



ST MARTIN'S
SCHOOL

Newsletter



WHINLESS DOWN
ACADEMY TRUST

16th January 2026

WHY READING TOGETHER AT HOME MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE — AND IS SO WORTH IT!

We all know how magical it can be when a child snuggles up with a book — whether they're giggling at a funny story or pointing with pride when they recognise a word. But did you know that the time you spend reading with your child really matters for their learning and enjoyment of reading? Here are just a few research-based reasons why:



Reading Builds Skills

Studies show that regular shared reading supports children's development of language structures, vocabulary, listening skills and comprehension. Even small increases in how often children read to can make a real difference.

It Grows a Love of Reading

Children who are read to or with regularly are more likely to enjoy reading and choose to read independently. That enjoyment is important, as children who like reading tend to practice it more and keep improving — especially as they get older.



It's About Connection Too

Reading together isn't just about learning; it's about sharing time and building confidence. Short, relaxed moments count — a bedtime story, a comic on the sofa, or a few pages whenever it fits can make a big difference.

Your Enthusiasm Matters

When reading feels positive and enjoyable, children pick up on that. Approaching it as something you get to do together — rather than something you have to do — helps make reading a happy part of everyday life.



ST MARTIN'S
SCHOOL

LET'S TALK

ABOUT

READING FOR FUN



Have your say!



Friday 23rd January
12:40pm



Margate Classroom

Don't Miss It!

Ideas to Keep Reading Fun at Home:

- Let your child pick books they're excited about — perhaps using comics or following a series with a favourite character in!
- Have "story time" in unexpected places — under a blanket fort, before bath time, or in the garden.
- Encourage grandparents or siblings to read together.
- Talk about pictures, ask silly questions, or act out parts of the story together.
- Get creative - encourage your child to draw characters or scenes from the book!

EARLY ARRIVAL

We would like to remind parents that our doors open at 8:35am and that the gates and registers close at 8:45am. Although it is great to see enthusiasm for being in school nice and early, please can we remind you that children should not be left unsupervised on our site before 8:35am - this is for their own safety.

For those children in years 5 and 6 who walk to school alone, please monitor the time they leave for school to ensure they arrive on time, without being here too early.

Thank you for your support to keep our children safe!

ATTENDANCE



Folkestone Class - 99%



Dymchurch Class - 98.9%



Margate Class - 96.9%

DIARY DATES:

New or changed dates are in blue.

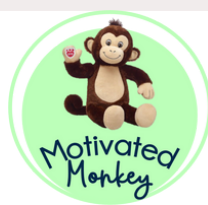
- 22.01.26 Y2 Trip to Priory Fields' Forest school
- 23.01.26 Let's Talk (for pupils)
- 29.01.26 Y5 clarinet day at Priory Fields
- 12.02.26 2pm YR Stay and Play - Parents invited
- 13.02.26 End of Term 3
- 23.02.26 Term 4 Starts
- 23.02.26 Y1 Animal dress up day
- 05.03.26 World Book Day - Dressing up
- 06.03.26 Read Alongside Breakfast
- 11.03.26 and 12.03.26 Parent Consultations
- 17.03.26 Y1 Wingham Wildlife trip
- 18.03.26 Yoga for children
- 19.03.26 Fire Safety Talks for children
- 26.03.26 3:30pm Bold As Brass Concert (Y5/6)
- 02.04.26 End of Term 4
- 20.04.26 Term 5 starts
- 05.05.26 Y1 Trip to One Church
- 11.05.26-14.05.26 Y6 SATs
- 22.05.26 End of Term 5
- 01.06.26 Term 6 Starts

Further Term dates can be found on our school website here: [Term Dates](#)

ONLINE SAFEGUARDING - PARENTAL FILTERS

Parental filters can be a helpful tool in keeping children safer online, blocking inappropriate content and setting age-appropriate boundaries. Filters work best alongside open conversations, regular check-ins and shared online activities, helping children learn how to use the internet safely and confidently as they grow.

Have you reviewed your parental filters recently?



Learning to Dream, Learning to Believe, Able to Succeed