

St Martin's Newsletter



SPRING TERM - Friday 9th February

Attendance

Whole school **attendance** keeps climbing and this week it is up to to 93.5%. Let's keep up the good work when we come back after the half term 😊.



Assembly

Assembly on the first week back will be led by **Year 2**. Parents and carers are invited to join us.



Attendance

Year R - 92% 3 Lates

Year 1 - 93% 7 Lates

Year 2 - 94%

Year 3 - 95% 9 Lates

Year 4 - 95%

Year 5 - 95% 5 Lates

Year 6 - 91%

4 Classes with less than 10 lates

Well done to year 6, this weeks Dojo Champs

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

Please try to be an attendance



Online Safety

This week's guide examines the video chat service **Monkey**, <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/monkey> highlighting several risks and suggesting ways to minimise them. Click the link or see the attached guide for more information.

Half Term

We break up today for half term at the normal time of 3.25pm. Children return to school on **Monday 19th February** at 8.40am.

Y5 Cookery Lessons

Y5 have been invited up to **OBA** to take part in cookery lessons after the half term. They will be split into two groups and will take it in turns to learn vital life skills and all about healthy eating.



Jewellery

We have had a few occasions of lost and broken jewellery and accidents caused by wearing jewellery in school. Children **should not** wear any Jewellery to school – the only exception to this is small stud earrings. If your child is unable to remove these for PE then they should be taped up in the morning on their PE days. This is a health and safety requirement.



St Martin's Stars

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.

Pre-School – Violet N

Year R – Thomas F

Theo F

Year 1 – Joshua E & Hannah N

Phoebe T

Year 2 – Skyla J & Vanessa K

Kasi N

Year 3 – Pennie S & WHOLE CLASS

Imogen T

Year 4 – Emily F & Joaquin V

Aoife N

Year 5 – Johnathon E & Alex J

Alex J

Year 6 – Eliza P & Phoebe M

Macie B

Request From EYFS

We now have access to the outdoor area but it is very muddy at the moment. If anyone has any **old wellies** that they could donate to Reception class we would really appreciate it. We are after any sizes from **size 7 – size 12** please. Thanks



World Book Week

This year world book week is during **week beginning 4th March**. During this week we will be taking part in many activities to support our love of books and reading.

On **Tuesday 5th March** the book fair arrives and will be with us all week.

Thursday 7th March is world book day and Author Sally Nicholls will be visiting the school. The Children can come to school dressed up and each class will have their own theme.

This year **EYFS (preschool and reception class)** can come in their **pyjamas** with their favourite **bedtime story** and a **teddy**. The themes for all other classes are as follows:



Y1 & Y2 - Fairytales

Y3 - Egyptians / Stone age

Y4 - A character from the book 'Leon and The Place Between'

Y5 – Dress up as their 'hero' remembering not all heros wear capes

Y6 - Baddies i.e. Miss Trunchbull, Medusa



On **Friday 8th March** Reception class will be leading the assembly. Also on this day, to celebrate **Mother's day**, Mums, Grandmas, Nans, Aunties, and any other special lady in the children's lives are invited to stay and read with us throughout the day, each class will be given **time slots**. Children and their grown up can complete world book day activities, read a story and discuss it over a cup of tea and a juice.

There will also be a number of competitions going on throughout this week.



Clubs

The **extra curricular clubs** will be available to book from Monday to begin during the first week back. A reminder that if your child was placed in the **B group** for **Benchball** their turn begins on Monday 19th.



Kindness Challenge

A huge **congratulations** to all our children for completing this challenge. The following children recieved the most kindness dojos in each class:

Amelia R – YR

Isla S – YR

Alice W – Y1

Annie F – Y2

Cathryn J – Y3

Alizae A – Y4

Kaitlyn H – Y6



A special well done to **Jess in Y5** who received the most kindness dojos with an amazing **31!** She received a certificate and a prize.

Dinner Booking System

Thankyou to all the parents/carers that have been using the new booking system to book your child's dinner. You should book your child's meal before **8am on the day** – it is easier to choose meals for the **whole week ahead**.

Even if your child is having packed lunch please book this on the system – this enables us to make sure every child is being fed.

Please encourage your child to have a **HOT** meal. Sandwiches are available for days when children do not like the menu options but are not meant to be a first choice. It is not good value for money to pay the same for a sandwich as you would for the more nutritious hot meal, especially when the weather is cold like present.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION
17+

(although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a fake date of birth)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.



CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.



IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.



INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.



Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.



RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature; young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.



REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is self-governing. If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.



SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday