

16<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Dear Parent Carers,

### **Weekly Update: 16/10/26**

I hope this update finds you well. It was great to see so many of you on Wednesday when we hosted a Bingo night in school – we were delighted to see so many families, students and former students at this event and hope you will be back for more later in the academic year! Over £575 was raised, which will go towards hosting our next MartinFest in July 2027.

Toni has not been able to return to school as hoped this week. After coming in to school on Monday, Toni did not feel well and is following further medical advice to rest at home. Toni is disappointed that she can't be here, but we are all in support of Toni recovering properly and not encountering any further setbacks. We continue to send our warmest wishes to Toni and look forward to her return.

### **Introduction to Family Support at St Martins School**

At St Martins, we are committed to ensuring that our families receive the right support at the right time. Our Family Support Team aims to provide a supportive, family-centred approach by signposting families to appropriate services when universal provision is not meeting the level of need required.

Our goal is to ensure that all students feel happy, safe, secure, and are able to achieve success. To do this, we recognise that supporting a child may sometimes involve offering additional support to the wider family as well.

### **Our Family Support Team**

- **Keir Mather** – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- **Marie Chadwick** – Lead Practitioner for Families
- **Monika Wood** – Family Support Worker

We encourage families to contact us if they would benefit from additional support in relation to, but not limited to:

- Accessing specialist services
- Applying for additional funding
- Making applications for benefits
- Establishing or re-establishing boundaries and routines at home

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**Toni Beardmore Headteacher**

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If you feel that a conversation with a member of our team would be helpful, please complete the form on our website or call the school office. A member of the team will then contact you to discuss your needs and agree on the next steps.

### **Family Support Coffee Mornings**

Throughout the year the Family Support Team host Coffee Mornings at St Martins. Each Coffee Morning has a different focus, giving us the chance to cover a wide range of themes including:

- supporting wellbeing,
- keeping children safe online,
- understanding how learning happens in the classroom.

We have planned several Coffee Mornings throughout the year which will have a focus on the following areas:

- Online Safety,
- Mental Health,
- Wellbeing/Zones of regulation,
- Futures focus
- Parent Carer social event at our café in Arboretum Park

The Team is really excited to deliver these sessions to you! We want these mornings to be informal, friendly, and supportive – so please grab a drink and join in the discussion as much or as little as you would like and take away whatever is most useful for you and your family. We always welcome feedback on our sessions, and themes for future sessions too. We aim for all sessions to provide useful information, practical tips, and, just as importantly, a space for you to ask questions and share your own experiences. It would be great to see you there!

Our first Coffee Morning will take place on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November from 9:30-11:00am** This session will take place at Heart of The Park Café at the Arboretum Park.

Focus: This session is an opportunity for all Parent Carers to meet the Family Support Team and find out what they can offer.

There is no need to book. Dates will follow for the additional Coffee Mornings.

### **Mini Monster Marathon**

#### **Creepy class-based activity: (11:15am – 12noon)**

You will be able to join your child with their pastoral staff and class to take part in a creepy activity that has been organised by your child's class team, based on the interest of the students. Example of activities may include: Pumpkin carving, creepy crafts, bizarre baking, ghostly games and quivering quizzes...

#### **St Martins Mini Monster Marathon: (1pm – 2:20pm)**

Our Mini Monster Marathon has been a huge success over the last few years. The students and staff thoroughly enjoy this event as it brings the school and family community together, promotes positive health and wellbeing, finishes the first half

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term on a high and of course we get to celebrate Halloween too. We would like as many Parent Carers as possible to join us to take part in running, jogging, walking or wheeling 2.6 miles, which is equivalent to 8 laps around the path of our school field as a sponsored event to raise money for the school.

To add to the Halloween element of our St Martins Mini Monster Marathon, we would like students to wear their **Halloween costumes for a £1 donation**. If students choose not to wear Halloween attire, we are requesting students to wear PE kit. Please ensure your child brings extra fluids/a water bottle with them on this day, we do have water fountains in school for students to re-fill their bottles.

To raise money for the 'Mini Monster Marathon' a sponsorship form has been sent home. Please share this with family and friends - let us see if we can beat last year's total! **All forms and money must be returned to school by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November.**

**Tickets to the sessions will cost 50p each.** Parent Carers can attend one session to allow the amount of people in school to be spread across the day. When arriving at school for your allocated time, you will be signed into school and a staff member from your child's class will be there to greet you.

Please complete and return the reply slip below with payment to the School Office. You will receive tickets for your session.

#### **Shaw Education Trust – Parental Survey**

The Shaw Education Trust are seeking the views of Parent Carers across their 32 schools. Please could we encourage families to complete their survey to find out your thoughts - <https://edurio.com/s/open/survey/3KS4KXufzNyHNrKKA059gu2JEyz> Students will also take part in a similar survey.

#### **Derby SEND Voice Event**

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, Autism Derby are hosting a Girls and Autism information session led by Julie Fearn. A poster is included with more information.

With best wishes,



**Rachel Cooper**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

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**Toni Beardmore Headteacher**

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# Girls and Autism

## Information Session



Join **Derby SEND Voice** for an information session on Girls and Autism, delivered by **Autism Derby**

This session will explore autism in girls, including recognition, common experiences, and practical strategies to support at home, school and in the community



Understanding, Supporting  
& Celebrating differences



Wednesday  
21<sup>st</sup> October  
10.00 - 12.00  
Friar Gate Studios



Scan here  
for tickets



[www.derbysendvoice.com](http://www.derbysendvoice.com)



[derbysendvoice@gmail.com](mailto:derbysendvoice@gmail.com)



**DERBY SEND VOICE**

### **Dates for your Diaries:**

| <b>Date</b>                        | <b>Event</b>          | <b>Information</b>         |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October | Mini Monster Marathon | Letter has been sent home. |

## **Term Dates for Academic Year 2026/2027**

### **Autumn Term 2026**

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

INSET Day – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

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

INSET Day – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November

School Breaks up for Christmas – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

### **Spring Term 2027**

School Starts Back – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February

School Starts Back – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

School Breaks up for Easter – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March

### **Summer Term 2027**

School Starts Back – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April

Bank Holiday – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

INSET Day – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May

School Starts Back – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June

**School Breaks up for Summer – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

INSET Day – Monday 26<sup>th</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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