

St Martin's Newsletter



Autumn TERM 2026/2027

Friday 18th September

Attendance

This week whole school attendance is 95.8%. Remember anyone arriving at school after 8:50 am will be marked late. Let's be an attendance HERO!

			
	Attendance	Lateness	Purple Points
Nursery	97.42%	5	Not started
Reception	96.89%	3	4.4
Year 1	94.9%	5	7.7
Year 2	98.85%	3	12.2
Year 3	90%	0	13.9
Year 4	97.36%	4	18.4
Year 5	92.07%	5	8.5
Year 6	97.89%	6	12.8

Year 2 and Year 4 win the bonus break this week.

St Martin's Stars

Well done to all our certificate winners this week!

			
	Shining Star	Purple Tie	Our Values
Nursery	Benji H	Theo H	Lottie W
Reception	Bonnie-Faye C	Oliver G	Avii B
Year 1	Olivia P	Olivia P	Georgie D
Year 2	Cody S	Harry S	Thomas F
Year 3	Elexis S		Frankie K
Year 4	Marley MP	Ava M	William B
Year 5	Louis T	Halle W	Maisie F
Year 6	Pennie S	Mason G	Amelia B

Safety Advice

This online safety guide explores [Character.AI](#), highlighting risks including inappropriate content, emotional dependency, the reliability of advice, and privacy concerns.

Message from Mrs Ming

What a week! Celebrating our 50th Anniversary has been a very special occasion and as usual the children were a credit to us. A big thank you to Mr Barr (founding headteacher), Mrs Walton, Mr Hallman and Fr Emeka for joining us on our special day and delivering a very interesting assembly about the history of the school. Photos from the day will be posted on the Facebook and Instagram Pages. Every child was given a commemorative mug for the occasion. If someone you know would like to purchase one they are available for £3 from the school office. Thank you also to all the parents who joined us for our coffee afternoon, we raised £177.74 for Macmillan Cancer Care. Have a lovely weekend.

Parent Notice Board

School Photos Thursday 24th September
Children to bring PE kits with them to change into

Y6 Assembly Friday 25th September 9am

Y5 Assembly Friday 2nd October 9am

Y4 Assembly Friday 9th October 9am

Monday 2nd November **RockKidz Whole school**
Wednesday 4th November Whole school Mass 10am
Wednesday 4th November Parent's evening 1.40-6pm
EARLY CLOSE
Friday 6th November INSET DAY

Clubs

Monday Choir with Mr Scott for Year 3-6
Thursday Film Club with Mrs Parker for Year 3 & 4
Thursday Sports Club with Mr Cullen for Year 5 & 6
Friday Lego Club with Mrs Williams for reception Y1 & Y2

School Photos

School photo day is on
THURSDAY 25th September.

As this is PE day please send your child into school with their PE kit in a bag so they can get changed into it after their photographs have been taken.

Catholic Life and Reflection

The Wednesday Word is a resource for parents to use when discussing the [weekly Gospel](#) with their families. All parents and families are welcome to join our whole school for Mass to celebrate St Martin's Feast day on **WEDNESDAY 4th November at 10am.**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership, and governance. He works internationally, supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance, as well as teaching the key fundamentals of AI use and safety to educators at The National College.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website



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