will given to the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank (suggested items on page 5). The children can bring these into their classroom.

## OPEN DOOR SESSION Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October (8.45-9.25am)

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Next Manner of the Week**  
We say 'please' and 'thank you'.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY .....



- 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
- Fri 13th Oct**—Year 5 Butser Farm Trip
- Mon 16th-Fri 20th**—Year 6 Grosvenor Hall Residential Trip
- Fri 20th Oct**—Year 4 Roman Workshop
- Mon 23rd—Fri 27th Oct**—Half Term
- Mon 30th Oct**—Inset Day

### Parking on Squirrels Way

Parents and carers, if you have to drive to school, please park considerately at all times. We

have received several complaints this week from residents on Squirrel Way who are very concerned for the safety of pedestrians.



## Active Ambassador

This week's Active Ambassador is **Josh H** in Oak Class for his fantastic dedication to fundraising (see below).



**Triathlon success** On Saturday Josh in Oak completed his triathlon at Hever Castle, which included a 200m open water swim, 4.8km bike ride and 1.4km run to raise money for the British Heart Foundation in memory of his grandad. He managed to raise over 7k! He has been nominated by the BHF for the "heart hero's award" which he will receive an award for his amazing fundraising at the event in December. Well done Josh!



**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Tag rugby** The Year 5 and 6 children performed brilliantly at the Epsom & Ewell Tag Rugby festival on Tuesday. They demonstrated fantastic teamwork and determination, scoring the highest number of tries and coming

2nd overall in the tournament. We are incredibly proud of all of them for being fantastic ambassadors for our school values.



## The Book Corner

Thank you to Lachlan in Squirrel and Charlotte from Dormouse for a lovely collection of books which I am sure will be a hit with both the infant and junior schools.

We have been the lucky recipients of a lot of books from families in the past few weeks. My aim is to make sure the new books are available to children as quickly as possible.

Lunchtime in the library is proving more popular as the weather becomes more autumnal. The children are having a sociable time drawing, playing board games or reading a book or magazine. Some of our year 6 children are writing packing lists at lunchtimes of things they would like to take to Grosvenor Hall.

If you are looking for book recommendations for your new year group, please go and have a look at [Bookfortopics.com](http://Bookfortopics.com)

Should you have any questions regarding library books please do not hesitate to contact me [librarian@stmartinsepsom.school](mailto: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. 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 must be completed **at least 2 weeks** before the requested absence, as per our Attendance Policy.

Last week's attendance 18th-22nd Sept

Infants— 95.8%

Juniors— 96.5%

Highest class attendance—

Maple—100% ..... FANTASTIC!

School Tel No: 01372 846930  
Email: [office@stmartinsepsom.school](mailto:office@stmartinsepsom.school)



## PTFA news .....

ptfaepsom@gmail.com

Next PTFA meeting is Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 8pm.

Location: Barley Mow pub in Epsom

We are on Facebook  
and Instagram.



### Dates and Information .....

#### Welcome Back Picnic

Thank you to everyone who helped out and attended our Welcome Back Picnic last week. It was a lovely afternoon, and everyone did very well in braving the rain! We are really grateful for the level of volunteer support we received. Your help made it a much more enjoyable event.

#### Parent Survey

Our parent survey closes today, Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September. We can only improve with your feedback, so please take a minute to fill it in for us. [Complete survey.](#)

#### Christmas Card Designs

Your child will be coming home with their designs for Christmas cards, mugs etc. These are always popular and some of the items make great Christmas gifts or keepsakes. Proceeds from any items purchased ([xmas4schools.co.uk](http://xmas4schools.co.uk)) go directly to the PTFA. We are grateful for any support.

#### Fireworks night, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (time change) 4.45-7.30pm but the set up will be for the day of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### First Aid

The PTFA hosted a really successful First Aid course on Saturday morning. Everyone attending felt thoroughly informed and enjoyed the session. Thank you to all of you who attended.

**100**club

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

**The September draw took place today—the winner is Naomi Ahronson with a prize of £41.40.**

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](mailto:smartins100club@gmail.com)



A new section in our weekly newsletter—'Parent to parent'... where parents can make suggestions and recommendations to other parents, anything from books to possible autumn activities or clubs. The following points must be adhered to:

*Name of contributor will need to be listed with their suggestions.*

- *Suggestions are from parents and are not necessarily endorsed by the school.*
- *Should a parent wish to suggest something the school deems in appropriate then we reserve the right to decline/not include.*
- *Parents will not be able to use this as advertising for their own businesses.*

Any requests can be sent to office@stmartinsepsom.school  
FAO the Communications Officer

**This week .....**

Today is **Autumn Moon Festival** being the 15th day of the 8th lunar month. Look up tonight and you will see the full moon will be shining brightly in the sky. The Autumn Moon festival is celebrated by families gathering together to light lanterns, eat moon cakes and appreciate the round moon. The full moon is a symbol for family reunions.. Why is the rabbit the mascot of the festival? Look it up on Google and share it with your teachers and classmates! Wishing you all a wonderful Autumn Moon Festival and joyful times with your friends and families.



**SOCIAL MEDIA**

- 📌 Follow us on Instagram: @stmartins\_ptfa
- 📌 Follow us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/PTFA-St-Martins-C-of-E-School-Epsom-103220342396325

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**PTFA MEETINGS:**

- Tuesday 12th September 2023 - 8pm Rising Sun
- Tuesday 10th October 2023 - 8pm Rising Sun
- Tuesday 14th November 2023 - 8pm Rising Sun
- Tuesday 12th December 2023 - 8pm Rising Sun
- Tuesday 16th January 2024 - 8pm Rising Sun
- Tuesday 13th February 2024 - 8pm Rising Sun
- Tuesday 12th March 2024 - 8pm Rising Sun
- Tuesday 16th April 2024 - 8pm Rising Sun
- Tuesday 14th May 2024 - 8pm Rising Sun
- Tuesday 11th June 2024 - 8pm Rising Sun
- Tuesday 16th July 2024 - 8pm Rising Sun

**PTFA EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:**

- Friday 22nd September 2023 - 3.30pm Welcome Back Picnic (all)
- Friday 3rd November 2023 - 4.45pm Fireworks Night
- Friday 1st December 2023 - Christmas Party (all)
- Wednesday 6th December 2023 - Christmas at ASK (Parents)
- Friday 2nd February 2024 - Quiz Night (parents/guardians)
- Friday 9th February 2024 - Love our school: wear red mufti £1
- Friday 15th March 2024 - 3.30-5pm Spring Fair
- Sunday 21st April 2024 - Spring Hike/Picnic (families/teachers)
- Friday 5th July 2024 - 4-7.30pm Summer Celebration Evening
- Friday 12th July 2024 - Leavers' Party (Year 6)

**THE PTFA...**

**FUND-RAISING**

The PTFA (Parents Teachers and Friends Association) is a registered charity run by parents to raise money for the little (and big) extras provided at school. We fund requests from the children, teachers and parents and would also like to start putting money aside for larger projects, including an all-weather pitch.





# HARVEST FESTIVAL 2023


This year we will be celebrating Harvest in school as part of our assemblies on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 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: Serine and Jack. Superstar: Jamie**

**Star of the week: Effie** for being a Thinking Thedrick working so hard forming our focus phonic sounds this week.

**Dormouse– Values Tie: Dylan and Margot. Superstar: Arthur**

**Star of the week: Amber** for being a Thinking Thedrick during adventure time by finding and naming many objects that have our learnt phonics sounds. Well done Amber, keep up the super work!

**Fox - Values Tie: Betsy and Nova. Superstar: Nerea**

**Star of the week: Narinthorn** for always trying her best with everything that she does. She has grown hugely in confidence since her first day in school and it is lovely to see her so enthusiastic during each task she completes. I am so proud of you!

**Hedgehog- Values Tie: Tomas and Amelia. Superstar: Max**

**Star of the week: Alice** for always showing our values and working quietly and with focus in all lessons to do her best work. Well done, Alice - keep up the great work!

**Mole– Values Tie: Freddie and Skylar. Superstar: Maya**

**Star of the week: Logan** has really impressed me this week during our maths lessons! I have been so impressed with Logan's contributions in class as well as him helping his friends with his clear explanations. He has also been using the different manipulatives in maths extremely well. Amazing Logan! Well done.

**Otter– Values Tie: Grace and Samantha. Superstar: Jude**

**Star of the week: Zeekie** has been able to show what an enthusiastic learner he is! It is wonderful to see such determination at such a young age! Well done Zeekie, keep up the hard work! Well done!

**Rabbit– Values Tie: Yaqoob and Ana. Superstar: Annabelle**

**Star of the week: Hudson** has impressed us with the progress he has made in English this week. He displayed great enthusiasm and stayed focused when writing his journey story. Well done, Hudson.

**Squirrel– Values Tie: Jacob and Selin. Superstar: Izzy**

**Star of the week: Lachlan** has really impressed me with his creative hot task this week in English. He has been a great Thinking Thedrick, demonstrating his wonderful imagination in his journey story! Well done, Lachlan!

**Vole – Values Tie: Adam and Maisie. Superstar: Hanna**

**Star of the week: James** has really impressed me this week with his perseverance and will to improve his own work. He listened to feedback and re wrote his hot task in English, pushing himself to achieve a great piece of writing. A fantastic Resourceful Reggie, well done James!

**Holly– Values Tie: Caleb and Dominic. Superstar: Ivy**

**Star of the week: Well done Amal** for your fantastic contributions in lessons this week and for your efforts in PE.

**Juniper– Values Tie: Evin and Harry. Superstar: Rebecca S**

**Star of the week: Well done to Delilah** for her hard work during Maths this week. I have loved seeing you smile and engaging in the lessons on place value. Keep it up!

**Willow– Values Tie: Johnny and Aureya. Superstar: Ava R**

**Star of the week: Well done to Patrick** for being a fantastic footballer! We were blown away by your super football skills and your perfect penalty shoot out last week. Keep working hard, well done!

**Maple– Values Tie: Leo and Erika. Superstar: Anouk**

**Star of the week: Beau** for his amazing passion for learning, thoughtful contributions to class discussions and all round great work effort. Well done, Beau; keep it up!

**Poplar– Values Tie: Alice and William. Superstar: Aaron**

**Star of the week: Alana** for your enthusiasm and participation in all lessons, and for your excellent science skills this week.

**Plum– Values Tie: Elodie and Sophie K. Superstar: Minnah**

**Star of the week: Oscar** for his fantastic contributions in maths lessons. Keep it up Oscar!

**Hawthorn– Values Tie: Felix & Bethany. Superstar: Yashne**

**Star of the week: Aadhya** for consistently participating well during our maths lessons. Aadhya is always willing to share her answers and her reasoning with the rest of the class.

**Hazel- Values Tie: Charlotte & Hayden. Superstar: Margot**

**Star of the week: Louis H** for his focus and perseverance when tackling column subtraction.

**Beech– Values Tie: Emily and Ayse. Superstar: Annabelle**

**Star of the week: Leo** for making such a great start to Year 5. For settling so well into the routines and expectations of a new year group. Well done Leo!

**Pine– Values Tie: Ollie and Nancy. Superstar: Evelyn**

**Star of the week: Isaac** for his fantastic contributions during our class discussions in RE and for always having such a positive and mature attitude towards his learning.

**Oak– Values Tie: Geoffrey and Casper. Superstar: Riley H**

**Star of the week: Mayowa** for his excellent efforts in maths lessons on addition and subtraction.

**Chestnut– Values Tie: Sophia and Ava. Superstar: Nina**

**Star of the week: Leo** for great work in maths on prime numbers and rules of divisibility.

