



## January 2026 Newsletter

### Welcome

Welcome back to all our school community. The year has got off to an excellent start as all are refreshed and have settled back into school life. A special welcome, also, to our new starters in Nursery, who have also settled in beautifully.

Ahead of us lies another exciting and action-packed Spring Term, with a huge range of events to look forward to, as you will see on the school website homepage, [www.martinwilsonschool.com](http://www.martinwilsonschool.com). But as a quick reminder these include World Book Day, Parents evening and our Spring Concert, so lots to look forward too. No doubt more events will be announced as the term continues!

I would like to thank all pupils, Staff and members of our community who helped to make 2025 such a successful year.

### Curriculum news

#### Phonics

This term we are excited to have started using a new Phonics scheme called "Little Wandle". We believe that for all our children to become fluent readers and writers, phonics must be taught through a systematic and structured phonics programme.

We use the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised to plan and provide daily engaging phonics lessons. In phonics, we teach children that the letters of the alphabet represent a different sound, that these can be used in a variety of combinations and are put together to make words. The children learn to recognise all the different sounds and combinations that they might see when they are reading or writing.

Our phonics teaching starts in Nursery and follows a very specific sequence that allows our children to build on their previous phonic knowledge and master specific phonic strategies as they move through school. As a result, our children can tackle any unfamiliar words that they might discover.

We also model these strategies in shared reading and writing both inside and outside of the phonics lesson and across the curriculum. We have a strong focus on the development of language skills for our children because we know that speaking and listening are crucial skills for reading and writing in all subjects.

## English

We have also launched a new approach to English across school. This is a text focused approach and supports pupils reading as well as writing by using a class text. You can find out more about each classes books for the term on our website.

## Reading Around the World

To celebrate the Year of Reading 2026, we have launched our own Reading challenge for Years 1 -6 to take part in, to read their way around the globe.

*What is the reading challenge?*

Each time your child reads for a minimum of 10 minutes at home or in school they will earn a point in their reading passport to help them move towards the destinations of New York, Rio de Janeiro, Nairobi, Sydney, Beijing, Athens and back to London. When they arrive in each named destination, they will earn a certificate and if they read their way around the world, they will be rewarded with a gold star pin badge to wear on their uniform to show off their reading achievement! Pupils that read their way around the world twice before the end of the Summer Term will earn an extra prize to reward their commitment to reading each day or as often as they can manage.

*How can you help?*

Please could you sign and date their reading record for them to bring back into school each time you listen to your child read for 10 minutes at home, or see them read for at least 10 minutes to themselves (for older readers), We will then be able to add this to their reading passport in addition to the points they earn when they read in school.

The children are very excited about taking part in the challenge and it would be fantastic if you could support your child by listening to them read at home whenever you can find a spare 10 minutes or more to listen to them.

## Class Learning Overviews

All our classes have shared this terms learning overview on our website. This is useful if you would like to support learning at home as it will inform you of any topics being covered and areas they are studying.

## Uniform

Thank you to all who helped us recycle some of our pre-loved uniforms at the start of term. We will be making this a more regular occurrence and hope it not only helps save the environment but some pennies as well.

Our school uniform policy has recently been updated and can be found on the website. We expect all children except in the EYC, to wear the required uniform and PE kit as laid out in our policy.

## Social Media

Just a reminder that most Social Media apps have a restricted minimum age of 13 and some like WhatsApp are over 16 years. We are aware that children under these ages use the apps and would strongly recommend that parents read the advice on the NSPCC website for guidance in supporting children to stay safe online. For more details see:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>

## E-Scooters

We have seen some pupils arriving at school on e-scooters. Whilst these can be great fun they are not permitted in school as the use of them, except on private land, is presently against the law.

West Mercia Police state that privately owned e-scooters are illegal to use in public (roads, pavements, parks) because they lack insurance, tax, MOT, and registration, falling under motor vehicle laws; children riding them on public land can lead to fines and penalty points for parents, with police seizing scooters.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/news/west-mercia/news/2025/july/a-reminder-around-the-law-for-e-scooters-and-e-bikes/>

## Term Dates

Here are some useful dates for your diaries:

<b>Spring Term Dates 2026 v1</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Monday 5th January	<i>PD day</i>
Tuesday 6th January	<i>School starts</i>
Thursday 8th January	<i>Swimming Starts Year 4 &amp; 6</i>
Monday 19th January	<i>Clubs start</i>
Thursday 5th February	<i>Last Swimming Session for Year 4 &amp; 6</i>
Thursday 12th February	<i>Swimming Starts Year 3 &amp; 5</i>
Monday 16th February	<i>Half Term Starts</i>
Monday 23rd February	<i>School starts</i>
Thursday 5th March	<i>World Book Day</i>
Thursday 19th March	<i>Last Swimming Session for Year 3 &amp; 5</i>
Friday 20th March	<i>Red Nose Day</i>
Wednesday 25th March	<i>Parents Evening</i>
Thursday 26th March	<i>Parents Evening</i>
Friday 27th March	<i>Spring Concert (Parents invited)</i> <i>Term ends</i>

## Updates

To make sure we can keep you up to date with all that is happening please make sure you let the office know if you change your email or phone number.

Don't forget to visit our website for additional information about our school.

[www.martinwilsonschool.com](http://www.martinwilsonschool.com)