



**St Martin's C of E Primary
& Nursery School**

Younghayes Road, Cranbrook,
Devon, EX5 7DT

E: smartins@thsp.org.uk

W: smartinscranbrook.devon.sch.uk

T: 01404 515409

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we would like to welcome you to Chicks and Ducklings class. It has been lovely meeting all of our new families and your children have been settling into school life beautifully.

Our Staff Team is:

Mrs Downing - Ducklings class teacher

Mrs Hales - Chicks class teacher

Mr Phillip - Teaching assistant

Mrs Browning - Teaching assistant

Mrs Holder - Teaching assistant

Mr Dickason - Teaching assistant

Miss Tucker - Teaching assistant (Mon-Wed)

Mrs Smith - Teaching assistant (Thur-Fri)

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 begin by thinking about ourselves. We will think about what we look like, our bodies, our likes and dislikes and we will talk about our family and loved ones. We will think about how we are all unique and have differences and similarities to each other. We will be learning about celebrations and events such as Diwali, Remembrance Day and Christmas. Alongside this, we will explore the world around us by learning about the changes in the seasons.



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Home Learning

Reading

We will be beginning to teach our phonics programme next week which forms the foundation on which children will build their reading and writing skills. Children will be given their first school reading book to go home on Wednesday 30th September. We would like to invite you to a **"Foundations for Learning"** information session on **Wednesday 30th September at 2.30pm** to explain to you how we teach reading at school and explain how your role in hearing your child read at home will work. We will also offer guidance with how you can support your child's early reading, mark-making and mathematics learning at home. (You can keep bookbags at home until Wednesday 30th September).

As well as reading at home, occasionally we may send home activities which will promote consolidation of learning in other subjects too.

P.E

Your child will have PE on Tuesdays. In Reception, the children **do not** need a PE kit.

Forest school

The forest session for Chicks and Ducklings will be every Friday morning. Forest School will begin on **Friday 18th of September** and Mr Bush will be sending out further details on School Spider. 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 that they either bring wellies or have a pair stored at school. Please provide a change of clothes for your child, should they need to get changed after the forest.

Belongings & Uniform

Please ensure that all personal items are labelled clearly. As the children remove their shoes in the classroom please also name shoes clearly as they are very easily mixed up! Even with the best intentions, children do lose things - having them named means that items can find their way back to the correct owner.

Water Bottles and Snacks

We come together for a mid-morning snack and drink.

Children are provided with a piece of fruit each day. Therefore **snacks are not required from home**. This also means that we are able to keep our children safe who have allergies. As you can imagine spillages happen so we would really appreciate it if your child has only water in their bottle.

Questions/Queries



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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 Chicks or Ducklings teachers.'

We look forward to a successful and happy year.
Mrs Downing and Mrs Hales