

OCTOBER 2026

EMPOWERING MINDS, TRANSFORMING TOMORROWS

HALLOWEEN
APPROACHING

ANOTHER NEW
SCHOOL PROVISION
OPENS

INCREASING PUPIL
NUMBERS

Martongate Matters

SCHOOL MAGAZINE



RESPECT - COURAGE - BELIEF



Table of Contents

Martongate Primary School

Empowering Minds, Transforming Tomorrows

3

Executive Headteacher's Welcome

A welcome from Andy Rhodes, Executive Head

4

School News Round-up

Latest happenings at Martongate.

6

School Visits

A change to our MCAS system.

7

Safeguarding & Attendance Updates

Information regarding illness and social media.

8

School Ambassadors

A new pupil-led incentive comes to Martongate.

9

SEND Updates

A new provision and parent event.

12

Martongate Sport

Sporting achievements across and beyond the school.



Executive Head's Welcome

Mr A Rhodes
Executive Headteacher
Martongate



Half term approaching!

It is hard to believe we are already approaching the end of the first half-term. The weeks have flown by in a buzz of activity! Last week's Harvest Festival was a wonderful highlight, signalling the seasonal shift as the days grow shorter. Our core focus this half term has been helping every pupil start strong and set high standards for themselves—a foundation we will build on for the rest of the year.

Our first parents' evening of the year was very well attended, thank you for your support. This first review point is to inform you how the children have started the year and any key actions your child needs to target this year. We have been really pleased with the feedback on the questionnaires of which we will share the outcomes in the next newsletter. Your feedback is really important to us as we are always looking for ways to move forward and develop.

Recently, we announced the opening of our internal Hive provision following some DIY in the summer! Well, Mr Troake, the children and I have been busy again to transform our former IT equipment store room into our Honeycomb room. This name has been chosen as it naturally links to the other rooms and as honeycombs are made of small individual spaces – so is this. The room is designed for small group intervention and support, as from time to time most children benefit from small group work.

In this newsletter Mr Troake summarises our school improvement priorities for the academic year. This is our main school focus across the year as we wish to further develop our provision and offer in these areas.

We have also held our first EYFS Open Events of the year. These are held in order to promote our school to prospective new parents. For the past two years our school numbers have dropped, which is having a significant impact on funding and provision within the school. Next year, it is crucial these numbers start to build up again. Again this is a feature in the newsletter as we explain the potential implications.

This has been a really successful half term for the school – as always thank you for your support. Enjoy the half term.

Mr A. Rhodes

Executive Headteacher



School Improvement Priorities 2026/27

Each academic year, school staff across the country set out several priorities to improve the provision they offer their children, and Martongate is no different. Whilst we have numerous things that we aim to improve, five priorities have been identified for this upcoming academic year.

Priority 1: Further increase outcomes across core subjects

Our academic results continue to move in the right direction, and keeping this upward momentum is our top priority. Ensuring children achieve expected standards in Reading, Writing and Maths at the end of KS2 gives them the strongest possible foundation for secondary school and future success.

Priority 2: Elevate the quality and impact of the wider curriculum

Having built strong foundations in our core subjects over our time at Martongate, we are now bringing that same high expectation to every subject across the curriculum – ensuring rich learning in subjects such as Art, History and Computing.

Priority 3: Develop a positive behaviour culture through pupil leadership

We are expanding leadership roles for pupils across the school this year. Giving children greater responsibility fosters pride and ownership over their actions, ensuring breaktimes and lunchtimes are active, positive and enjoyable for everyone. You will meet our school ambassadors in the November newsletter.

Priority 4: Implement the new RE and Worldviews syllabus

Developing a broad understanding of different cultures and perspectives is essential for our pupils growing up in modern Britain. With the updated East Riding syllabus launching this year, we have a wonderful opportunity to refresh and enrich our teaching in this area.

Priority 5: Improve attendance through strong partnerships with families

Good attendance underpins everything we do. While overall attendance across our school is strong, some groups of pupils miss more school than others. We are committed to working closely alongside families to overcome barriers and ensure every child attends regularly to reach their full potential.

Our aim is to provide the best possible education for our children and to make Martongate the beacon school of the East Riding; with your continued support, we believe this is achievable.



Parents' Evening

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year and have thoroughly enjoyed having the children back in our school. Last week, we welcomed parents in to our school to discuss their child's start to the new academic year and the fantastic progress they have made.

As always, we are constantly looking for ways to improve our school and your feedback is vital to making Martongate the best it could possibly be. I would be incredibly grateful if you could take the time to complete the short parental survey; your honesty would be greatly appreciated.



Winter Craft Events



After the huge success of last year's Winter Craft Events, we would like to welcome parents and carers back in to school to complete festive activities with your child. Each year group will be allocated an afternoon of festive fun before the school's Christmas Fair. Additional details have been sent via our MCAS application and specific dates for each year group can be found in the 'Dates for your diary' page at the end of our newsletter. We cannot wait to welcome you back in to our school!

Last week we held our annual Harvest Festival. This is always led by our Year 3 pupils who prepare and present the Harvest festival to both parents and pupils. The children performed and sang brilliantly and shared stories about where our food comes from around the world.

We would like to thank the parents, carers and whole school community for all of the food donations that have supported our harvest festival. If you were fortunate enough to attend the performance, you will have met Toni and Julie from The Restore at Christ Church. The ladies do incredible work around the Bridlington area to support families and will distribute the donations on our behalf to those in need.

Year 3's Harvest Festival





School Visits and Payments

Changes to the school payment system to make the cost of visits more transparent and more accessible.

School trips are one of the most enriching parts of a child's education. They take learning beyond the classroom, spark curiosity, build confidence and create memories that stay with children for years. Whether exploring a museum, discovering local history or taking part in outdoor adventures, these experiences bring the curriculum to life in ways nothing else can.

All upcoming school trips for this academic year are now available to view on the MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) app. To help families manage costs, trips have been set up under your Outstanding Payments section, allowing you to pay flexibly – either in smaller instalments or in full – as long as the final balance is cleared by the required deadline. Please note that when a trip is allocated, MCAS automatically sends a confirmation email stating "Thank you for your order"; rest assured, this simply confirms your child's place on the trip and opens the payment facility, rather than indicating the total balance has been settled. Should you not wish for your child to attend a specific trip, please contact your child's class teacher to discuss any specific concerns.

Understanding Voluntary Contributions & Funding

Many parents are understandably unsure about how school trips are funded. Legally, schools are required to request trip payments as a 'voluntary contribution' because we cannot charge for activities taking place mainly during school hours. This ensures no child is excluded due to financial hardship. However, the school receives no extra government funding to subsidise trips. With school budgets increasingly stretched and rising costs for transport, entry fees, and workshops, we have no alternative funds to cover shortfalls. While we work hard to keep costs as low as possible, our school governors have agreed that if there is a shortfall of 10% or greater in voluntary contributions for a visit, the trip will unfortunately have to be cancelled.

We are incredibly fortunate to have the Friends of Martongate, who step in whenever they can to support enrichment activities. Their contributions make a real difference, but their funds are limited and rely on the generosity of our school community – their help is a safety net rather than a complete replacement for trip contributions.

Every contribution, no matter the size, helps ensure these experiences remain possible for all pupils. If you are struggling financially, please speak to us so we can support you sensitively and in complete confidence. You can also help keep these opportunities alive by supporting Friends of Martongate events whenever you can. Specific details for individual trips – including schedules, kit lists and final payment deadlines – will be communicated directly to relevant year groups nearer the time.

Thank you as always for your continued partnership and support.



Safeguarding and Attendance

Mrs K Peacock
Safeguarding Lead

Should I send my child to school?

The office have received several calls from parents and carers, wondering if they should keep their child off school. Please see the latest guidance sent from the Government and the NHS around school based illnesses - additional information is provided by scanning the QR code on the poster. For most minor illnesses such as coughs and colds, if a child is well enough to attend school they should do so.

WhatsApp and Instagram

WhatsApp and Instagram are age 13+ messaging apps owned by Meta, which offer a range of services including end-to-end encryption. While end-to-end encryption (WhatsApp) ensures that only senders and receivers can view content, the platforms presents several online safety risks for primary school children who access the applications.

Group chats allow multiple children to message simultaneously, which can lead to young people feeling excluded, overwhelmed or pressured to remain engaged when negative comments escalate. Unmanaged privacy settings leave children vulnerable to unwanted contact from strangers and live location tracking by members of mutual group chats. Furthermore, public 'Channels' cannot be age-filtered or blocked, potentially exposing children to distressing material, while features like 'Chat Lock' and disappearing messages can hide inappropriate conversations. Newer additions, such as ads in the 'Updates' feed and an unremovable Meta AI assistant, also raise concerns regarding data privacy and exposure to age-inappropriate content.

Parents can help safeguard their children by reviewing privacy settings together, setting group chat invitations to 'My Contacts', and enabling 'Silence Unknown Callers'. As a school, we have had several incidents recently regarding social media outside of school hours. Please can you remind pupils that they should never post anything about another person without their permission and should not post or write anything which they would not say to a person when face to face. Children need to recognise that electronic written communication can be more impactful than other forms of communication because, once sent, it becomes permanent: just because it can be deleted on one device, this does not mean it is not accessible on others.

We would appreciate your support to ensure that pupils remain safe online.

UK Health Security Agency **NHS**

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes **Until...**

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No **but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...**

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

SCAN ME

Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.



Ambassadors Assemble!

This year, we are excited to launch a brand new initiative at Martongate; we are inviting pupils to apply for our first-ever ambassador roles!

We are looking for pupils who have the passion and drive to make our school more successful. If you are a good role model and a good communicator who embodies our core values of Respect, Courage and Belief, this is your chance to make a difference and lead by example. Depending upon the role, ambassadors will help organise activities, run clubs/games and inspire a love for your chosen role.

At present, five ambassador roles have been created: Inclusion, Friendship, Reading, Mathematics and Sport. Each area will be led by a key member of the school staff who will support the children to champion their specific area. Ambassadors will receive an official badge with accompanying lanyard to increase their visibility around the school. And, should you visit our school in the near future, it may be one of our ambassadors taking you around the school building rather than Mr Troake or Mr Rhodes! We want to empower the children to be the champions of Martongate Primary School.

Pupils are invited to apply by simply scanning the QR code and completing the online application form before the closing date on Monday 2nd November. Successful candidates will be notified by letter shortly after the half-term break. Paper copies of the QR may have already come home with pupils who have requested one from their class teacher.

Good luck candidates!

Applications now open!





Martongate Primary School

We're Hiring:

MATHEMATICS AMBASSADORS

LINE MANAGER:
Mrs Mitchell

SKILLS REQUIRED:

- A good role model.
- A strong communicator.
- A passion for Mathematics.
- An eye for detail.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Work alongside the Mathematics team to help overcome barriers for learning and foster a love for mathematics across the school.
- Support Mrs Mitchell as we continue to make improvements to the quality of our Mathematics curriculum.
- Run clubs and games which improve pupils foundational knowledge in mathematics.

CLOSING DATE:
November 2nd 2026

APPLY THROUGH GOOGLE FORMS

**Respect
Belief
Courage**



Martongate Primary School

We're Hiring:

INCLUSION AMBASSADORS

LINE MANAGER:
Mrs Morris, Miss Walker

SKILLS REQUIRED:

- A good role model
- Patience and kindness.
- A strong communicator
- An understanding of some of the different barriers to learning.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Work alongside the team of inclusion Ambassadors to help overcome barriers for learning.
- Help within the Honeypot / Hive and support pupils with play and communication.
- Help with any inclusion related assemblies or campaigns, such as Autism Week.
- Report to the School Inclusion Team on the work of the Inclusion Ambassadors once per term.

CLOSING DATE:
November 2nd 2026

APPLY THROUGH GOOGLE FORMS

**Respect
Belief
Courage**



Welcoming a new provision

In last month's newsletter, we were incredibly proud to introduce parents and carers to the Hive. Please allow us to introduce, the Honeycomb. Based within the heart of our school community, we now have three provisions to provide specialist support for children who require a more tailored education.

The intention within the Honeycomb is to provide a multi-purpose room for interventions and support. It will accommodate groups of around six pupils and will be used for phonics and reading interventions, attention autism support and maths catch-up sessions. The area will help to bridge the gap between our specialist provisions and mainstream classrooms to ensure that every child succeeds.

Previously used for storage and IT equipment that was obsolete, we believed that re-purposing the room to support pupil learning was an obvious thing to do. Whilst work was carried out we discovered a large window and door from the Honeycomb into the hall. Many of our long serving staff didn't even know this window existed - it had been covered up for so long!

The Honeycomb will benefit many children in the coming weeks with their learning; equipped with an interactive whiteboard, a horseshoe table and independent workstations, it provides a perfect, quiet environment for learning.

Honeypot Stay & Play

This week we were fortunate enough to be able to invite our parents into the Honeypot for their first stay and play session. The children managed incredibly well as parents joined in with our provision: creating Halloween decorations, hammering pegs into pumpkins and general messy play. We're not too sure the parents knew what they were letting themselves in for!

To end the session, all of our pupils demonstrated their incredible singing ability and showcased their 'goodbye song' to end the day. We are incredibly proud of our Honeypot children and their achievements, in what was a wonderful afternoon.





Recruiting pupils for September 2027

Over the last two years the number of pupils starting school at Martongate has been significantly lower than our PAN (Pupil Admission Number). Currently, Martongate Primary School has a PAN of 60. In September 2025 we admitted 30 pupils and in September 2026 we admitted 36 pupils. This is mainly due to a drop in the birth rate locally. However, other factors, such as our previous Ofsted rating, may have made parents reluctant to send their children to our school.

The impact of this drop is significant and will impact the school for many years to come as schools are funded on pupil numbers. Each child admitted brings approximately £5,000 in funding per year. This shortfall in pupil numbers leaves a large hole in our budget. Schools are funded based on the October census numbers. So our budget this September was formulated October 2025. Therefore the funding we have received this year only takes account of the drop in 2025, not the additional drop we have had this year. Next year's budget will be even more challenging.

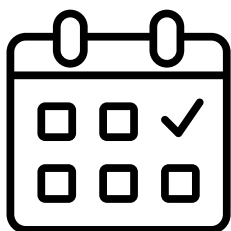
It is vitally important that we work to increase our pupil numbers for September 2027 to get back to close to 60 children starting school. If numbers remain low we will have to consider reducing our PAN to either 45 or 30 in future years; the Local Authority has already asked Academy Trust schools to consider this. Currently we are resisting as we passionately believe Martongate can serve the community of Bridlington the best by remaining a two-form intake school.

We need your help in promoting our school. Standards are rising, and children enjoy coming to school. Opportunities exist for all pupils across sports, the arts and through our exceptional Early Years provision new pupils quickly make friendships and develop skills to support their learning.

Please share our journey with friends and family. As pupil numbers are low across Bridlington, catchment areas for schools no longer are a factor on which school a child can attend as all schools in Bridlington are, currently, below their PAN.

Before Christmas we are holding more EYFS Open events for children due to start school in 2027. Please encourage anyone who has child due to start school in 2027 to pop and have a visit. Booking information will be sent out shortly in our local community.





Dates for your diary



**Martongate
Primary School**

Monday 2nd November	Children Return to School
Thursday 19th November	Children in Need
Tuesday 24th November	Year 2 Winter Craft Event
Wednesday 25th November	Flu Vaccination – Catch-up Session Year 1 Christmas Craft Event
Thursday 26th November	Year 3 Winter Craft Event
Friday 27th November	Year 6 Winter Craft Event
Monday 30th November	Year 4 Winter Craft Event
Wednesday 2nd December	EYFS Winter Craft Event
Thursday 3rd December	Year 5 Winter Craft Event
Friday 11th December	Christmas Fair
Wednesday 16th December	Honeypot Winter Craft Event
Friday 18th December	Final Day of Autumn 2 Term
Tuesday 5th January	Children Return to School



Martongate Sports

Cross County Downpour

In our first whole school sporting event of this academic year, pupils from across the school made the long journey to Headlands secondary school for a cross country event. Children

were tasked with running around the Headlands site to be the first to cross the finish line. This task was made much more difficult by the torrential downpour which blighted the competition. Despite this, our children performed incredibly well and we had several pupils with top five finishes across all three age ranges. We would like to congratulate all of our runners and thank the parents/carers for their support in the difficult conditions.



HEADLANDS
SCHOOL

Emily Asquith Returns



It's about time someone knocked some sense into our Year 6 pupils, and World Boxing Champion (Emily Asquith) returned to her old stomping ground to show our pupils the ropes. Emily delivered a range of activities related to our core values (respect, courage and belief) and completed several team building activities. We wish Emily every success in her upcoming fights and can't wait to welcome her back to our school once again.

Football News

There was no international break for Martongate Primary School throughout October! After progressing to the regional finals, our Year 6 team played six grueling games and, incredibly, won all games without conceding a single goal, thanks to a wonderful team ethic and the magic hands of Jimmy. In the final game of the evening, the boys lost their first game to a dubious penalty.

Despite the heartbreak of finally conceding a goal, the boys have progressed into the next stages which will be held in early December. There, the boys will compete against the best schools across our region for the chance to represent Hull City at a Premier League fixture in the new year. I know the whole Martongate community wishes the boys every success, and we hope to see them on Sky Sports in the new year. Fans will have to eagerly await the December newsletter for further updates.



As you can see from the picture on the front of the newsletter our Y5/6 football team has been back in action. This picture was taken at the Large School finals night last week where the boys competed against teams from across the East Riding. Despite the windy weather, the standard of football played by all teams was very high. The boys, after an initial defeat, came back strongly and won three of their next four matches - eventually, finishing second!