



ST MARTIN'S
SCHOOL

Newsletter



WHINLESS DOWN
ACADEMY TRUST

30th January 2026

COFFEE MORNING

Come along and join Juliet White, our Family Liaison Officer, at one of our monthly coffee mornings in the Eaves Room (opposite the main office).

These are an informal opportunity to have a chat and catch up with Juliet and our other parents. Younger siblings are welcome to attend too!

Typically, our coffee mornings run on the first Monday of each month, from 8:45–9:45am.

On months where there are lots of bank holidays or other school events which may mean we can't run the coffee morning, we may change this to the week before or after so that we don't need to cancel completely.



WHY HOME LEARNING MATTERS

When your child started at St Martin's, we made a shared commitment to support their learning both at school and at home through our home-school agreement.

This academic year, we reviewed our approach to home learning to ensure it links closely to what children are learning in class, so that both parents and children can clearly see its value. Homework provides purposeful opportunities to practise and rehearse core skills, helping children to consolidate new learning and build confidence. Research shows that this approach to home learning can lead to greater academic success for pupils through giving them opportunity to cement core skills.

Regular home learning also helps children develop valuable habits such as organisation, independence, and taking responsibility for their own progress. These skills are particularly important as children move towards secondary school, where homework plays a larger role in learning.

To help homework feel purposeful at home:

- Encourage regular routines rather than last-minute rushes
- Celebrate effort and talk together about the learning

CONTACTING US

You can contact the office on:
01304 206620
or
office@stmartins.kent.sch.uk

Our office is open
Mon-Thurs from 8am-4pm and
Fri 8am-3:30pm

Alternatively, you can contact teachers
directly via the year group emails:

e.g. year4@stmartins.kent.sch.uk

Teaching staff will check emails regularly,
but are not expected to access these
outside of their working day. Please note
that during the day, when children are at
school, our teachers' main priority is
teaching the children therefore urgent
messages should always come through the
school office.



48 HOUR RULE FOR SICKNESS

We have seen an increase in sickness bugs this term, which is typical at this time of year. We just wanted to remind parents that we follow a '48 hour rule' for bugs, meaning that, if your child has a vomiting or diarrhoea bug, we ask that you keep them home for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness. This helps to prevent the spread of infection.

Thank you for your understanding.



Learning to Dream, Learning to Believe, Able to Succeed

DIARY DATES:

New or changed dates are in blue.

02.02.26 Coffee Morning
05.02.26 Y2 Rescheduled Turner Trip
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
02.02.26 Coffee Morning
03.03.26 KS2 girls' rugby workshops
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
27.04.26 Coffee Morning
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](#)

