

September 2018

St Martin's Primary School



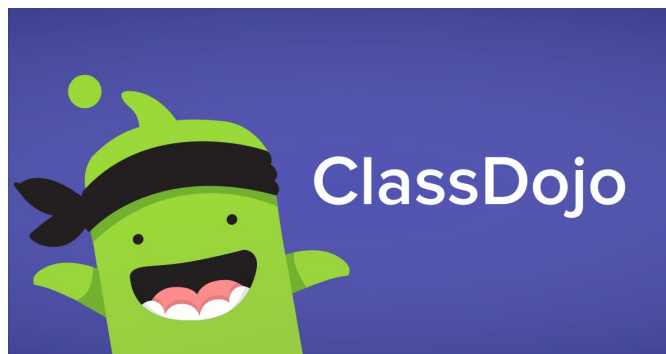
Information Evening Today - Thursday 6th September 7-8 pm

Welcome back to a brand new year at St Martin's Primary School! To kick off the new academic year, we are holding an information evening today, 6th September, at 7pm in the main hall.

Mrs Mason will introduce the new staff team and (briefly) outline changes and developments for the year ahead. This session will be followed by an opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and to see their classroom.

Sharing information between Home and School

Our school blog is being upgraded! We are moving to a new tool for communication with families that can be used for messages to share information about the week ahead and show what the children have been doing in school. Unlike the old blog this is a private feed just shared with families and teachers. Many schools on the island have moved to the ClassDojo and love it. As we are learning how to use this new tool, please be patient with us. The old 'Edu blog' will no longer be used and you will soon receive a letter home explaining how to use and set up ClassDojo.



Please help us with School Routines

As we start a new school year, please support us by reminding children of our school routines. Parents can help by ensuring children –

- ♦ **come into school through their own year group doors (please encourage your child to walk into school on their own– Y5 only come in through the main entrance)**
- ♦ **wear school PE kit and bring it on the correct days**
- ♦ **push bicycles and scooters in the playground**
- ♦ **only play on climbing frames at play times and not before/after school**

Refurbished Year 3 Classrooms and Bell Tower

Two of our classrooms in the old part of the building were in great need of refurbishment. Over the summer the classrooms were stripped back to the bare walls, re-plastered, fitted with new lighting, fresh paint work and modern ceilings. The effect is quite dramatic and has really improved the learning environment for the children. Next stop Year 2, please Education Services! The school bell tower has also been renovated preserving a lovely piece of history. Sadly, the old school bell has had to come down and is in a very poor state. If you know someone who would be willing to restore it, please let us know.



Celebrating Children's Birthdays

When a child has a birthday in school, it's great to celebrate it and make the child feel special. Often children bring in a cake or treat to celebrate their special day. Following discussions with the parent forum and staff, we will no longer be allowing children to bring cakes or treats for the class into school for their birthday. Growing numbers of children have special dietary needs or conditions which mean they cannot eat the cake. We also wish to promote healthy eating in school and allow individual parents to decide when a child can have a treat. As we still want to make each birthday girl or boy feel special they can come into school wearing their own clothes on that day (or the next day after their birthday if it falls on a weekend or holiday) that way everyone will know it's their special day and say Happy Birthday!

Year 5 Keeping Healthy

Year 5 are kicking off the new school year with their topic on Keeping Healthy. Throughout this topic the children will learn about what it means to have a healthy body and mind starting with the importance of being active and the effect that this has on the human body. To help the children with this, Healthspan has donated a 'Nutri-Coach' Activity Tracker to each child in Year 5.



These will track their steps, calories and distance. The children will keep a daily record of these and use these for data handling sessions later in the topic.

Lorenzo Crispini from Healthspan will be in to speak to the children about the trackers and how they work, as well as setting challenges for them to complete.

Assistant Head Teacher Mrs Lindsey Macdonald

Mr John Shack withdrew from his post as Assistant Head Teacher this summer before he joined the staff team. He informed the school that he was unable to rent out his house in the UK and that the cost of rental in Guernsey was too high.

Thankfully, Mrs Lindsey Macdonald has been seconded from Education Services to fulfil both the role as Year 3 class teacher and Assistant Head Teacher. Mrs Macdonald is a very experienced teacher having taught for many years in Halifax. She has taught across the primary age range and was formerly a Deputy Head Teacher. She was also previously a Maths Consultant and worked as part of a school improvement team in the UK. Mrs Macdonald moved to Guernsey and has been working across all the Island Schools as an Education Development Officer. Mrs Macdonald has 3 children who attend St Martin's Primary School and is very excited to be joining our team and we are lucky to have her!



St Martin's Mindset

Last term teachers, children and parents helped to develop a new behaviour policy. Historically we used the Golden Rules and Golden Time (usually on a Friday) as a reward for keeping the rules. The problem with this was a long wait to the end of the week if a child broke a rule and lost Golden Time. So part of our new behaviour policy is to rebrand the rules as school values called 'St Martin's Mind Set'. These are just like the golden rules with the addition of the word 'respect'. We've added this as we want to include good manners and respectful behaviour as part of our central school values.

Please see new behaviour policy on the school website for more information

We are gentle	We don't hurt anyone
We are respectful, kind and helpful	We don't hurt people's feelings
We work hard	We don't waste time
We look after property	We don't waste or damage things
We listen to people	We don't interrupt
We are honest	We don't cover up the truth

Guernsey Air Display

Red Arrows 13th September 2018

Parents and carers wishing to take their children to see the Red Arrow display can collect their children from their classes from 10.30am on the day of the display. Children should return to school as soon as possible after watching the show. We will make lunch time that day a little longer so the children staying at school can watch any planes that fly over the school grounds. Parents/carers who are collecting children must sign their children in and out from school using registers on the tables outside the school office.



Reminder : New school start times for Year 1 and 2

Historically children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 have a shorter day in school; infants start school at 8.55am and juniors at 8.45am. To help parents with busy drop off schedules, we will now open the doors for Year 1 and 2 at 8.45am from September (as we do in Reception). School will still start formally at 8.55am. As there are so many children, parents/carers and buggies it is difficult to find the space for everyone to bring their child right into the classroom so we ask you to encourage your child to say goodbye at the door.

PTA MEETING DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

The PTA meet in the Staff Room at 7.30pm on the following days:

Tuesday 11 September 2018
Thursday 11 October 2018
Tuesday 8 November 2018
Thursday 13 December 2018

All are welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you there.

AUTUMN TERM 2018

Thursday 6 September
Tuesday 11 September
Thursday 13 September
Tuesday 2 October
Wednesday 3 October
Wednesday 10 October
Monday 15 October
Tuesday 16 October
Friday 19 October
Saturday 20 October
**Monday 29 October to
Friday 2 November**

Parent/Carer Information Evening—Main Hall 7.00-7.30pm
PTA Meeting—Staff Room—7.30pm
Guernsey Air Display—Children to be collected at 10.30am
School Nurse Drop In Session—9.00am—10.30am Music & Drama Room
Yr 4 Trip to Castle Cornet
PTA AGM & Meeting—Staff Room @ 7.00pm and 7.30pm respectively
Nasal Flu—Juniors
Nasal Flu—Infants
Individual School Photos with Fitzgeralds—Music & Drama Room
Family Photos with Fitzgeralds 9.00am—11.00am Music & Drama Room

HALF TERM WEEK