

St. Martin's Catholic Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Buller

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Dear Parent

Over the past few months, we have been working diligently to establish the inaugural Parent Forum at St Martins'. At our most recent meeting in April, I was fortunate enough to be elected Chair and so it is with great pleasure that I write to both introduce and welcome you to our new Forum.

The Parent Forum has been established to allow an opportunity for Parents to "have a voice" and contribute ideas as to how the school runs. It will allow us to speak directly to both the Senior Leadership Team and Governors of St Martins. In doing so, not only can we contribute ideas but also learn a little about the decisions that are made at a local, regional and even National level that affect our school.

I know that, as a parent, communication is an area of our school's life that I want to see improved upon and was one of the main reasons for me taking on the role of Forum Chair. I very much hope that by working together, we can make some important advances in this regard. However, the Forum will ultimately only be as good as the collaboration that we encourage. Your views as Parents are vitally important to allow our wonderful school to flourish. We have now a great opportunity for all of us to say our piece and to help create the shape of things to come.

Over time we plan to discuss a very wide range of subjects that amongst other things could include

- i) Data- results and interpretation
- ii) Parent contributions including the Building Fund and Parent Contributions (in kind and money)
- iii) Volunteering e.g. blogging rota, reading, maths, homework
- iv) Home learning
- v) Parents and governors
- vi) Wider community – parish and local area

We shall however be kicking things off with a bang with a discussion on **Marketing & Promoting our School**. I hope that you share my motivation that this is something that the parent community can have a real, meaningful and immediate impact upon. It could be that you have some great ideas, can help with a particular skill set or just want to hear what's said; there is something for everyone I'm sure.

To that end, I would like to invite you to attend our first meeting on **Thursday 24th May at 18.30 hrs** at the School. If you are able to join us then you are very welcome. I do however appreciate that not everyone will be able to make it in person and so we are going to try and run a "Skype" style session alongside our live meeting so that you can dial in and participate in real time.

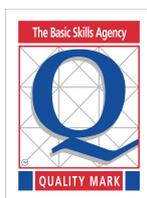
I am very excited about this opportunity for all parents to get involved and have a say: we can all work together and make a contribution to shape the future of our school. Please feel free to ask any questions, either by grabbing me in the playground for a quick chat or by emailing me on parentforum@stmartins.reading.sch.uk. I will do my best to answer any questions in as succinct and timely manner as possible. You can also keep abreast of our progress by using the Parents' Forum tab on the school website – it's found at the top right-hand corner of the home page.

I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

With kind regards

Charlie Cox

Chair – Parent Forum, St Martins Primary School



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE