



St Martin's C of E Primary and Nursery School

Younghayes Road, Cranbrook, EX5 7DT

Tel: 01404 515409 Email: admin@stmartinscranbrook.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, we would like to welcome you to Chestnut and Elm classes. This year the teaching team in Chestnut is Nat Padley, Gabby Davis, Steph Mabbutt and Bronwyn Harris and in Elm is Gwen Blewett, Alex Tosh and Jo Paul.

The school day

The main school gates open at 8:20am and children need to be in school, ready to learn by 8:30 am. Children arriving late will need to register at the school office.

School finishes at 3:00 pm. If you are booking holidays, you will find the term dates for the next academic year on our school website.

Attendance

High attendance at school is not just valuable, it's essential. It gives children the best possible chance of developing secure friendships, feeling safe, building on prior learning and succeeding academically. There is a proven link between high attendance and doing well at school.

At St Martins we promote the importance of high attendance in our weekly celebration assembly, awarding 'Attendance Bear' to the class with the highest attendance for that week.

As a school we strive for a goal of 100% attendance however we do recognise that there will be times when children are not well enough to be in school. If your child is unwell please contact the school office. If you have any concerns regarding the attendance of your child please contact Melanie Turl - Deputy Teacher via School Spider.

Learning Narrative

This term, we will be learning all about Biomes in geography which will also link with our science where we are focusing on living things and their habitats followed by our topic on Earth and space. After half term, in history we will be learning all about Ancient Greece. In R.E, we will be looking at Islam and Christianity, in computing we will become programmers – designing and making our very own platform games as well as learning about search engines. In Art we will explore sculptures by making our own vases. In DT, the children will make bread.

Home Learning

Your child will be set home learning each week. Home learning will consist of a spelling task on spelling shed as well as a mental maths piece of work. This will be set on a **Wednesday** and is due in on the following **Wednesday**. In addition to this, they will be set a reading task where they will not only have to read a selection of pages from the class text but will also have a task linked to what they have read for them to complete. This will be set on a **Thursday** and is due in the following **Monday**.

In addition to this, children will continue daily reading (30 minutes) and we recommend still listening to your child read aloud a few times a week. It is important that the children are heard to read as much as possible to improve their fluency and comprehension, as well as this having a positive impact on their writing.



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Children will bring home their Accelerated Reader (AR) book each day. These books must come back into school every day as they are also the children's class reading books. Once a child has finished their book will take a short quiz to assess how successfully they have comprehended the text.

P.E

The children will have P.E on a Monday and a Wednesday. On PE days, your child needs to **come to school dressed in their PE kit.**

PE kit should include:

- Black shorts
- T-shirt based on the children's family learning group or plain white t-shirt
- Black tracksuit bottoms
- Trainers
- School jumper to be worn over the top for warmth

Please speak to the office if you are unsure of your child's family learning group.

Forest school

Forest school will be happening in the Spring term. Children will need to **come to school wearing their forest clothes (long sleeved top and trousers)**. Please make sure that they also come to school with a suitable waterproof coat and wellies in a carrier bag. The children will then need to be collected from the forest at the end of school.

Uniform and Belongings

Please ensure that all personal items are labelled clearly. Even with the best intentions, children do lose things - having them named means that items can find their way back to the correct owner.

Questions/Queries

At St. Martins we have an open-door policy so staff will be at their doors at the beginning and end of each day to answer any quick questions. If you have any queries that need to be discussed in more depth please contact the school admin team via School Spider and address your message 'for the attention of Year 5 teachers.'

We look forward to a successful and happy year.

Nat Padley, Gwen Blewett, Alex Tosh, Gabby Davis, Steph Mabbutt and Jo Paul