



MARTYRS NEWS



Through Christ we believe, inspire, achieve.



Children with Good News



Welcome to the summer term. I hope that you all had a restful Easter break with your family and friends. We had some really sad news that is shared below, about a former member of staff, Mary Kennedy. Please keep her and her family in your prayers at this time.

A number of parents have not been getting notifications in the Arbor App. Please see page for details on how to ensure you get all the notifications from the Arbor app - this is really important for communication to be as effective as possible, thanks for your support with this!



Mary Kennedy - RIP

Mary Kennedy, our amazing and well-loved welfare assistant and cleaner sadly passed away over the Easter break. Mary had worked here at English Martyrs for over 25 years and was well known by the staff and children alike for her radiant smile and wonderful sense of humour! I know from the many messages that have been shared in school and the conversations I have had with her family that she was extremely well loved and very much a part of the English Martyrs team, even after retiring last year.

*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her,
May she rest in peace. Amen.*

Attendance Matters!

Our school target is **95%+** and we are currently at **95.4%** so far this year, which is really positive!

Fabulous
FRIDAY FIVE

Class Attendance:

1st 4B - 99.4%

2nd 6A - 99.3%

3rd 1A - 97.9%

Holiday Requests

We ask that Parents/Carers complete a Holiday Request Form each time a holiday is taken during school term. You can obtain this form from the school office or on our website: [here](#). From this link you will find details of The Government's Fine Policy - [holidays in term time](#).

Be safe, be happy, have fun!

Events:

Date:	Time:	Event:
22/4/26	6.00pm	PTA meeting
23/4/26	8.45 & 2.45	Y1 parents phonics meeting
27/4/26	9.00am-3.00pm	Reception Windmill Farm Trip
28/4/26	9.00am-3.00pm	Reception Windmill Farm Trip
29/4/26	9.00am-3.00pm	Reception Windmill Farm Trip
1/5/26	9.00am-3.00pm	Reception Windmill Farm Trip
5/5/26	9.00am	2A Peel Port Trip
6/5/26	9.00am-3.00pm	Nurs Martin Mere trip
7/5/26	9.00am	2B Peel Port trip

MARTYRS NEWS

Nursery

By Mrs McIntyre & Mrs Garvey

This week in nursery we have been learning and listening to a new song - 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' by Henry Hall. The children brought in their favourite teddies from home and together they danced, sang and shared stories and snack time.



Reception

By Mrs Morris & Mrs McMeakin

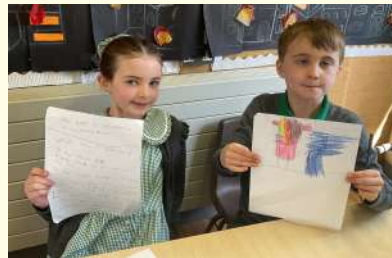
This week we have started tooth brushing in school. Designed to compliment what the children do at home we have been taking it in turns to have a go at brushing our teeth in school. The children have loved getting on their coloured toothbrush train and using their own individual toothbrushes to clean their teeth before they leave school.



Year 2

By Mrs Sothern & Miss Drinkall

To begin our learning on our new text, 'The Last Wolf', the children worked with a partner to research and make a short presentation about an endangered animal which they shared it with the class.



Year 3

By Mrs Dooley & Mr Roach

We enjoyed our first lesson in tennis. We learnt about ball control.



Year 5

By Mr Buckton & Miss Gray

This week in P.E, the children were practicing a range of balance and rolls.



My favourite part of the lesson was working on my headstands.
Isabella - 5A

MARTYRS NEWS

SS SUPERSTARS & STAR OF THE WEEK

Friday 27th March 2026

Friday 17th APRIL 2026

Nur All Day

Rosie

Nur AM

George

RA

Isaac

RB

Charlie

1A

Jordan

1B

Clancy

2A

Bobby

2B

Poppi

3A

Eleanor

3B

Lillie

4A

Sienna

4B

Ethan

5A

Emily

5B

Reuben

6A

Freddie

6B

Oscar

Nur All Day

Posie

Nur AM

Josie

RA

Harrison

RB

Joss

1A

Louie

1B

Willow

2A

Taylor

2B

Gabriella

3A

Scarlett

3B

Eve

4A

Sean

4B

Emily

5A

Arlo

5B

Jax

6A

Molly

6B

Marnie

Golden Pen

KEY STAGE 1

Freya - 1B



KEY STAGE 2

Albie - 3A

Be a Writer

KEY STAGE 1

Taylor - 2A



KEY STAGE 2

Penny - 5A

MARTYRS NEWS

Guinea Pigs on holiday

During the Easter holidays our Guinea Pigs went on an adventure. Lucky stayed with Nate RB, Margo NA and Emeli-Iris 3A. She decided that she liked it so much that she will remain at Margo and Emeli-Iris' house. Cookie and Crumble stayed with Holly RA and Jessica 3A. Mr Harris kindly made them an outdoor run so they could enjoy time in the sun eating lots of grass. Thank you to all of the children and their families for keeping our furry friends safe during the holidays. If you are able to help with guinea pig holidays in the future please let the school office know and we will add you to our contact list.



Start of the day

Can we remind parents to ensure your child comes into school on tidy and ready to learn with everything they need for the day. The office are dealing with an increased number of parents returning to school with forgotten items. This not only takes staff out of the office but also is a disruption to class. Also, please ensure your child brings a coat to school, even if the sun is shining in the morning. The weather is very changeable and if there is light rain the children will still enjoy time outdoors at playtime and lunchtime.

New Planters

As many of you may have noticed, we have generously been gifted 3 large eco friendly planters from United Utilities.

These planters are fantastic additions to our school and community. They work by filtering, cleaning and storing water that would otherwise flood drains and can support plants and wildlife during drought periods. Our children from Eco Council, Gardening Club and Nursery had the privilege of joining the installers to help fill and plant all the plants whilst having demonstrations of how these planters work and what they do for the environment.



★ GOOD NEWS! ★



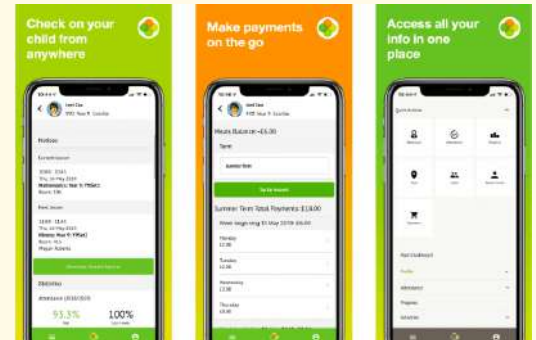
Lucky spent some time during the holidays with Nate from RB



Well Done Everyone! ★

Communication and the Arbor App:

A number of parents are reporting that they have missed important messages from school, even after they have been sent out. Please see the info below to ensure you never miss an important message from school. **Arbor is our MAIN communication tool** and allows us to keep in touch with each other. so it is important that it is working properly for everyone. Any issues, contact the office.



Enabling Push Notifications (Step-by-Step)

Initial Setup: When first installing the Arbor App, click "**Allow**" when prompted to receive notifications.

Android Devices: Go to your phone's **Settings > Apps > Arbor > Notifications** and toggle push notifications **ON**.

iOS Devices (iPhone): Go to **Settings > Notifications > Arbor** and ensure "**Allow Notifications**" is **enabled**. It is recommended to set your banner style to "**Permanent**".

Troubleshooting Notifications

If you are not receiving messages:

Check In-App Settings:

Ensure you are checking the messages section within the app, which highlights new, unread messages in bold.

Restart & Reconnect:

Close the app, switch off notifications in your phone settings, restart your phone, and then turn the notifications back on.

Reinstall:

If notifications still do not appear, uninstall and reinstall the app.

Why Notifications Matter in Arbor

Message Alerts:

Enables immediate alerts for in-app messages sent by the school, which are used to reduce reliance on text messages.

Updates:

Alerts you to updates regarding attendance, clubs, trips, parent evenings or information requests.

Primary Guardian Access:

Note that only primary guardians can receive these notifications.

Helping families to understand the changes for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes have come into force for the Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools after 19th August 2024.

WHO MAY BE FINED?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: **3** siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving **3** separate fines.

NATIONAL THRESHOLD

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of **10 sessions (5 school days)** of unauthorised absence in a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence, including the **U code** (late after registers).

For example: a 5-day holiday would meet the national threshold. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

FIRST OFFENCE:

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be:

£80 per parent, per child if paid within **21** days.
£160 if paid between **22-28** days.

SECOND OFFENCE: (Within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised absence amount will be:

£160 per parent (*who allowed the holiday*) per child, payable within **28** days.

THIRD OFFENCE: (Within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice is not issued. Cases may be presented before a Magistrate's Court. Prosecution may result in a criminal records and fines of up to **£2,500**.

Cases found guilty in Magistrate's Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education.'



Term Dates 2025-26

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Autumn Term 2025 - (73 Days)

Term Starts:

Wednesday 3rd September

Half-term Holiday:

Monday 27th Oct - Friday 31st Oct

Term Ends:

Friday 19th December, 2pm.

Spring Term 2026 - (55 Days)

Term Starts:

Monday 5th January

Half-term Holiday

Monday 16th Feb - Friday 20th Feb

Term Ends:

Friday 27th March, 2pm.

Summer Term 2026 - (62 Days)

Term Starts:

Monday 13th April

Half-term Holiday

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Term Ends:

Thursday 16th July, 2pm.

Total Days:

190 Pupil days

195 Teacher days

Bank Holiday:

Monday 4th May

Inset Days:

Autumn 2025:

Monday 1st September

Tuesday 2nd September

Summer 2026:

Monday 1st June

Friday 17th July

Monday 20th July

www.englishmartyrs.co.uk

Wrap Around Care Offer

Breakfast Club:

Contact number: 0151 928 5601

We run Breakfast Club for children aged 3-11 on site by our own staff from **8am-8.45am** daily Monday to Friday.

Our Infant (**Nursery to Y2**) provision is based in the main hall (*enter via the Main School Entrance*).

Our Junior (**Y3 to Y6**) provision is based in the dining hall (*enter via the separate gate on School Lane*).

To check availability and book a place, please use the [Contact Form](#) or call the number above.



Fun4Kidz - After School Club:

Contact number: 0151 932 9218

Fun4Kidz operates on site from **3.15pm to 6.00pm** daily Monday to Friday.

Fun4Kidz works with our youngest pupils from **Nursery to Year 2**.

The sessions are **£11.15** first child (*and £10.15 for siblings*) daily and include snacks (*hot snacks when applicable*).

The sessions must be paid for in advance and are non-refundable if the child doesn't attend.

Children can be collected from any time before **6.00pm**.

Email: fun4kidzclubs@hotmail.com

L30 Community Centre, Stonyfield, Netherton, Merseyside, L30 0QS.

Need to know about funding?

If you want to find out more about what funding is available to you in terms of tax free credits and childcare vouchers, please follow the link at the bottom of the page, which will take you to our Wrap Around Care page on the school website with more information and links to follow.

For the latest info, see the page below:

<https://www.englishmartyrs.co.uk/parents/wrap-around-care>



Neurodevelopmental Conditions Learning Programme

I am pleased to share with you an opportunity to join the Neurodevelopmental Conditions Learning Programme delivered by Advanced Solutions at Litherland Family Hub or via Zoom. This supportive and informative programme offers helpful insights into areas such as autism, ADHD, Specific Learning Difficulties and Sensory Processing Difficulties, along with practical strategies to support your child at home eg. sleep, toileting and eating difficulties. Please click on the appropriate link to register:

[ND Conditions Learning Programme \(Litherland Family Hub\)](#)

[ND Conditions Learning Programme \(online\)](#)

Useful Info

Sefton Women's & Childrens Aid

Contact number: 0151 394 1400

SWACA provide holistic services to women, young people and children affected by Domestic Abuse offering both effective crisis intervention and early intervention and preventative services.

Venus Centre Charity

Contact number: 0151 474 4744

VENUS provide service to empower, promote and support women, and their children in developing their potential, recognising their choices and achieving their goals and challenging injustice.

The Trussell Trust

Contact number: 0151 933 1300

The trust supports a nationwide network of food banks and together they provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK.

In Your Shoes

Contact number: 0151 345 9611

Located at 100 Moss Lane the charity supports our local community.

Litherland Wellbeing Centre

Contact number: 0151 288 6661

Family Well-being Centres provide joined up support for children and young people aged 0-19 years to make family life that little bit easier.

Sefton Council

One Stop Shop: 0345 140 0845

Affordable Warmth Service: 0151 934 2222

Free School Meals: 0151 934 3263

Emergency Limited Assistance: 0151 934 3377

Sefton at Work: 0151 934 2610

For further details visit Sefton Council's website:

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/advice-benefits/cost-of-living/>

If you are struggling and would like support please do not hesitate to contact one of the above or the school office who will assist in any way they can.