



27th February 2026

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update: 27/02/26

I hope this update finds you well and rested after the half term break. It is always great to come back to school to catch up with our community. There is lots coming up as we move into the second half of the academic year – with residential starting next week and plans for transition being created.

The main focus of this week's update is Key Stage 3 – they share what they've been up to and what they're looking forward to at their residential. We hope you enjoy reading their news!

World Book Day

We are delighted to inform you that we will be celebrating **World Book Day** on Thursday 5th March. Students at school will be able to take part in activities across the day.

This year's theme is inspired by the wonderful books of Roald Dahl. Students will take part in an immersive experience, moving between classrooms and engaging in a range of creative activities based on his much-loved stories.

To make the day even more exciting, we encourage students to come to school dressed as their favourite Roald Dahl character or a character from a book they love. Please ensure that costumes are appropriate for school and that students can move around the building safely and comfortably.

Best wishes,

Toni Beardmore
Headteacher

Toni Beardmore **Headteacher**

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This Term in Our Classrooms

During the Spring Term, students have been reflecting on the positive habits that they established over Autumn. Now that we are half way through the year, students will start to discuss their next steps and transition.

Mental Health Week 2026

Students in KS3 completed lots of activities across the week and enjoyed a great assembly with the Mental Health Champions supporting. Highlights included Time to Talk and thinking about all the things that make St Martins our place where we belong.



Announcement!

Key Stage 3 students will be starting to learn Makaton, with a new sign being introduced each week in assembly. We can't wait to share our learning and signing with you!

Young Star Voices

Some of our students have been representing St Martins at Derby City Council's SEND Ambassadors event at Friar Gate Studios. As part of this, students were asked to share their experiences and recommendations to help shape the future of provision in Derby for SEND students. It's great that our students have this opportunity to make a positive contribution to young people across Derby!



Using iPads for learning

Students now have personal use of an iPad for their learning in some lessons. Staff are currently embedding positive habits with students so that they can get the most out of having these.

Key Stage 3 School Council Reps

The reps meet regularly to discuss issues and ideas for improving the school. They also take part in interviews for new staff – a big responsibility! The group are working on events this year and are always available to listen to requests and concerns in Key Stage 3.



Zaiydan



Sophie



Matthew



Bella



Alicia



Tylor



Noah



Ismaeel



Frazer

Our Year 8 Students

Our Key Stage 3 reporter Noah, has spoken with Year 8 students about their upcoming residential trips and what they're looking forward to.



I'm looking forward to time away and getting lots of sleep...! - Jenson



I'm looking forward to going to the dungeons and getting to go to York again! - Milly



I'm excited for the activities and talking with friends.- Lucas



I can't wait to go on my first residential at St Martins! - Ismaeel



I'm looking forward to the dungeons in York - Daniel



I'm looking forward to being outdoors - Seth

Key Stage 3 Residentials

This year, our classes will be visiting one of the following places:

- Mount Cook Adventure Centre for outdoor education activities
- Thornbridge in Bakewell for outdoor education activities
- Ironbridge to explore Shropshire, visiting museums and a zoo
- York to explore the city and visit museums
- Manchester to visit the city, museums and the theatre



Dates for your Diaries

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Information</u>
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day	Information has been shared
Wednesday 11 th March	Auschwitz Visit	Two students and staff are visiting Auschwitz for the day with the Holocaust Education Trust
w/c 23 rd March	Spring Progress Reports are sent home	
Friday 27 th March	School finishes for the Easter Holiday	
Monday 13 th April	Students return after the Easter Holiday	
Friday 1 st May	INSET Day	School closed
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday	School closed
Tuesday 5 th May	GCSEs and formal assessments start	A letter has been sent home to relevant students this week.
Friday 8 th May	Options Taster Day	This is for current Year 9 and Year 10 students.
Tuesday 12 th May from 4:30pm-6:00pm	Options Evening	Year 9 and Year 10 students with their Parent Carers – letter will be sent home.

Term Dates 2025/2026

Spring Term 2026

School Starts Back – Monday 23rd February

School Breaks up for Easter – Friday 27th March

Summer Term 2026

School Starts Back – Monday 13th April

INSET Day – Friday 1st May

Bank Holiday – Monday 4th May

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 22nd May

School Starts Back – Monday 1st June

School Breaks up for Summer – Wednesday 22nd July

INSET Day – Thursday 23rd 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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