

# St Martin's Newsletter



SPRING TERM - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February

## Attendance

This week we have remained above 90% with an attendance of **94.15%**. All classes received their puzzle pieces for punctuality for the second week in a row!!!! Thank you and well done! ☺.  
**Y6** - On **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February** Y6 can either come in dressed in PJs, with a cushion/soft toy for a movie afternoon or in own clothes for a sports afternoon (both options will be available).

## 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.

Nursery: Star-	Ava B
Value-	Oliver G
YEAR R: Star-	Bobby C
Purple tie-	Kai W
Value-	Archie F
YEAR 1: Star-	Amelia-Rose R
Purple tie-	Isla S
Value-	Ava-Grace C
YEAR 2: Star-	Olivia T
Purple tie-	Harry A
Value-	Phoebe T
YEAR 3: Star-	Demi-Rose W
Purple tie-	Rosalie C
Value-	Francis M
YEAR 4: Star-	Lennox R
Purple tie-	Lennox R
Value-	Amelia B
YEAR 5: Star-	Zachary G
Purple tie-	Oliver P
Value-	Oliver P
YEAR 6: Star-	Joshua B
Purple tie-	Isobel W
Value-	Isaac H

## World Book Day

World book day is on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March**, to give parents plenty of opportunity to sort costumes, here are the themes for each class this year:

**Pre-School and Reception** - Dress as pirates.

**Y1 and Y2** - animals from books.

**Y3** - based around the book Stone Age Boy - Can be modern day or prehistoric i.e. cave people.

**Y4** - Magical creatures i.e. witches, wizards, fairies, dragons etc.

**Y5** - Characters from Road Dahl books - Willy Wonka, BFG, Matilda, The Twits, etc.

**Y6** - Villains from books e.g Voldermort, Count Olaf, Miss Trunchbull, Cruella De Vil, The White Witch etc.

## Events Calendar

You can now see all **school events** on the School Spider App and on the school website. Please check these regularly to see what is happening during the upcoming week.

## Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word is a resource for parents to use when discussing the [weekly Gospel's](#) with their families.

## For Parents

**Y6 and EYFS Mass:**  
 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 10am  
**Y3 assembly:**  
 Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 9am

**Reading Race Track Reward** - Due to the bad weather when we returned to School in January, the reading racetrack will be extended by 1 week and the reward will take place on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February**.

## Attendance

Nursery - 90% 8 Lates

**Year R - 97% 4 Lates**

Year 1 - 92% 0 Lates

**Year 2 - 97% 3 Lates**

**\*Year 3 - 91% 7 Lates\***

**Year 4 - 97% 3 Lates**

Year 5 - 90% 9 Lates

Year 6 - 95% 3 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



## TTRockstars

Congratulations to **David B** in Y3, **Amelia F** in Y4, **Oscar H** in Y5 and **Joshua B & Isaac H** in Y6 who completed the most minutes on TTRockstars this week as part of our Number day celebrations. The winning class was **Y6** who received an extra playtime today.



## Safety Advice

This free guide breaks down the ways that scammers utilise 'fake news' and other tactics to manipulate their victims, as well as how best to protect young people from these concerns.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

### "CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

### SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

### YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

### FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

### PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

### FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

### ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

### TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

### BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit [OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk](https://OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk) for more.



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