

William Martin CofE Schools and Nursery

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Experiencing life in all its fullness

William Martin Newsletter

22nd September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic start to the term we have had, with so many exciting events and visitors coming into the schools.

Firstly, welcome to our new Nursery and Reception children, we are so pleased and happy that you have joined the William Martin family! Welcome too, to our new staff who have joined our team, we are so glad that you are now part of our brilliant staffing team!

Thank you to all the parents for making sure the children look so smart in their new school year uniform, they really do make us proud to be a part of our schools.

So enjoy the newsletter, it will give you a small taste of what's been going on and what's coming up!

Alice in Wonderland Theatre Production

Year 1-6 classes thoroughly enjoyed the Alice in Wonderland show this week.



Our Core Christian Values: Responsibility, Friendship, Perseverance, Justice, Courage, Truthfulness



"It was very funny and enjoyable. I liked the costumes and music and it was great to see real actors performing live." Year 6



myHappyMind

Look out next week for an email and letter letting you know how you can get involved with our new school programme- myHappyMind. The children will begin their lessons next week.



Macmillan Coffee Morning and PTA meeting

Friday 29th September 8.45am-11.00am, Infant Hall



All parents are welcome to come to the coffee morning to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. During the coffee morning, there will be a PTA Meeting 9.15-10.15 for parents to find out a bit more about how you can help and make new connections with other parents.

Any cake donations gratefully received- please hand in to the school office on Thursday 28th September or bring along to the coffee morning.

Family Support Services Coffee Morning and Cake Sale

Thursday 19th October 9.00-11.00am

Look out for a poster advertising all the family support services who will be here on 19th October. You can come along for advice and support for a range of family and parental support needs.

Attendance

We are going to regularly report overall attendance figures on our newsletters as it is imperative children attend school as much as possible. Currently the juniors have 95.7% attendance and the infants have 95.62%. This is just below the expected DFE target of 96%. Each week classes are awarded pieces of a Mr Potatohead if the class achieves 96% or more. The winning classes in the infants and juniors also have an extra playtime and the overall winner is awarded with the attendance cup! So far, classes who have the highest attendance are Rosen (year 1), Attenborough (year 2), Mandela (year 3), Pullman (year 4) and Windsor (year 6). If your child has a medical appointment during the school day, please show the office or email evidence so this can be authorised. Also remember that the gates close 5 minutes earlier in the mornings now, children must be through the gates by 8.50am to start the school day in the best possible way. Being very late will cause a U code which counts as an unauthorised absence.



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School Dinners

A BIG thank you to all the families booking school dinners- we have seen a great improvement! Please continue to ensure that **ALL** school dinners are booked in advance by Thursday evening, the week preceding (before) your child's booking. We need this information and payment to pre-order the food to ensure we have sufficient stock and avoid waste. Non-booking and payment will mean that the office will contact you to provide your child with a packed lunch from home. If we are not able to contact you, there will be a very limited menu for your child to choose from, as it is vitally important your child has lunch in school.

Year 6- Secondary School Applications

If your child is in year 6, secondary school applications must be made between 12th September 2023 to 31st October 2023. You will not receive an email or letter to remind you of this. Please click this link to take you to the page to make the application.

[Secondary school places | Essex County Council](#)

Reception 2024 Places- School Tours

If your child is due to start school in September 2024, we have school tours for you to view our school. Please call the office or email admin.williammartin@dcvst.org to book a place:

Tuesday 3rd October @ 9.30am

Monday 16th October @ 4pm

Thursday 9th November @ 1.30pm

Wednesday 29th November @ 9.30am

Tuesday 9th January @ 9.30am

Online applications can be made for a Reception school place between 9th November 2023 and 15th January 2024.

Best wishes,

Gina Bailey

Executive Headteacher

Claire Kearney

Head of School



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Dates for your diary



Friday 22nd September: First Aid Friday including Year 5/6 taking part in the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance CPR Initiative in Schools

Friday 29th September 8.45-11.00am: MacMillan Coffee Morning and PTA meeting

Thursday 5th October: Individual Photographs

Friday 6th October: Non-pupil day

Tuesday 10th October: #HelloYellow 'World Mental Health Day'- children invited to wear yellow for the day

Thursday 12th October: Year 2 to Southend Aquarium

Monday 16th October: Year 6 Respect and Hate Crime Assembly with Essex Fire Service

Wednesday 18th October 9.30: Year 4/5 Harvest Service at St Stephens, parents invited

Thursday 19th October 9.00-11.00am: Family Support Services Coffee Morning and Cake Sale

Thursday 19th October: Firework Safety Assemblies with Essex Fire Service

Friday 20th October: Last day of the half term- normal 3.15/3.20pm finish time.

Monday 23rd- Friday 27th October: Half Term Holiday

Monday 30th October: First day of the new half term

Wednesday 1st & Thursday 2nd November: Parent Consultations

Friday 3rd November: Nursery Closed

Wednesday 22nd November: Flu Immunisations

Wednesday 20th December: Last day of term- early closure 1.15./1.20pm finish time.

