



St Martin's Prep, Autumn Term Newsletter, October Edition 2025

Friday 10th October

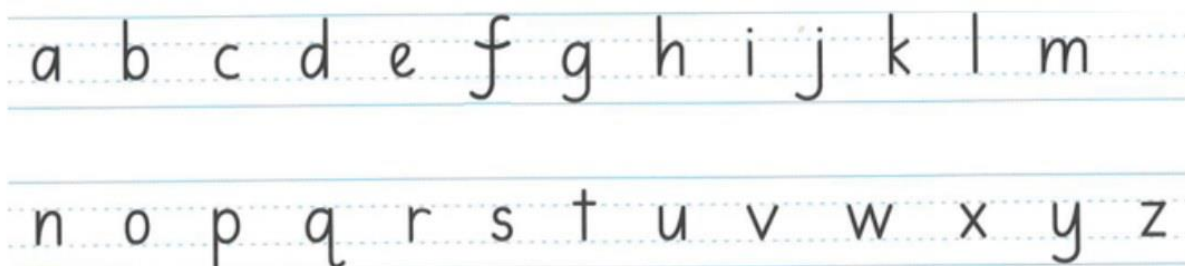
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Nelsons Handwriting at St Martins



A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

The quick brown fox jumps over
the lazy dog.



Letters that do not join are
called break letters, these letters
are b, g, j, p, q, x, y and z.

At St Martin's, we are proud to announce the phased introduction of the *Nelson Handwriting Scheme*, a carefully developed programme designed to support children in developing fluent, legible and confident handwriting.

In an age where screens and keyboards dominate, we firmly believe in preserving the timeless skill of beautiful penmanship. Handwriting is more than just a means of

communication — it is a reflection of care, discipline, and pride in one's work. Through the Nelson scheme, we aim to nurture these values from the earliest stages of writing.

This new approach will begin with our Infant classes and gradually roll out across the school, with sensitivity to those pupils who have already established a style of joined handwriting. We understand that each child is on a unique handwriting journey, and our introduction of this scheme will reflect that – gentle, tailored, and supportive at every step.

You may recall the excitement of earning your very first *pen licence* — that cherished moment when pencil gave way to pen, marking a milestone of pride and progress. We will continue to honour such traditions, using them to inspire our children to take pride in neat, consistent handwriting as part of their daily learning.

For families curious about the specific letter formations or joins that their child is currently focusing on, examples are available above, and we warmly encourage you to contact your child's class teacher for further details. Open communication between home and school is key to reinforcing these skills and celebrating progress together.

Handwriting remains a core skill — not just for academic success, but for self-expression and lifelong confidence. We look forward to seeing our pupils flourish as they take these important steps, pen in hand.

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Parent Survey for St Martin's Prep



A **HUGE** thank you to all parents who participated in our Parent Survey.

We will share the feedback in our next newsletter. But, if anyone missed the chance to complete the Parent Survey form and would like to submit their feedback before the end of this half term, please do ask for a copy from the School Office.

Great Athletes Event – Welcoming Sean Gaffney to Prep!



We are delighted to announce that Sean Gaffney, an accomplished Team GB athlete, will be joining us for our **Great Athletes Event** on the afternoon of **Monday 13th October** here at Prep.

Our pupils will have the exciting opportunity to take part in a **fun and energetic fitness circuit** alongside Sean, all while raising funds to support the purchase of new sports equipment for our school. This initiative also helps to promote and support the Great

Athletes programme, which is dedicated to inspiring the next generation of young sportspeople.

To kick off the event, we will have held a special assembly on Monday 29th September, where pupils learnt more about the event and received a sponsorship form to take home. We encourage families and friends to support their children in this exciting challenge.

Every pupil who takes part and raises funds will receive a thank you gift, as well as the satisfaction of knowing they've made a positive impact on both their school and themselves.

We can't wait to see our school community come together with enthusiasm, energy, and, of course, some incredible Star Jumps and Spotty Dogs!

INVICTUS COMPETITOR

SEAN GAFFNEY

is visiting this school

Most important role model?

Father/ Arnold Schwarzenegger/ Nerys Pearce

What's your motto?

Be good today, be better tomorrow

Top tip for life?

It's never too late

What are you most grateful for?

Having a chance to prove myself

Sean Gaffney

After an accident preparing for the Royal Tournament in 1999 left him with a leg amputation which led to 25 surgeries, Sean did not let his journey stop there. Battling cancer twice with unwavering grit, he's triumphantly competed in both the Invictus Games and Commonwealth Games. Sean's story is one of incredible resilience, proving that with determination, even the toughest challenges can lead to extraordinary achievements.

Some of Sean's achievements include:

- ★ 2 Gold medals, a Silver and a Bronze at the Invictus Games
- ★ 2 World Championship Gold medals, a Silver and a Bronze
- ★ Held 13 National titles as a Para-powerlifter and indoor rower
- ★ 30 World records in indoor rowing and skiing
- ★ Para-powerlifter in the Commonwealth Games



on the
13th
Oct

Harvest Giving: Supporting Our Local Food Bank



Last week, our school community came together in a spirit of generosity and service as part of our Harvest celebrations. We are delighted to share that the event was a great success,

with pupils, parents, and staff contributing a wealth of donations to support the *Side Door Methodist Church Food Bank* on Laceby Road.

Our Prep School hall was a hive of activity and kindness, as tables quickly filled with tinned goods, dried staples, long-life essentials, and thoughtful treats. From baked beans and rice to teabags and biscuits, the range and quantity of items donated reflected the warmth and compassion that lies at the heart of our school family.

In the afternoon, we were honoured to welcome *Charlie* from the Food Bank, who joined us for a special assembly. He spoke to our pupils about the vital role the Food Bank plays in supporting vulnerable individuals and families in our local area — an inspiring reminder of how even small acts of giving can make a big difference.

Charlie was genuinely moved by the generosity shown by our families, and he left with a car full of donations and a heart full of gratitude. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed! Your support not only made this initiative possible but also demonstrated the values we hold dear at our school — empathy, community, and action.

Well done to all our pupils for embracing the spirit of giving so wholeheartedly. Together, we have made a meaningful difference.





Year 4 Celebrate Bandi Chhor Divas – A Festival of Freedom and Justice



As part of Mr Fidler's ongoing drive to enrich our *Religious Education and World Beliefs* curriculum, our Year 4 pupils recently took part in a vibrant and thought-provoking

celebration of *Bandi Chhor Divas* — a Sikh festival that commemorates the release of 52 Hindu princes by *Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji*.

This immersive lesson brought faith, history and values to life in a truly engaging way. Pupils re-enacted key moments from the story, stepping into the shoes of historical figures to better understand the powerful message behind the festival. We also role-played what a visit to the *Gurdwara* (Sikh place of worship) might involve, gaining insight into Sikh traditions of worship, hospitality, and community.

A particular highlight was our own version of the *langar*, the communal meal shared in Gurdwaras, where pupils enjoyed tasting traditional Indian sweets — much to their delight! This sensory experience helped reinforce the themes of equality and service at the heart of Sikh practice.

Inspired by the actions of Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, pupils took time to reflect deeply on the ideas of *justice* and *freedom* — not just within the story, but in the context of the wider world. These reflections sparked thoughtful conversations about how we, even as children, can stand up for what is right and support those whose voices may not always be heard.

A special thank you to *Mrs Nijjar* and *Hinaya* for their support and contributions, which helped make this learning experience even more meaningful and authentic.

Through lessons like these, we continue to build a curriculum that celebrates diversity, encourages empathy, and inspires moral courage — true hallmarks of the educational values we strive for at our school.





Halloween Disco



As we approach the end of a busy and brilliant half term, we would like to take a moment to shine a well-deserved spotlight on the incredible efforts of our *Home School Association (HSA)*.

In true St Martin's spirit, our dedicated HSA members have come together with creativity, energy and good cheer to transform our school spaces in preparation for the much-anticipated *End of Half Term Disco*, taking place on the afternoon of **Friday 17th October**.

Their time, care and imaginative touches have helped create a magical atmosphere for the children to enjoy, and we are immensely grateful for all they do to make these moments so memorable: '*Enriching education, making lasting memories!*'

A few important reminders for the day:

- All pupils should come to school in their **PE kit** on Friday, ready to take part in their **swimming lessons** as normal.
- After swimming, pupils will have the opportunity to **quickly change into their disco costumes** — a fun way to finish the term in style!
- To keep things smooth and practical, we kindly ask families to **avoid face paint or make-up**. Not only will this help with a swift costume change, but it also ensures no

fabulous face art is lost in the pool! **HSA** will provide face painting on the day. **Please note you will need to opt in or out of this ahead of the event via dojo.**

We look forward to seeing the children enjoy an afternoon of dancing, laughter and celebration — a joyful end to a fantastic first half of the term.

Thank you once again to our HSA for making this possible, and to all families for your continued support.





Sports Highlights – A Week of Team Spirit and Sporting Success!



The past two weeks have been bursting with energy and excitement on the sports field, both at school and away, with pupils across the school showcasing their skills, sportsmanship, and team spirit in a series of fantastic events.

Infant Inter-House Football Fun

This afternoon, our Infants took to the pitch for a lively round of *Inter-House Football*. It was wonderful to see such *super teamwork*, *determination*, and *enthusiasm* from our youngest players.

Year 1 Results:

 Yellow

 Red

 Green

Year 2 Results:

 Red

 **Yellow**

 **Green**

A huge well done to all involved — the effort and encouragement shown on the pitch were truly inspiring!

Years 3 & 4 Inter-House Football

Wow — what amazing football we witnessed during the *Year 3 and 4 Inter-House matches!* From *clever passing* to *fantastic communication*, it was a joy to watch every team play with such passion and purpose.

Year 3 Results:

 **Red**

 **Yellow**

 **Green**

Year 4 Results:

 **Yellow**

 **Green**

 **Red**

Well done to all the pupils for their collaboration and focus — you made us very proud.

Upper Prep Years 5 & 6 Inter-House Football

The competition continued with some thrilling match play from our Upper Prep pupils, who brought determination and a great sporting attitude to their matches.

Year 5 Results:

 **Yellow**

 **Green**

 **Red**

Year 6 Results:

 **Yellow**

 **Green**

 **Red**

Another brilliant round of football — and more opportunities for our pupils to shine both as individuals and as teams.

Basketball Champions! 🏀

A huge congratulations to our *Year 3 & 4 Basketball Team*, who this evening took **1st place** at the *North East Lincolnshire School Sports Partnership Basketball Event*! Your teamwork, skill, and sportsmanship were exceptional — you represented *St Martin's Prep* brilliantly.

Go Team St Martin's!









H.S.A - Home & School Association



**“Enriching education,
creating lasting memories”**

HSA - Dates for your diary:

- **Friday 21st November, 9-10.30am** - Coffee Morning and events committee meeting
Christmas fair planning.
- **Friday 5th December** - Christmas fair at St Martin's.

Thank you all for attending our Tuck Shop this evening, together we raised £111.00!





Pumpkin Competition – Carve Your Way to a Prize! 🎃



We are once again bringing seasonal fun to our school community with this year's **Pumpkin Carving Competition** — and we're thrilled to announce a *spook-tacular* prize for our lucky winner!

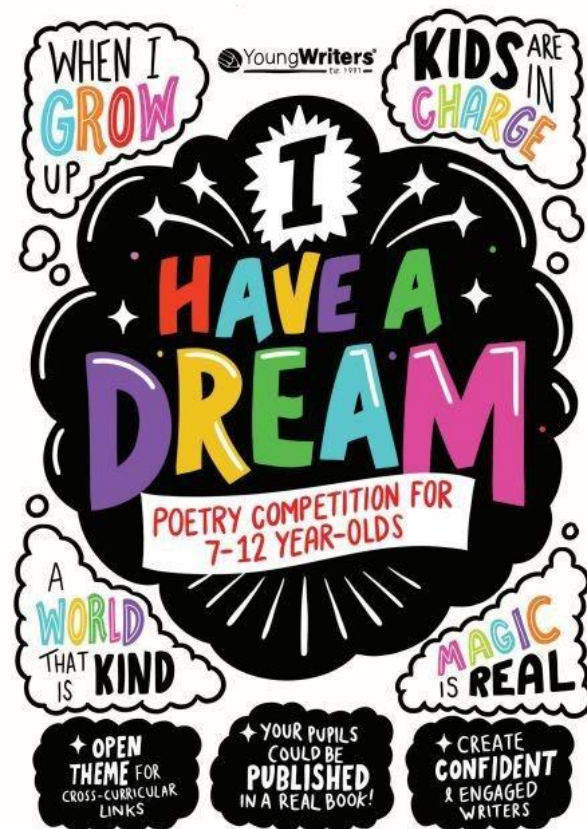
Thanks to the generosity of *Lings Farm Pick Your Own Pumpkins*, the winner will receive a **£10.00 voucher** to spend at their brilliant family-friendly farm — the perfect place to kick off your autumn adventures!

Located at **Lings Farm, LN7 6BN**, the pumpkin patch is open every day from **Saturday 11th October to Thursday 31st October**, with *free entry* for all. It's a wonderful day out for families, offering not only pumpkins of all shapes and sizes but also that wholesome countryside experience we all love at this time of year.

We can't wait to see your imaginative, creative — and maybe even spooky! — pumpkin designs. Whether it's funny, frightening or fabulously artistic, every entry helps bring some autumnal joy to our school.

Happy carving, and good luck to all our entrants! 🎃

Notices



We would like to extend our very best wishes to all our exceptional **Year 6 pupils** as they receive their results today and Monday...



We are immensely proud of your hard work and dedication, and we want you to know that we are all supporting you.

You have done your very best — well done!





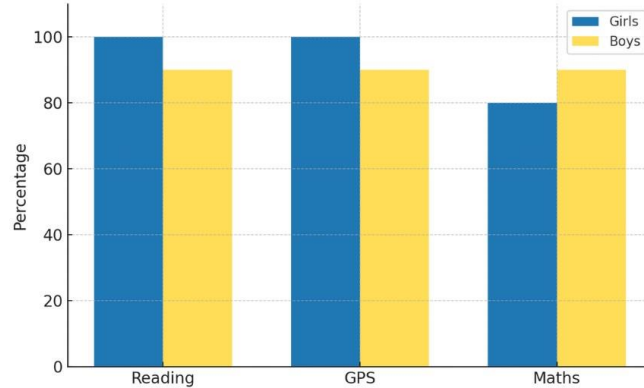
ST MARTIN'S PREP



Where all children can be: **Happy, Hardworking and Aim High.**

2025

2025 SATs Results - Expected Standard

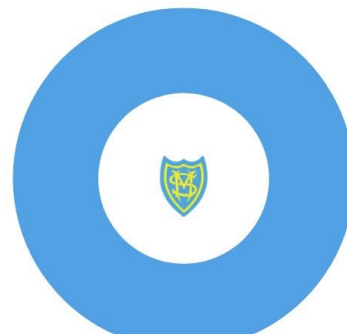


Destinations



11+ Success

Our talented Year 6 cohort achieved a 100% pass rate, with every pupil who took the 11+ securing a place at one of our prestigious local grammar schools.



11+ Pass to Placement
100%

Contact Us



Please do contact us should you have any queries or questions concerning the contents of this newsletter.

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Visit us on the web at <https://www.stmartinsprep.co.uk/>.