

St Martin's Newsletter



Autumn TERM 2026/2027

Friday 25th September

Attendance

We've had a dip this week with whole school attendance at 93.8%. Remember anyone arriving at school after 8:50 am will be marked late. Let's be an attendance HERO!

			
	Attendance	Lateness	Purple Points
Nursery	100%	2	Not started
Reception	95.41%	4	5.4
Year 1	91.1%	3	11.1
Year 2	97.69%	4	14
Year 3	92.86%	2	15.8
Year 4	96.92%	5	16.3
Year 5	86.27%	6	14.5
Year 6	98%	3	20.4

Year 2 and Year 6 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	George	Benji	Harlow
Reception	Carson	Selina	Lotanna
Year 1	Leo	Anaya	George
Year 2	Everleigh	Daisy	Albie
Year 3	Alex	Romaisa	Connor
Year 4	Alice W	Olivia	Adara
Year 5	Annie	Parker	Halle
Year 6	Mason	Tyler R	Amelia F

Safety Advice

This online safety guide explores [Discord](#), highlighting risks including stranger contact, harmful content, harassment, spending and excessive use.

Message from Mrs Ming



Congratulations to our new Junior Safety officers who spent Wednesday evening at the DCBL stadium. We are looking forward to all you will teach us this year. We still have some 50th anniversary mugs available to buy if you know someone who would like one. They are available for £3 from the school office.

Parent Notice Board

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 Lottery

CONGRATULATIONS to last week's winner
 26/09/2026 Ms M who won £6.25

You can buy [tickets here](#)

This month you can win

the brand-new iPhone 18 Pro Max 512GB!

and recently a school and parent won 10k to share. Thank you to all who have bought tickets – school has raised £346.80 through ticket sales.

The **more tickets bought the bigger the prize** so please share and you could win £200 for referring a friend.



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 DISCORD

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(with a 17+ app rating on app stores)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord 'Nitro', a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'Shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a young user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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