



# St Martin's Primary School

## January Newsletter



### Thinking skills

This week teaching staff spent the first of a 2 day programme learning about how to help our children think critically. The school is introducing a new curriculum in September 2017, part of that new curriculum focuses on enabling children to become reflective, creative and critical thinkers. The training for our staff was led by a UK educationalist Jonathan Hannam and was focused on using Philosophy for children to develop these skills. Through this approach we hope to:

- open up children's learning through the exploration of ideas
- help them see that their ideas have value, and that others have different ideas that have value too
- develop their confidence to ask questions and learn through discussion
- give children a voice and a chance to flourish, to think outside the box and to see that everyone can have inspiring ideas
- grow intelligence

If you want to learn more please visit;  
<http://www.sapere.org.uk/>

### Teaching your child to read: information evening 30<sup>th</sup> January 7- 8pm for children in Year 2 to 6

Helping your child learn to read at home is a key way to support their learning. But once they have mastered the basics of sounding out words, what next? Literacy expert and UK advisor Sarah Cooke will be leading a parent and carer information evening in our school hall on 30<sup>th</sup> January 7-8pm. Sarah will outline useful strategies and activities you can do at home with your child once they can read basic texts with some fluency. If you would like to come along please email our school office. This should be a fantastic evening so please make the time to come along!

### Targets for Writing - connectives

In literacy our focus this term is on 'connectives'; words that we use to join and extend sentences. For example 'I walked the dog. He chased a cat' becomes 'I walked the dog, **unfortunately** he chased the cat'. Try to look for examples when you read with your child and to use connectives when your child writes at home. Examples of connectives include simple words such as **and**, **but** and **so**, and more complex words such as **whenever**, **suddenly**, **consequently** and **although**.

### Numeracy Rainbow targets – Number bonds

In numeracy, the new Rainbow Target's will be sent out soon. These will focus on the rapid recall of a variety of number facts which should be done mentally and at speed. A letter will outline your child's new targets and should be sent home in the next couple of weeks. Could you please help your child practice their targets for short amounts of time on a daily basis as this is the best way to help them retain them.

### Mindfulness

This term children in Year 5 will be learning about mindfulness once a week for 5 weeks during school time as part of their PSHE lessons.

Mindfulness is training in concentration and self-awareness, which can help young people to respond better to the demands of performing well at school and in interactions with their peer group and family. Students have said that mindfulness training has helped them not only with stress, anxiety and relationships but with concentration in lessons, to sleep better and even with sport and music.

### Parents' Forum

If you would like to contribute your views and help shape the school policy, please come along to our next meeting which is on Wednesday **18<sup>th</sup> January** at 6.30pm in the Music & Drama room. All are welcome. This is a chance to discuss school policies and developments. Please email the school office if you would like to attend – [office@stmartins.sch.gg](mailto:office@stmartins.sch.gg)

Happy New year to you all! C. Mason

**Reminder:**  
**SCHOOL CLOSURE**  
**February 6<sup>th</sup> INSET day.**



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### SPRING TERM DIARY 2017

To see a live school calendar accessible from your phone  
or computer please visit:

<http://stmartinsprimaryschool.edublogs.org/school-calendar>

### SPRING TERM 2017

Thursday 5 January	Term Starts (Pupils)
Tuesday 10 January	11+ Familiarisation Paper
Wednesday 11 January	11+ Practice Paper
Tuesday 17 January	11+ Test Paper 1
Wednesday 18 January	Parent Focus Group 6.30 – 7.30pm - All Welcome – Music & Drama Room
Tuesday 24 January	11+ Test Paper 2
Monday 30 January	Yr 2 to Yr 6 Information Evening: Teaching your child to read 7.00pm – 8.00pm
<b>Monday 6 February</b>	<b>School Closed – INSET staff training</b>
Monday 13 February	Yr 1 – Yr 6 Parent Appointments (Monday to Thursday)
Monday 20 February	Half Term
Monday 27 February	Term begins
Tuesday 7 March	Yr R and Yr 5 Dental Screening
Wednesday 15 March	Visit of Lieutenant Governor Sir Ian Corder and Lady Corder
Friday 7 April	Yr 4 Easter Service - All Welcome
Friday 7 April	1.00pm End of Term

### SUMMER TERM 2017

Tuesday 25 April	Summer Term begins (Pupils)
Monday 1 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9 May	Liberation Day Bank Holiday
Wednesday 24 May	Yr 5 Jersey Residential Trip (Wednesday to Friday)
Monday 29 May	Half Term
Monday 5 June	Summer Term commences
Monday 26 June	Yr 4 Residential to Lihou Island (Monday to Thursday)
Friday 21 July	1.00pm End of Term