

12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Parent Carers,

**Weekly Update: 12/12/25**

I hope this update finds you well. There is a week of the Autumn Term left, and there are many things to look forward to next week – the Winter Wondershow and Christmas Market on Tuesday and Christmas Dinner on Wednesday. Students finish school on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December, before returning after an INSET Day on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

We are still working hard in school to try to maintain consistent routines where possible, as most students respond positively to these. If you require any support with creating routines at home, please feel free to speak with a member of the Family Support Team.

**Academy Council Update and Announcement**

Over the last 9 years, St Martins School has been well served by Jeff Howe. Initially, Jeff came in to the school through his work with the Young Enterprise Scheme before joining the Governing Body and becoming Chair of the Academy Council, a position held by Jeff since 2018.

Jeff has been a passionate supporter of the school during this time, working alongside 3 Headteachers and the Academy Councillors. Jeff has always been generous with his time, a provider of valuable advice and a constant support through the journey of the school from being part of Derby City Council and the transition to the Shaw Education Trust.

This chapter of Jeff's time has now come to an end, and he is retiring from the Academy Council. Jeff will be replaced in his role as Chair by Keir Mather, a Parent of a child at the school. We will miss Jeff for his valuable insight, support, challenge and his generous gift of time. We extend our gratitude for this and wish Jeff the very best. We hope that Jeff knows that our doors are always open to him!

**New Chair of Academy Council**

My name is Keir Mather, and I am proud to serve as Chair of the Academy Council at St Martins. This role is especially meaningful to me, as I am also the parent of a child who attends the school. I see every day the dedication of our staff and the difference they make in the lives of children with special educational needs. St Martins is a truly remarkable community, and I am committed to ensuring that every student continues to feel valued, supported, and inspired to achieve their potential.

Toni Beardmore **Headteacher**

St Martins School, The Derwent Campus, Bracknell Drive, Alvaston, Derby, DE24 0BT  
**Tel:** 01332 571151 **Email:** [admin@stmartins.set.org](mailto:admin@stmartins.set.org) **Online:** [www.stmartinsschoolderby.co.uk](http://www.stmartinsschoolderby.co.uk)

St Martins is more than a school - it is a place where individuality is celebrated and where children with diverse needs are given the opportunity to flourish academically, socially, and emotionally. As Chair, my responsibility is to help guide the council in supporting this mission, working closely with our Headteacher, staff, and families to uphold the highest standards of care and education.

Alongside my role here, I am also an Assistant Principal at a large secondary school. This professional experience gives me a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities within education. I know how important it is to balance ambition with compassion, and to create environments where every child - regardless of their starting point - can thrive. I bring this perspective to my work at St Martins, ensuring that our decisions are informed by both governance expertise and practical knowledge of how schools operate day to day.

Being both a parent and an educational leader allows me to see St Martins through two lenses: the hopes and aspirations of families, and the realities of school life. I believe strongly in collaboration, transparency, and listening to the voices of our community. Together, we can build on the successes of St Martins while embracing new opportunities for growth and innovation.

I am honoured to serve this exceptional school and look forward to working with you all to ensure that St Martins continues to provide the very best for every child and young person.

The Academy Council are still looking for another Parent Carer to join them. Please get in touch with Toni if you are able to contribute to the school in this way.

### **After School Clubs**

After School Clubs finished this week and are due to start again on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January. Confirmation of which club your child/young person has been assigned to will be sent home next week.

### **Winter Wondershow – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

The Winter Wondershow is taking place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am. The show will last for approximately one hour.

Tickets are available to Parent Carers of performers only, due to the limited space available. If your young person is taking part and you wish to attend, please call the School Office on 01332 571151. Spaces are strictly limited to two per family and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

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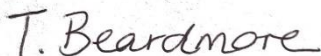
### **Christmas Market – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

The Christmas Market will run from 2:30pm-3:30pm. Any students who are not attending with Parent Carers will need to go home as usual at 2:30pm. Please return the reply slip or get in touch if you would like to book tickets!

### **Family Support Newsletter**

Next week's update will be shared with all families on Wednesday next week, ahead of the Christmas holiday. The update will have key information from the Family Support Team with information on activities, advice and signposting during the break. If you have any queries for the team, please get in touch ahead of the break so that they are able to support.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'T. Beardmore'.

**Toni Beardmore**  
**Headteacher**

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## **Dates for your Diaries:**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Details</u></b>
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am	Winter Wonder Show	Information has been shared. Ticketed event!
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December from 2:30pm-3:30pm	Christmas Market	Information has been shared.
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner for students	Information to follow.

## **Term Dates 2025/2026**

### **Autumn Term 2025**

School Starts Back – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

School Breaks up for Christmas – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

### **Spring Term 2026**

INSET Day – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

School Starts Back – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

School Starts Back – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

School Breaks up for Easter – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

### **Summer Term 2026**

School Starts Back – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April

INSET Day – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

Bank Holiday – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

School Starts Back – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June

**School Breaks up for Summer – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

INSET Day – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

St Martins follows Derby City Council's term dates. Dates for next year can be found on their website – please follow the link for these - <https://derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/term-holiday-dates/#>

### **Social Media Links**

Facebook - [St. Martins School Facebook](#)

Instagram - [St. Martins School Instagram](#)

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