

Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,
I hope you've all had a restful half term (and that the children have recovered after the residential!), and are feeling ready for the busy and exciting term ahead.

This second term is packed with rich learning opportunities under the theme 'What a War!'. We'll be a part of the Remembrance service with our Reception buddies — a moment to reflect with **empathy** and respect. Our work will include exploring war poetry, understanding the causes of war and its place in history, and learning about evacuation, the Kindertransport, and how our local area was involved. These topics will encourage **resilience** as we engage with challenging and thought-provoking content.

In our REACH Friday sessions, we'll be focusing on Parliament, laws, and debating — helping children build **confidence** in expressing their views and understanding the importance of civic responsibility. We're excited to welcome two local councillors and will also be writing to our local MP, setting **high expectations** for thoughtful engagement and communication.

As we move closer to December, we'll begin preparing for our Christmas service, celebrating together and continuing to nurture **aspiration** in all we do. It's going to be an action-packed term, and we're looking forward to seeing the children thrive as they live out our school values every step of the way.

Reading Gives You Wings…
A big push for reading again. It is so important in for life and in Year 6 as it helps to prepare them for the expectations at secondary school as well as the SATS tests in May. I would love all of the children within Saint Martin's class to read 5 times per week, this could be to an adult outside of school or if they read by themselves e.g. before bed, you can question them afterwards and talk about what they have read. You are able to document this in the children's yellow reading diaries and I'll be checking them once a week. This term, we will be continuing to read the class novel ***Holes by Louis Sachar***.

Homework
Please encourage your children to do as much as possible as I am setting tasks to prepare them for the demands of Secondary School and also to sharpen their knowledge for SATS (happening in May).
Our homework will be set on a Friday (online on Teams) and this will include:

- Maths or English work. This all needs to be completed and handed back in on TEAMS by the following Wednesday.
- SPaG – children will be set this on SPAG.com (an online platform). The children are bringing home log on letters after parents evening to access this. **Please encourage your child to access this as it enables me to focus in on gaps in their knowledge.**

General Reminders…

Water bottles

Last term we had lots of children forgetting their water bottles - they should be bringing a water bottle in to school every day. They are able to keep these on their table (just Year 6) to ensure that they are drinking throughout the day. Please make sure your child's bottle is named.

Uniform

A reminder that we are now in Winter uniform which includes grey tights.

PE and Outdoor Learning

PE will take place on a Monday and Friday afternoon, please ensure children wear their uniform to school. This includes trainers, a house colour top and navy shorts/joggers.

Outdoor Learning will take place on a Friday, please ensure waterproof clothing and a pair of wellies are in school for this. They need wellies in all the time now as they need them to go on the field at break times and lunch times.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, concerns, or would simply like a chat. I am usually available after school on the playground, or you can contact me via email **(FAO Mrs Knight)** through the school office: **admin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk**

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

With warm regards,

Mrs Knight

Year 6 Teacher – **St Martin's Class**