



IMPORTANT DATES:

Parent Consultations

Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th February. Details to follow

Australia Day 26th January 2021

Safer Internet Day – 9th February 2021

INSET day Friday 12th February 2021

February half-term 15th to 19th February 2021

Term 4 begins Monday 22nd February 2021

Reading Matters Week 1st to 5th March 2021 including **World Book Day** 4th March 2021

INSET day Friday 5th March 2021

Comic Relief 19th March 2021

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Please **wear face coverings while on our School grounds.**

INSET days for 2020/2021
School closed for all pupils
Friday 12th February 2021
Friday 5th March 2021
Friday 18th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all managing to keep active and spend time outdoors. Luckily, there has actually been some signs of sunshine and blue sky today which I think is the first I've seen for the last few weeks which should help us all. To add to this joy, I have just spoken to **Sir Link-a-lot** and he will be running some special Zoom sessions for our children next week to support with **Spelling and Grammar**. They will be on **Wednesday 27th January at 4.30pm** and he will then repeat the same session at **7.00pm** to give flexibility as to which one you attend. We will **send you a link** out next week to join one of these **sessions**. Last time he was in school the children really enjoyed meeting him and learning his spelling links. On Monday we will be **sending out an Acceptable Use Agreement** linked to our Home Learning offer and Sir-Link-a-lot's sessions. Please **complete the form so you can take part**.

Attached to the newsletter email today you will also find copies of our latest **Home Learning Letter** and a **Letter** I have written **to the Children** who are learning at home. Also on our website you can find an updated version of our **Remote Learning Plan** that the Government has asked all schools to provide following this new National Lockdown.

The school staff have worked really hard again to plan the next pack of Home Learning across the school. They are doing this while balancing teaching in school, providing feedback, uploading to Class DoJo and planning the next steps of learning as well. Each of the paper packs contain a range of learning opportunities in English, Maths, Reading, our History Learning Enquiry and so much more which is linked to the learning on Class DoJo. The vast majority of packs have been hand delivered today and some staff are still out delivering the packs as I write the newsletter. Some packs may not arrive until Monday so please contact us on Tuesday if your pack has not arrived. Staff who have arrived back in school have again passed on lovely messages and comments. Thank you for supporting them by having packs ready to hand back.

I know lots of the children have watched the message from Duncan Beedie this week and taken part in his draw-a-long sessions that teachers have posted. I have seen a number of Lumber Jack's with lots of dogs similar to Buddy drawn in them.

Talking of Buddy... My youngest son has trained him to do High-Fives and he has also learnt to leave a cookie on the floor for over five seconds. I don't think I could leave a cookie that long! I will record some videos over the weekend and ask teachers to share in school and on Class DoJo so you can all see. I know that David (Skip2Bfit) said in his video to get your pets skipping but that might be a step too far for Buddy at the moment.

Mrs Parfitt message continued

You may have seen in the news recently that **Lateral flow testing** is being introduced for all primary school staff from next week -once the tests are delivered. Each staff member has the opportunity to test twice weekly in the mornings before coming to school. This means we will be able to identify any staff who are asymptomatic. **This may impact on our bubbles that are open** going forwards. We would seek advice from Public Health England and inform you as soon as we can should we need to shut a bubble. Dependent on the time that we learn of the positive result, there will be a text message/parent mail to let you know of any bubble closure. **So far as a school we have not had to shut a bubble and I breathe a sigh of relief each week that we continue to be open to all our bubbles.** Please continue to help us by following the government guidance below regarding getting a test if you or any member of your household is showing symptoms.

Please remember you can phone, email the class or school email and we will get back to you and help in any way we can. If you or your child is ill, please do ring in and tell us so we can then make sure your child's teacher knows and again support you and your family.

If you have some time at the weekend please have a look at the **Young Imagineers Challenge** Competition detailed below.

Thank you for all your ongoing messages of support and appreciation they really do make a positive difference to all the staff who are working tirelessly to support you all.

Have a restful weekend, take care and keep safe!

Claire Parfitt

Coronavirus advice from NHS England

If you or anyone in your household has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), **get a test as soon as possible**. You MUST ALL Stay at home until you get the result. Only leave your home to get a test. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

PLEASE VISIT <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19> for more information on the current COVID-19 procedures.



The **Young Imagineers Challenge** invites young people to think about important issues they feel the world faces today and pick one thing they would like to see solved in the future. There are three categories: *health, sustainability and technology*.

The public can vote for the challenges they most want to see solved via the website and the top entrant in each category will see their challenge brought to life in live-streamed, interactive lesson, presented by Dallas Campbell.

To enter, simply visit the website www.youngimagineers.equinor.com, think of a challenge for one or all of the categories and submit it using the entries portal. The Closing date is **SUNDAY 31st JANUARY 2021**. Please see website for full details, terms and conditions.

Don't forget to let your Teacher and Mrs Parfitt know if you enter and share your ideas with your class via DoJo.

SOCIAL MEDIA : As you know we already have a Twitter page [@HeadSMGP](https://twitter.com/HeadSMGP) and a school website www.stmartinsgarden.org.uk which we use to communicate exciting things happening here at St Martin's Garden Primary.

We have now set up a Facebook page for Parents/Carers and our wider community. <https://www.facebook.com/St-Martins-Garden-Primary-104477314372473/>.

The Page will be used to notify Parents and the local Community of upcoming events and maybe show photos/details of events that have happened.

We will not be using our Facebook page as a way of communicating with you individually, please continue to use the class email, school email, call the school office or see Mrs Parfitt, Mrs Horn or Mr Bogg. We would like our Facebook page to be a positive, exciting page showing all the amazing things happening here at our fabulous school. Thank you.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISING ~ When shopping on-line please visit www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/st-martins-garden-primary, to register **St Martin's Garden Primary** (sign up code: **57557**) as your cause, search the retailer, shop as normal and the retailer will make a donation to us!

ALSO The Giving Machine currently have a **FREE Daily Bonus Donation button**. No purchase required, just login (everyday) and **Click on the Daily Bonus Button** and a donation will be made to us.

Please pass this information onto **Family and Friends** and help us raise money for our exciting Playground plans. Thank you.