

St Martin's CE Newsletter

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Issue 9 21.11.25

Matthew 5:16

Message from the Head:

Across the classrooms, it has been wonderful to see children demonstrating determination and resilience. Whether they've been tackling tricky maths problems, editing their writing, practising reading aloud, or learning new skills in PE, our pupils have been showing that trying your best is what truly matters.

We've also talked with the children about how working hard doesn't mean working *perfectly*. Sometimes it means making mistakes, asking for help, or trying again in a new way. These moments help build confidence and independence, essential skills that will support them throughout their education.

As always, we appreciate the role you play at home—encouraging routines, listening to reading, celebrating progress, and reminding your children that effort is something to be proud of. Your partnership makes a real difference.

Class	Attendance
NBM am	60%
NBM pm	80%
NBM All Day	100%
RAM	93.5%
1LH	83.7%
2EH	97.8%
3DJ	93%
4ZT	95.4%
5SD	97%
SHJ	90.5%
6CB	91.8%
6SW	94.1%
Whole School	92.67%

Inspired by Martin of Tours, our Christian school warmly embraces all. We see our children as courageous advocates, shaping communities now and for the future. Guided by compassion, trust, prayer and a spirit of generosity, our children flourish and shine as beacons of light, making a positive impact on society.



School Notices:

We've got an exciting way for you to support St Martin's and it won't cost you a single penny extra!

Here's how it works: Every time you shop online whether it's for groceries, gifts, clothes, or even booking a holiday 8,000+ retailers like Tesco, M&S, John Lewis, eBay, Argos, ASOS, Booking.com and many more will donate to us for FREE through easyfundraising! Yep, you heard that right raise money just by shopping like usual!

For the month of October, for everyone who joins via the easyfundraising App, we'll get a £2 bonus for each new supporter! Plus, when more than 10 sign up, we'll unlock more bonus funding! It's quick, it's easy, and it's FREE get the App now at and choose to support St Martin's CE Primary West Drayton once installed <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/> Thanks for your continued support.

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These children have all been awarded for showing the school values or 'Shining Brightly' this week—how can you show the school values and let your light shine?

Class	Beacon of the Week	Value Award for the week
1LH	Katie	Whole Class
2EH	Leon	Wais
3DJ	Joey	Aaila
4ZT	Ekjot, Evren &	Myra
5SD	Gunjan	Whole Class
5HJ	Courtney	Whole Class
6CB	Alex	Andrew
6SW	Zach	Isra

Click on the link for the latest updates at St. Martin's Church

<http://www.stmartinwestdrayton.org.uk>

'To enable spiritual growth and show the love of God to everyone'

Question for thought:

Can love help solve problems?

As a family, you can discuss the above question...what do you think?

If you have any safeguarding concerns please ask to speak to one of the following adults: Mr Rowden (Deputy Head, Designated Safeguarding lead), Mrs Coates (Headteacher), Miss Baxter (KS2 Lead) or Miss Higgins (Assistant Headteacher, SENDCo).



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Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been very special for our school.

We have celebrated Martinmas to remember St Martin and all of the good things he did. On Tuesday, we went to the church where Reverend Rosy talked to us about the importance of light and how St Martin let his light shine.

At church we re-enacted a parade to celebrate Martinmas. At school, we continued the day looking at how St Martin left a legacy that we could follow and completed fun activities.

Also this week, lighthouse have created glittery lanterns that they showed to the whole school in worship.

Early years have been looking at communities and maps.

Year 1 have been practising their nativity this week.

Year 2 were looking at micro habitats in science. Next door in year 3, they were investigating in healthy and unhealthy foods.

Year 4 have been writing a newspaper report about Shackleton's expedition.

Year 5 needed to think like engineers when designing their bridges.

Finally, the oldest in the school, Year 6 got into role when taking part in a war cabinet meeting to rescue troops from Dunkirk in their history lesson.

Enjoy your weekend!

0 DAYS OFF 190 DAYS ATTENDED	100%	★ PERFECTION ★ "EXCELLENT ACHIEVEMENT"
4 SCHOOL DAYS OFF EACH YEAR	98%	IMPRESSIVE
7 SCHOOL DAYS OFF EACH YEAR	96%	NEARLY THERE
9 SCHOOL DAYS OFF EACH YEAR	95%	CAN BE IMPROVED "INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF BETTER GRADES"
11 SCHOOL DAYS OFF EACH YEAR	94%	NEEDS TO IMPROVE
20 SCHOOL DAYS OFF EACH YEAR	90%	SERIOUS CONCERNS "CLASSED AS A PERSISTENT ABSENTEE" referred to Education Welfare Service
30 SCHOOL DAYS OFF EACH YEAR	85%	RISK OF PROSECUTION "can be damaging to a student's social, emotional and mental wellbeing"
38 SCHOOL DAYS OFF EACH YEAR	80%	

Diary Dates	
25.11	EMHP Parent Drop in
28.11	Christmas Movie Night
04.12	Early Years Open Day: 10:00 & 16:00
10.12	Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner
12.12	Christmas Activities
w/b 15.12	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performances
19.12	End of Term—School closes @ 14:00
04.01	School closed to pupils
05.01	School reopens to pupils @ 08:35

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The Story of St. Martin of Tours

Martin was born in the 4th century, in what is now Hungary, the son of a Roman officer. Because his father served in the Roman army, Martin was required to join the military as well. But Martin's heart was never in soldiering—he was drawn instead to a life of kindness, humility, and service to God.

One winter day, while Martin was still a young soldier stationed in Gaul (modern-day France), he encountered a beggar at the city gate of Amiens. The man was barely clothed and shivering violently in the freezing cold. Moved by compassion, Martin realized he had nothing to give except the cloak on his own shoulders.

So he took his sword, cut the cloak in two, and wrapped half around the beggar to warm him.

That night, Martin had a dream. Christ appeared to him wearing the half cloak he had given away and said to the angels around Him, *"Martin, though still only a catechumen, has clothed me with this garment."* The dream confirmed for Martin that charity was the true path of Christian life.

Soon after, Martin left the army and was baptized. He sought a simple life of prayer, eventually becoming a monk under St. Hilary of Poitiers. His reputation for holiness grew so quickly that, despite his attempts to avoid attention, the people of Tours insisted on making him their bishop.

As bishop, Martin continued to live humbly. He tirelessly visited the poor, comforted the sick, and confronted injustice. He became known for his gentle leadership, deep compassion, and the many miracles attributed to his prayers.

Martin died in 397, loved by his people, and his feast day—November 11—became one of the most widely celebrated in medieval Europe. His act of sharing his cloak remains one of Christianity's most enduring symbols of generosity.

This week children were asked to think about how their light shone and to reflect on all the wonderful events that have happened in their lives.



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PARENT EVENT

We're planning a new-style parent event for early 2026 and would love your input! Your feedback will help us create a more focused, accessible, and engaging experience, with themed sessions, Q&A opportunities, and practical information on SEND, education, social care, and more. Thank you for taking a few minutes to share your views.

Parent Conference



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School Friend Club @ St. Martin's

Promo code: AutumnMember2025

Valid July 30th 2025—October 24th 2025

Annual Family Registration Fee: £25.00

Session times/rates: 15:15—18:00

£12.25 per day, siblings £11.75 (snacks included)

- Convenient booking online or over the phone
- Sibling discounts
- Totally flexible, to suit your needs
- All staff are fully vetted and trained
- Ofsted registered: if you are eligible for Tax Credits you may receive up to 70% back towards your childcare costs
- Credits/Transfers available with 2 days advanced warning

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