



# MARTINS WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

19th April 2024

## HIGHLIGHTS

- New Staff
- Swimming
- Learning around the school

Welcome back to the Summer Term of this academic year! We hope everyone has had a restful break; we are looking forward to sharing lots of exciting news and learning with you all, over the coming months.

## Welcome Mr Stephenson

On Monday, we were joined by our new PE teacher – Mr Stephenson. He comes to us with a wealth of experience of primary schools in the local area and is excited to continue developing our PE curriculum.



## Swimming

Our on-site swimming lessons have started this week! Children in years 5 and 6 have been enjoying their lessons in the pool. Lessons are taught by a qualified instructor, with a lifeguard present. Feedback so far from both staff and pupils has been great – we look forward to sharing more about this experience with you, over the coming weeks.



## Saplings

Welcome to all our new starters in Saplings this week!

The children have settled back in to school well, and have enjoyed spending time together whilst re-establishing routines.



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## A letter from the Palace!

Last year, the current Year 3 children wrote letters to the King as part of their learning about monarchs. They said how much they enjoyed the coronation and wished his Highness well. They also asked many other questions, such as 'was the crown very heavy?' This week they received a reply! The children have been very excited to see the "beautiful note paper"; you can view the letter from His Majesty below.

### Year 1 – Science and Art

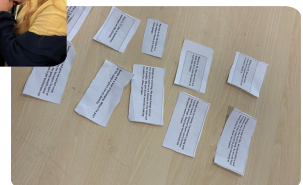
This week, Year 1 launched their new science topic observing some mystery seeds and predicting what they might grow into. They have set up their experiment by placing the seeds on a wet towel, in a bag and stuck them to the window to observe the changes that will happen. They have also been looking at their natural environment, exploring the plants that grow locally, sorting and comparing them. This knowledge was then used to inspire their art learning. They have looked at the trunks of trees and carried out some bark rubbings and made use of the flora to make some artistic images.



### Year 6 – Computing and PSHE

Year 6 have had a productive start to the term, partaking in swimming lessons! They have embraced the pool set up in school and have begun trying to achieve their swimming targets. For their new computing topic they have been collecting different facts about Alan Turing and his historic role within computing.

The children have also completed some important P.S.H.E. learning about 'gangs'. Now they know what a gang is, and related perceptions regarding them, they have begun discussing reasons why children join gangs. The children discussed their own opinions of gangs and assessed the related risks for joining one in the future.



### Year 2 – D.T.

In D&T, the children have been designing and making the structure of a beach hut. They have used their new skills of scoring and strengthening card, and created a box structure out of wood. They then covered and decorated the hut.



### Diary Dates

In school Swimming - continues

Sapling closed (polling day)-  
**Thurs. 2nd May**

Key stage 2 SATs (with breakfast)  
**Week beg. Mon. 13th May**

Half term - **27th - 31st May**  
Inset day - **3rd June**

Year 4 Multiplication tables check-  
**Week beg. 4th June**

Year 4 sleepover -**Thursday 6th June**

Year 5 sleepover -**Thursday 6th June**





BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Private and Confidential

21<sup>st</sup> March, 2024

To: The Pupils and Staff of Martins Wood Primary School, Stevenage,  
c/o Anna Nicoll, Class Teacher, Year 2

The King has asked me to thank you for your splendid messages and pictures.

It was so kind of you to take the trouble to write as you did. Although His Majesty is unable to reply personally, I can tell you that The King was touched to see your thoughtful questions and greatly appreciates the care with which you created your artwork and composed your messages.

Thank you, once again, for thinking of His Majesty, who has asked me to send his warmest good wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Jensen'.

Head of Royal Correspondence



We were deeply touched by your most kind and thoughtful message following our Coronation. We are enormously grateful to everyone who took part in the celebrations, and particularly appreciate that you so generously took the time to write to us on this very special occasion.

Two handwritten signatures in dark ink. The first signature is 'Charles R' and the second is 'Camilla R'.