

# St Martin's Newsletter



AUTUMN TERM - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November

## Children In Need

Next Friday (17<sup>th</sup> November) it is **Children in Need** and to raise money for this worthwhile cause we will be having an **own clothes day**, the theme this year is 'Spotacular' so anything spotty will do, you might even want to paint your faces spotty and of course children are welcome to come into school wearing **Pudsey clothes /ears** if they have them.

## Assembly

There is **no assembly** next week due to Children in Need. The next assembly will be on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** for **Y1's** class assembly.



## Well done to everyone who got a certificate this week.

Purple Tie certificates are given for children who embody our rules of being Kind Respectful and Responsible.

**Year R – Carolyn J**

**Frankie K**

**Year 1 – William B & Jasmine D**

**Gabby C**

**Year 2 – Layton MR & Vanessa K**

**Halle W**

**Year 3 – Isaac T & Imogen T**

**Reggie MW**

**Year 4 – Oliver P & Alizae A**

**Oliver P**

**Year 5 – Hughie-Lee N & Isobel W**

**Laura R**

**Year 6 – Kaitlyn H & Olivia B**

**Elliott C**

## Autumn Term Key Dates

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov:

School Open day for Reception 2024

25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Nov:

Enrolment Mass for First Holy Communions

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov:

KS1 & EYFS Mass at 10am

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec:

Whole school Mass

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec:

EYFS Christmas performance 10am

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec:

KS2 Christmas performance 1.30pm

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec:

KS1 Christmas performance 1.30pm

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec:

Christmas dinner day

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec:

Christmas fayre morning

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec:

Christmas Mass at 10am

Class parties/Finish for Christmas at 1.30pm

## Communication

Just a reminder that there is a **communication 'focus group' meeting** on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November** at **2.30pm** in the breakfast club mobile. This will be a chance to talk about what is good and what needs to change so that we can make communication the best it can be. There will be refreshments available, **All parents are welcome** 😊.

## Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is **anti bullying week** so the children will be completing activities around bullying and what we can do to stop it from happening. We will start the week with an assembly and **World Kindness day** on Monday.

## Attendance

*Year R - 94% 4 Lates*

*Year 1 - 84% 4 Lates*

*Year 2 - 93%*

*\*Year 3 - 91% 3 Lates\**

*Year 4 - 92% 6 Lates*

***Year 5 - 94% 3 Lates***

*Year 6 - 93%*

5 classes with less than 10 lates

**\*Well done to year 3, this weeks Dojo Champs\***

Anyone who comes into school after 8:50am is marked as late.

Please try to be an attendance



## Bags

Please **do not** send your children into school with bags other than their book bag. There is **no space** to store them and when placed in the cloakroom they are causing coats to fall off the pegs and onto the floor which is **a trip and fire hazard**. From Monday any bags will be stored in a cupboard near to the front office and the children will have to collect them at the end of the day.

## Online Safety

This week's safety advice is about **X** <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/x> and is attached with this newsletter.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# X

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

### LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

### VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat take account seeking to exploit other users.

## BLUE TICK SALE

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

### DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

### STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

### ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow; this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

### BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and experts site GGR.co.uk and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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