



MARTYRS NEWS

Through Christ we believe, inspire, achieve.



Reception - Building Together



Thank you to everyone who attended the 'Meet the Teacher' sessions this week for Years 1 -6. I hope you found these informative.

Individual Parents Meetings will take place later this term. Please keep an eye open for future correspondence.

We have lots of things planned this half term. Please check out the school website calendar for full details.

I share the sad news that our site manager, Mr Lawrenson is stepping down from his role here at English Martyrs at the end of this half term. He will make the move to a smaller school setting after half term. I know that you will all join me in thanking him not only for the dedication, hardwork and commitment he has shown to the role but in his unique and personable way - he will be missed by the whole school community. Good Luck Mr Lawrenson!



English Martyrs, Pray for us.

**Be safe, be
happy, have fun!**

Attendance Matters!

We will continue to track the attendance of all children this academic year. Children are encouraged to achieve our school target of **95%+**. We have achieved **95.4%** this year!

CLASS ATTENDANCE WINNERS:

Week 3:

Fabulous
FRIDAY FIVE

1st - 2A - 98.3%

2nd - 1B - 97.0%

3rd - 3B - 96.7%

Holiday During Term Time

Holiday Request Forms **MUST** be completed in advance of any holiday. We are having increased cases of parents not notifying school when their child is going to be off. This not only causes extra work for school but more importantly raises safeguarding concerns which may be escalated to Sefton Council. You can obtain this form from the school office or on our website: [here](#).

MARTYRS NEWS

Nursery

By Mrs McIntyre & Mrs Garvey

The children in Nursery are enjoying exploring the different areas indoors and outdoors and are having lots of fun with their new friends. They have also visited the school library where they read books together.



Reception

By Mrs Morris & Mrs Halsall

Every day we practise our motor skills by doing different activities. This week we are threading small beads onto pipe cleaners, this takes a lot of concentration and dexterity.



Year 2

By Mrs Sothern & Miss Drinkall

Last week Year Two elected their School Councillor, Eco Councillor, Reading, Maths and Well Being Champion, Science and Sports Ambassador and Prayer Buddy. Children nominated themselves and made posters and speeches to persuade their classmates to vote for them. It was wonderful to see so many children putting themselves forward for the various roles. Each year new pupils will be nominated for the roles.

I love my badge, I can't wait to go to the next meeting."
Bella



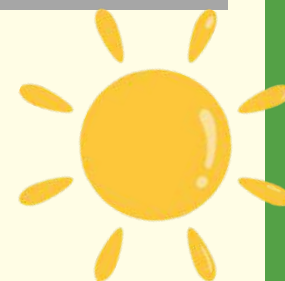
"I like Maths so I am glad to be Maths Champion.."
Sophie



Year 3

By Mrs Dooley & Mr Roach

Year 3 had a fantastic day on our trip to Crosby Beach. We have been studying coastal features in geography. The children were beautifully behaved and the weather was kind.



MARTYRS NEWS

Year 4

By Mrs O'Connell & Mrs Lowe

We listened to Sir John Henry Newman's prayer 'hope in God, Creator' and explored the words, "I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons." We discussed what this means and how each of us has an important role to play in God's family. As a class, we created a chain to show we can work together to spread God's love and Word.



Year 5

By Mr Buckton & Mr Kiggins

Today the children have been using viewfinders to recreate parts of Hundertwasser's artwork. They looked at a range of his paintings and selected parts of each to copy into their sketchbooks.



CAFOD Club

By Mrs McIntyre

This week the children in CAFOD club have been designing posters to promote Fairtrade Fortnight. Buying fairtrade products means that producers are guaranteed a fair price for their produce. Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 21st September to 4th October. We are encouraging children to look out for the Fairtrade mark when shopping and perhaps think about making one swap in their weekly shop.



Parking around school.

We are continuing to experience issues at the end of the school day. Parents are reminded to **SLOW DOWN** as they approach school, **DO NOT PARK** on zig-zags and **BE RESPECTFUL** of our neighbours and school community. We have had complaints from local residents. Please park with consideration to our school neighbours.



RE Planning

By Mrs McIntyre

At English Martyrs, one of the tools we use for planning and delivering Prayer and Liturgy is Ten:Ten Resources. Please see the [Ten:Ten Parent Newsletter](#) to see the themes we are covering in September linked to the Sunday Gospel readings and the Church's liturgical year.

MARTYRS NEWS

Mini Vinnies

By Mrs Naisbett & Mrs Dooley

Our new Year 6 Mini Vinnies have been thoroughly enjoying their first few weeks together! We have been focusing on kindness, exploring how even a small act of kindness can create a ripple effect and make a difference to others.

In our first week, the children made their own 'Kindness Cubes'. Each day, they rolled their cube and, depending on the word they landed on — home, family, friends, school, parish or community — they committed to carrying out a random act of kindness in that area. The following week, the children shared the different acts of kindness they had carried out. We then created a 'Chain of Kindness', adding a link for every act and watching our chain grow. This helped the children to see how one small act can ripple out and touch many people in different ways. We also talked about how it felt to spread kindness and how being kind can make us feel too.

The children also enjoyed making a Mini Vinnies appreciation bracelet for someone they really appreciate. They carefully chose coloured beads to represent different qualities they admired in that person, creating a thoughtful and personal gift to show their appreciation.

Our Mini Vinnies are now putting their kindness into action within our wider parish community. They are busy organising a coffee morning for parishioners at the end of September, providing an opportunity to bring people together for a cup of tea, conversation and friendship, while helping to combat loneliness and isolation.

We are so proud of our new Mini Vinnies and the enthusiasm, kindness and care they are already showing towards others. We can't wait to see where their kindness takes them next!



Good News

Our girl's football team were winners of the first tournament of the season. We had a fantastic afternoon thanks to South Sefton Sports partnership. The girls were a credit to themselves and our school.



Any news, let us know:
admin@englishmartyrs.co.uk

MARTYRS NEWS

STAR OF THE WEEK

Friday 18th Sept 2026

Nur All Day

Teddi

Nur AM

Leo

RA

Grace

RB

Rosie

1A

Penelope

1B

Penelope

2A

Roman

2B

Rosie

3A

Lucas

3B

Phoebe

4A

Brodie

4B

Gabriella

5A

Harry

5B

Rosa

6A

Jax

6B

Paul

STAR OF THE WEEK

Friday 25th Sept 2026

Nur All Day

Vincent

Nur AM

Josh

RA

Briony

RB

Aofie

1A

Nate

1B

Niamh

2A

Eliza

2B

Freya

3A

Jack

3B

Reuben

4A

Sonny

4B

Caleb

5A

Harry

5B

Rory

6A

Elsie

6B

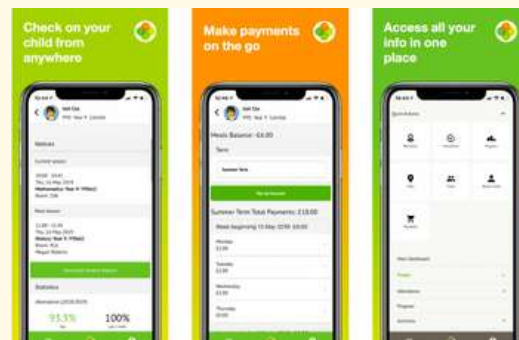
Eleanor

Well Done Everyone!

MARTYRS NEWS

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 Notifications in the Arbor App:

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 2026-27

Autumn Term 2026 - (73 Days)

Term Starts:

Wednesday 2nd September

Half-term Holiday:

Monday 26th Oct - Friday 30th Oct

Term Ends:

Friday 18th December, 2pm.

Spring Term 2027 - (54 Days)

Term Starts:

Monday 4th January

Half-term Holiday

Monday 15th Feb - Friday 19th Feb

Term Ends:

Thursday 25th March, 2pm.

Summer Term 2027 - (63 Days)

Term Starts:

Monday 12th April

Half-term Holiday

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

Term Ends:

Friday 16th July, 2pm.

Total Days:

190 Pupildays

195 Teacherdays

Bank Holiday

Monday 3 May 2027

Inset Days:

Autumn 2026:

Tuesday 1st September

Summer 2027:

Monday 7th June

Monday 19th July

Tuesday 20th July

Wednesday 21st July

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>



Introducing Sefton Family Life Toolkit

We are pleased to share information about the Sefton Family Life Toolkit, a free online resource designed to support children, young people and families. The toolkit brings together trusted advice, local services and practical information all in one place. Parents and carers can access support on a wide range of topics including:

- **Parenting and family relationships**
- **Emotional health and wellbeing**
- **SEND information and guidance**
- **Education and school attendance**
- **Health and healthy lifestyles**
- **Activities, events and holiday programmes**
- **Local Family Hubs and community support**

Whether you are looking for advice, activities for your family, or additional support, the Family Life Toolkit provides easy access to information to help families thrive. Please visit the website today for further details: www.seftonfamilylife.com

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.