

25th September 2026

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update: 25/09/26

I hope this update finds you well. This week you may have noticed that our Headteacher, Toni, has not been around school. Toni underwent emergency surgery at the weekend to remove her appendix and is still in hospital recovering from this. We are wishing Toni to very best in her recovery, and look forward to her return.

In the meanwhile, Rachel Cooper is Deputising for Toni, with support from the rest of our Leadership Team and our wider staff team. Rachel and the team are available should you have any questions or concerns during this time.

Term Time Holidays

We recognise that due to the individual needs of our young people, accessing holidays during busy periods can be more challenging for some of them. At the same time, we have a responsibility to promote good school attendance and support our young people in developing the skills and routines they will need for adulthood. We do not take a blanket approach to absence requests and whether they are authorised or not. Each request is considered on a **case-by-case basis**, taking into account the individual circumstances and needs of the young person, alongside the importance of regular school attendance.

Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss any proposed term-time holiday with the school as early as possible, so that the request can be considered appropriately.

Free School Meals – Universal Credit

From the start of academic year 2026 to 2027, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of earnings.

Going forward, there will be two types of eligibility:

- **Targeted FSM:** for households in receipt of universal credit earning £7,400 or less (includes free meals and additional support such as pupil premium). Other educational entitlements such as the Holiday Activities and Food program (HAF) and the 'extended rights' element of school travel assistance, will also continue to be based on targeted FSM.
- **Expanded FSM:** for households in receipt of universal credit earning above £7,400 (free meals only)

Toni Beardmore **Headteacher**

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

Families with no recourse to public funds may also be eligible for Targeted FSM subject to meeting separate criteria.

If your child currently receives free school meals:

- In most cases, you do not need to reapply
- We will check your eligibility automatically using the details already held and inform you of any changes to your FSM eligibility

If you believe that you may be eligible, please apply online:

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/entrust>

Please contact the school office if you require further information.

Bingo events in school

This year, we are bringing Bingo back! Our first Bingo evening takes place on Wednesday 14th October. Please find more details on the attached poster.

Mini Monster Marathon

Our annual Mini Monster Marathon and Creepy Crafts event is taking place on Wednesday 21st October – letters have been sent home regarding timings and how to book.

New Staff

This September we have welcomed 8 new staff to our team at St Martins!

- Jo Woodhall – Design Technology Teacher – Jo taught at school on supply last year and now has a permanent position.
- Lizzie Pacey – Teacher
- Leila Cherrill – Teaching Assistant
- Nazneen Akther – Classroom Assistant
- Levi Heath – Classroom Assistant
- Lauren Nicholas – Classroom Assistant
- Ana Portela – Classroom Assistant
- Leah Whitehead – Classroom Assistant

We hope that you will welcome them to our school community!

With best wishes,



Rachel Cooper
Assistant Headteacher

Toni Beardmore Headteacher

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



BINGO Night

*Gather your family and friends, for an exciting
Bingo Night at St Martins School.
Win cash prizes! Raffle, Games and Food!
Everyone Welcome!*

WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER

6:15PM-8:30PM

St Martins School,
Bracknell Drive, Derby



Dates for your Diaries:

Date	Event	Information
Thursday 8 th October	Next Steps Event at Noel Baker	Letter has been sent home.
Wednesday 14 th October	Bingo Night	Poster has been shared.
Thursday 15 th October	Tempest Photography in school to take student portraits	Letter will be sent home.
Wednesday 21 st October	Mini Monster Marathon	Letter has been sent home.

Toni Beardmore Headteacher

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

The Shaw Education Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England (no 09067175) Registered address: Shaw Education Trust, Kidsgrove Secondary School, Gloucester Road, Kidsgrove, ST7 4DL. The details of our academies registered as business names can be found at www.shaweducation.org.uk.

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](#)

Toni Beardmore Headteacher

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

The Shaw Education Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England (no 09067175) Registered address: Shaw Education Trust, Kildgrove Secondary School, Gloucester Road, Kildgrove, ST7 4DL. The details of our academies registered as business names can be found at www.shaweducation.org.uk.