

Five Islands Academy
Carn Gwaval
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Isles of Scilly
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Equity, Excellence, Evolution

*The Five Islands Academy is an all-age, multi-site, Church of England Academy,
serving the island communities of Bryher, St Agnes, St Martin's, St Mary's and Treasco.
It is part of the Leading Edge Academies Partnership.*

Tuesday 6 January 2026

St Martin's Base - Welcome Back for the Spring Term!

Dear Parents,

It's been wonderful to welcome everyone back today after the Christmas and New Year break. We hope you all managed to enjoy a festive and restful time together. Here is some information about our Spring term.

Curriculum:

Maths

We've made a fantastic start with maths this school year, and we know this brilliant progress will continue into 2026. We'll continue to use White Rose Maths to guide our learning, building our knowledge and skills in small, accumulative steps. We'll retain a focus on number sense and on mathematical reasoning, spending class time discussing 'how we know what we know'. We will all continue to use retrieval practice to consolidate learning and build fluency through our programme of daily morning maths.

Literacy

YR will continue phonics along the ReadWriteInc programme using, now beginning to learn 'special friends' sounds, and building confidence in reading short stories or 'ditties'. They'll also begin writing words, working towards creating simple sentences. Y1 will also continue their progress on the RWI scheme, consolidating Set 3 sounds, reading longer texts, and writing with increasing focus punctuation, grammar and handwriting.

All aboard! Navigating together

www.fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk

For KS2, in English, our texts this half term will be *Baker by the Sea* and *High Rise Mystery* - taking us into two very different communities to explore the themes of loneliness and belonging. These will be the core texts around which we'll base our reading, writing and comprehension activities. After half term, we'll be diving into *The Odyssey* plus looking at some WW2 poetry.

Topic and Foundation

In Geography KS2 will be asking the question, does it matter how we live? We'll be exploring sustainability, carbon footprints and energy usage, whilst in History we will journey back in time to understand more about the rich legacy of Ancient Greece. Science will have us looking at Seasonal Changes from Winter into Spring (EY/KS1) and Evolution and Inheritance, and Light (KS2).

Reception and Year 1 will be finding out about the world's continents and oceans, rivers and mountains, asking how maps can help us understand the different parts of our world. In History we will look at photographs from history and what they can tell us about Britain's recent past.

We will have PE on Tuesday afternoons.

Reading & Homework

We will be re-checking reading levels over the next week or so. Thank you for everything you do to support reading at home. We know how busy home life is and your efforts really do have an impact on your child's progress.

Parents of KS2 children will have noticed that they're now bringing home short weekly spelling, handwriting and maths homework. These are designed to support our learning in school and to promote independence; they're also intended to be manageable in terms of time. If you are finding this is not the case, or have any feedback about this, please let me know.

Collaboration Day

Collaboration Day will continue for all year groups each Friday. Please can all children bring a lifejacket to wear on the boat. A reminder to please make doubly sure that everything your child takes over is named - especially water bottles/lunch boxes, coats and all parts of PE kit!

Our door is always open

Please do let us know by phone, email or in person if you'd like to talk through anything or if you have any questions. Weekly newsletters will also share key updates - and photos from our week!

Thank you again for your support, and here's to a brilliant Spring Term 2026!

Yours faithfully,

Charlie Payne & Rachael Utting
St Martin's Base Team