

22nd July 2026

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update: 22/07/26

I hope this update finds you well. As we reach the end of another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents, carers, staff and young people for their continued support, partnership and commitment. This year has been particularly special for me, as it has been my first year as Headteacher of St Martins. It has been a privilege to lead such an incredible school community, and I am immensely proud of everything our students have achieved. Together, we have celebrated successes, overcome challenges and continued to ensure that every young person is supported to thrive. Thank you for being such an important part of our journey this year, and I wish you all a happy, safe and restful summer break.

The last week has given us two wonderful opportunities to celebrate everything that makes St Martins such a special community. On Friday, we were delighted to host MartinFest, bringing together students, families, staff and partners from across the SEND community for a truly inclusive celebration. The day was filled with fantastic performances, engaging workshops, great food and, thankfully, plenty of sunshine. It was a wonderful example of people coming together to celebrate inclusion, friendship and the achievements of our young people. Then yesterday, we held our annual Prize Day, recognising students who have consistently demonstrated excellence in their behaviours for learning, skills and attitudes throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of every student who received an award and grateful to all the staff, families and supporters who helped make both events such memorable and successful occasions.

Staffing changes

As another academic year draws to an end, we will be saying goodbye to some of our staff team as they either move on to an exciting opportunity or take a well-deserved retirement!

- Janet Rodgers has worked at St Martins since 1984, initially starting in a support staff role at our old site at Wisgreaves Road, before working as an Unqualified Teacher. Jan has worked with our 6th Form students – following them from the Market Hall to Irongate and then on to Friar Gate Studios.
- Matt Buxton has worked at St Martins since 2007 as a Teacher at our old Wisgreaves Road site. During his time at St Martins, Matt has worked at both the main school and 6th Form and has held a variety of leadership positions to support the workings of the school.

Toni Beardmore Headteacher

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- Tania Ball has worked at St Martins since 2019, starting initially to support students with Maths before taking up a permanent Teaching position at the school.
- Joy Tomlinson has worked at St Martins since 2016 as a Teaching Assistant but worked here for a while before as supply, supporting both main school and 6th Form students during her time.
- Lianne Harrison has worked as both a Teaching Assistant and Teacher since joining the school via a supply agency in 2020. Lianne is moving on to teach Geography at a secondary school in Staffordshire.
- Cheryl Roberts has worked as a Teaching Assistant with our 6th Form students since 2023, after initially working as supply. Cheryl is moving back to supply as she seeks more flexibility.
- Virginia Wong has worked as a Classroom Assistant since September 2025. Virginia is moving to Scotland to support her two children who will be attending music school there.

As we say goodbye to Jan, Matt, Joy and Tania who are retiring – we thank them for the commitment that they have shown to our young people and school community, and wish them a long and fulfilling retirement.

In turn, as we say goodbye to Lianne, Cheryl and Virginia – we thank them for their positive contributions over their time at St Martins and wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

SENCO Staffing Update

We would like to let families know that Heather Woodward (Assistant Headteacher & SENCO) will be starting her maternity leave today. We would like to wish Heather and her family all the very best for this exciting new chapter. We know many families will join us in wishing her well, and we're sure she'll keep in touch and pop into school during her maternity leave.

During Heather's absence, Sarah Cavell will take on the role of Deputy SENCO. Sarah joined St Martins School in September 2025 and brings a wealth of experience from her previous roles at Kingsmead School and Longdon Park School. Over the past year, Sarah has worked closely alongside Heather, including supporting the annual review process and completing a thorough handover to ensure continuity for our students and families.

If you need to contact Sarah regarding SEND matters, she can be reached at sarah.cavell@stmartins.set.org.

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In addition, Jordan Gregory will lead the school's Wellbeing Team of Learning Mentors throughout Heather's maternity leave. Jordan and the team will continue to provide support and interventions for students across a wide range of areas, including social skills, emotional regulation, friendships, sensory needs, life skills and emotional wellbeing. Jordan will be sharing more information with families about the Wellbeing Team and the support available in September. He can be contacted at jordan.gregory@stmartins.set.org.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Keir Mather, will also take on the role of Designated Teacher for our Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children (Post-LAC). Any queries or support relating to these students can be directed to keir.mather@stmartins.set.org.

We are confident that these arrangements will ensure a seamless transition and continued support for all of our students and families while Heather is away.

Exam Results

Students in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 will be able to collect their results from school on Thursday 20th August from 10am-11am. A letter has been sent to relevant students.

Summer Reading Challenge

Today, students brought home copies of the Summer Reading Challenge – please find a digital copy included with this update.

Support over the summer

Please refer to our summer support newsletter for a range of information; including food banks and community support, free & low-cost summer activities, online safety advice, wellbeing and family support, safeguarding contacts, day out, school uniform help, water safety, and local services & signposting. Whilst this was shared last week, here is a link to the online version - <https://files.schudio.com/st-martins-school/files/documents/170726 - Weekly Update.pdf>

Return to school in September

We look forward to welcoming students back to school from Monday 7th September.

Best wishes for the summer break,



Toni Beardmore
Headteacher

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6-WEEK SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



ALL READING COUNTS!

1

WEEK 1 Read Somewhere Different

Find a new place to read, such as the garden, the park, the beach, under a blanket, or in a cosy corner.

☐

2

WEEK 2 Read with Someone

Share a book, comic, magazine, or audiobook with a family member, friend, or pet!

☐

3

WEEK 3 Read Something New

Try reading something different, such as:

- a comic
- a recipe
- a magazine
- instructions
- an information book
- an audiobook

☐

4

WEEK 4 Draw Your Favourite Part

Read a story or listen to one, then draw your favourite character or favourite part.

☐

5

WEEK 5 Recommend a Read

Tell someone about something you've enjoyed reading. Finish the sentence:

"I recommend this because..."

☐

6

WEEK 6 Reading Celebration!

Choose your favourite thing you have read this summer and bring it back to school (or tell your teacher about it in September).

Celebrate completing your Summer Reading Challenge!

☐

PHOTO TIME!

Ask someone to take photos of you completing your challenges and share them with your teacher in September!



FINISH!



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE!

Complete one reading challenge each week during the 6-week summer holidays and tick it off as you go!

Remember, all reading counts! Books, comics, magazines, recipes, instructions, maps, subtitles and audiobooks all count.

Term Dates for Academic Year 2026/2027

Autumn Term 2026

INSET Day – Friday 4th September

School Starts for the new Academic Year – Monday 7th September

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 23rd October

INSET Day – Monday 2nd November

School Starts Back – Tuesday 3rd November

INSET Day – Friday 27th November

School Breaks up for Christmas – Friday 18th December

Spring Term 2027

School Starts Back – Monday 4th January 2027

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 12th February

School Starts Back – Monday 22nd February

School Breaks up for Easter – Thursday 25th March

Summer Term 2027

School Starts Back – Monday 12th April

Bank Holiday – Monday 3rd May

INSET Day – Tuesday 4th May

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 28th May

School Starts Back – Monday 7th June

School Breaks up for Summer – Friday 23rd July

INSET Day – Monday 26th 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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