



As we near the end of 2023, I have been reflecting on what an extremely busy year it has been.

This term we have been generously supported by the local community and from further afield. We were delighted to receive our new minibus, if a little surprised by the bright colour, which the students and staff love. There is no doubt that people will see us coming!



In November we heard that we had been awarded a grant for £30,000. This money has been used to purchase 5 Acheeva beds which are already in use throughout the day, to support our students with their ever-increasing postural needs. We are so grateful to Simon Jones (Partner) and the Trustees at St James Place who made this possible.



Christmas activities are in full swing, in true St Rose's style. We had our Christmas Fayre, our annual Party Day and Family Disco, had two visits from Santa and held our Christmas service at the Church of the immaculate Conception. The excitement is building and the staff and students are looking forward to celebrating Christmas, as well as having a well-earned break!

As ever, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming many of you to St Rose's in 2024.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and peaceful new Year.



Sheila Talwar,
Principal

**St Rose's School, St Martin's Post 19
& St Rose's Nursery**

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Charity No. 271922



MEET OUR STAFF

About me:

My Name is Sarah Mills and I am the new St Rose's and St Martin's Business Manager.

Helen Hunt, our previous Business Manager, is still with us but moving to a different role to support

projects going forward – a very exciting opportunity for her!



Special needs are a big passion of mine having spent six years as a Business Manager in another special school in Gloucestershire and more recently supporting four academies with a variety of special needs in each setting in the Bristol/South Gloucestershire area for the last three years.

I'm really looking forward to meeting as many people as possible and getting involved with the new role although Helen has left rather big shoes to fill!

MEET OUR STAFF

About me

My Name is Briony Lee, and I am currently training to be Deputy Care Manager at St. Rose's School and College.



Background

I began working at St Rose's as a care assistant in 2012 after completing a level 3 health and social care course at Stroud College. During the 2-year course I completed a year's placement at another local special needs school, which gave me an interest in care work. Once I had finished college, I applied for a job at St. Rose's.

My Journey

I worked as a care assistant at St Rose's for 5+ years before being offered the position to train as a senior care assistant. During my probation period as a senior, I was given time and support in order to further develop the skills I needed, even extending my probation period to ensure I was doing the job to the best of my ability.

After 3 years of being a senior, while completing qualifications in safe administration of medication, and principles of team leadership there was an opportunity to be promoted to team leader. While being team leader I started a Level 4 Diploma in Adult Social Care, of which I have completed and am waiting for the certificate.

It is with the help of my manager who supported me in developing my skills and challenging me that after 3 years of working as a team leader, I applied to become the deputy care manager, and was successful.

The experiences and opportunities I have been given at St. Rose's have helped me grow as a person and help me develop the skills I need. I am extremely grateful to St Rose's for the opportunity and development they have given me over the years. The enjoyment of working closely with the students gives me immense job satisfaction and I take pride in the work that I do.

Over the years I have worked here there have been many exciting new projects, including a new residential house, immersive sensory room and a new sensory garden. I am eager to see what is next for St. Rose's.

The future

Once I have received my certificate for my Level 4 Adult Social Care, I plan to undertake a Level 5 in Leadership and Management for Residential Childcare. I am looking forward to my future years at St. Rose's and I am excited for what they may bring.

Celebrations and Gatherings

Beginning of Year Mass



It was a lovely Mass celebrated by Father Gary Brassington our Parish Priest. All of our community from school and college as well as Parents and Governors came together to listen and share in this joyous gathering. Many thanks to those who helped with the readings, bringing up the offertory gifts and being there to reflect on the year ahead.

Harvest

This is many of our students favourite celebration. A real opportunity to show all of the learning that happens and the effort put in by the classes. There was a Sensory exploration of St Rose; fantastic singing and signing. Information about the Harvest story from around the world and ways to say Thank you. Well done All! It was a fantastic event.



Looking forward to seeing families and friends at the Carol Service and wishing all a joyous and peaceful Christmas. **Cheri Baxter-Steele, RE Lead**

SR3 have a *burning* question for you: Are we as *cool* as a cucumber?



From the 17th October - 20th October, SR3 looked at *Heating and Cooling* in Science. We started the week by thinking about things that melt and cool. We investigated heating by melting chocolate. Some of us spread the melted chocolate on toast!

When we were looking at cooling, we had to work out what had been frozen in the ice, painted with ice and made some fruity ice lollies. We finished the week with some investigations. One of our investigations was investigating how to make the perfect Hot Chocolate with Carol!

Katie Sweed



SR3's trip to watch Puss In Boots: The Last Wish!



As part of the Into Film festival, SR3 watched Puss In Boots: The Last Wish! This linked to our English work as our unit is *Classic Stories and Traditional Tales*, so we were trying to see which characters were familiar - we noticed Goldilocks and the three bears!

Katie Sweed



SR 2 have been reading the book 'Pumpkin Soup' in English, and at the end of October they went to pick a pumpkin at the Pumpkin Patch in Leonard Stanley. It was a fun, but very muddy morning out. We found pumpkins of different sizes and colours. The farm kindly donated a pumpkin to us and we brought this back and some of the students made their own delicious pumpkin soup and pumpkin bread with it.



**SR2 Visit
the
Pumpkin
Patch**

TENSE ENDING TO ST MARTIN'S STUDENTS BAKE OFF

On Wednesday 22nd November all of St Martin's attended the judging of a cake competition. We all had very unique ideas on how to do it.

There were four entries to the competition: A lemon drizzle cake, a chocolate tray bake with smarties and chocolate chips, a Victoria sponge and saving the best for last was our chocolate rainbow cake filled with an array of M&Ms topped with a lovingly blended chocolate buttercream. SM3 and Flamingos came joint 1st (SM3 with the rainbow cake and Flamingos with the lemon drizzle cake.) I was nervous about the judging. I felt my heart in my mouth and I had my fingers crossed as



well. Moments later whilst still crossing my fingers, apprehensively waiting for the results the verdict was announced. At that moment I thought of a motto. It didn't matter if we had won or lost. I thought of saying to all of the participants, **"Guys it's not about winning that counts it's the taking part that matters!"**

Spencer Powell



SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

This term SM3 interviewed several members of staff about health and safety at St. Rose's. Our first interview was with Derek the maintenance man. He started by talking to us about the PPE he uses to keep himself safe while he's at work. He also told us about the dangerous chemicals that are used in the pool. If they are mixed they create a poisonous gas. Derek's job includes mowing the lawns, blowing the leaves, making sure that the pool is safe for students to use and repairing anything that is broken.

Derek has been putting in new speedbumps around the site. To do this he used a very large drill and screws. Derek said he enjoys his job. The students make it nice and some students even help. Derek's favourite part of his job is getting out and mowing the lawn in the summer although Derek sometimes leaves the grass long for the wildlife and lets the wild flowers grow. His least favourite thing to do is unblocking the loos! The equipment that he uses in his job include hand and power tools, screws and nails, heavy duty wipes and ladders that need to be checked everyday. (A piece of paper is signed before using a ladder).

Derek works with Rob as a team. Rich was leader of this team until he moved to another job just recently. Rob has to check the equipment used across the site. This includes fans and fire doors. He checks the hinges on the top of the fire doors to make sure they are working properly. All fire doors have to be checked regularly and there are 126 fire doors in total across the site. Maintenance staff are trained to manually operate the lift so that if the lift is stuck between floors they are able to lower the lift manually. When there is a maintenance problem it is reported to reception and then put in the maintenance log. Maintenance staff then have a meeting with Sheila the Principal and she prioritises which job needs to be done first. The maintenance team report to the school's compliance officer Annalisa Sola. She talked to us about her job. She told us about the risk assessments that must be made when students go out on trips.

When we interviewed Rob about his job he showed the students what he likes to do in his spare time playing a number of our favourite songs on his guitars. Rob has two types of guitar, a base guitar which plays low chords and an immaculate gold Fender electric guitar, kept nicely clean in a huge case. Rob and I share the same hobby which is playing the electric guitar, although my guitar is a Gibson (and I need to get back into the rhythm of playing it).

Spence Powell



SR5 trip to the woods

During term 1 SR5 had been learning about the Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton in English.



SR5 explored the woods and used a range of adjectives that they had learnt to describe the woodland.



SEND Dance Festival

On December 14th a group of students from school attended the SEND schools dance festival at Milestones School in Gloucester. They had a brilliant time and performed their Flamingo Chicks dance that they'd been practising this term. Many thanks to Flamingo Chicks and YuGo Sports for putting on this event and to all the staff for supporting it too. I hope these pictures make you smile!

Karen Childs



Sailing

When the weather was a little bit warmer some of our students with visual impairments had the opportunity to go sailing, for a 6 week block, at Sailability at Whitefriars in South Cerney. The students



Multi-Sensory Rugby

To help get students into the Rugby World Cup spirit SR4 have been enjoying Multi-Sensory Rugby. Students experience music and movement together that represents key parts of a rugby match. These include the kickoff, a tackle, line out, scoring a try as well as others. We also had the opportunity to share our lesson with LeaAnne from Gloucester Rugby. Thank you to Mr. Voss for writing the music to accompany these actions.





Christmas Jumper Day!

SR2 really enjoyed Christmas Jumper day this year and raised some money for 'Save the Children.'. We had a good dance in our jumpers to start the day, what fun!

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to everyone who came along to the St. Rose's Christmas Coffee Morning. It was lovely to see everyone getting into the Christmas spirit. Thank you too to all the helpers who made this possible.



Wellbeing in SR4

On Tuesdays we focus on wellbeing. We start the day by relaxing with Sound Healing and we often end our day with Forest Bathing. The students in SR4 love the sound healing and they listen, sing and play instruments with Georgia and sometimes with each other. Forest bathing can also be a favorite and we have times when the class all 'chat' together.

When we are very lucky we do both together. SR4 went on a lovely, relaxing trip to Westonbirt Arboretum. It is great to go somewhere that is so accessible, with flat paths and 'Changing Places'.



Family Swim Sessions



It has been so lovely over the past year to have seen many families coming along to our family swim sessions. It's a great atmosphere with the lights, music and laughter. The feedback received from families has been so positive, I will look forward to continuing the sessions next year. Sessions will continue to run alongside Youth Club so you can also enjoy the activities and refreshments before or after your swim. Thank You for Your Support.

Becky D

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

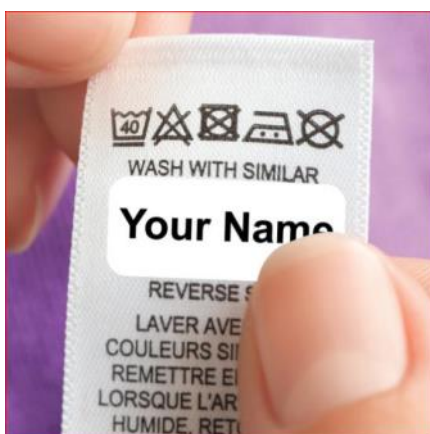
Sessions are available to all students both St Martin's, School (and residential families). Bookings can be made by calling 'Julie' on Reception: 01453 763793 Dates available are:

Sat 27 Jan 2024

Sat 9 Mar 2024

Sat 11 May 2024

Sat 22 June 2024



PLEASE LABEL CLOTHING:

We do our best to ensure that all clothing is reunited with their owners.

To help us please label your pupil/student clothing.

Thank you

POLICIES REVIEWED SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

Probation policy and procedure
Anti harassment and bullying
Counter bullying inc. cyberbullying
Lone working policy
ICT and acceptable use policy
Safeguarding adults with care and support needs
Student access to risky areas of school buildings and grounds
Work experience
Teaching, learning and assessment
Safeguarding children and young people
Educational and social visits off site
Transport policy
Keeping Children Safe in Education—Part Five
Keeping Children Safe in Education

Christmas Bank Holidays	25th December 2023 26th December 2023
New Year Bank Holiday	1st January 2024
Good Friday	29th March 2024
Easter Monday	1st April 2024
Early May Bank Holiday	6th May 2024
Spring Bank Holiday	27th May 2024

Term 1: Mon 4th Sept – Fri 27th Oct 2023
Term 2 Mon 6th Nov – Wed 20th Dec 2023
Term 3 Mon 8th Jan - Fri 9th Feb 2024
Term 4 Mon 19th Feb – Fri 22nd Mar 2024
Term 5 Mon 8th Apr – Fri 24th May 2024
Term 6 Mon 3rd June – Wed 24th July 2024

In Service Days

4 & 5 September 2023
8 January 2024
8 & 9 April 2024

Monday start 09.30 am (doors open 09.20 am)

**Tuesday – Friday start 08:55 am
(doors open 08.45am)**

Monday – Thursday finish 3:45 pm

TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2023-24

SEPTEMBER 2023							OCTOBER 2023							NOVEMBER 2023						
Mon			4	11	18	25	Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue			5	12	19	26	Tues		3	10	17	24	31	Tues		7	14	21	28	
Wed			6	13	20	27	Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thu			7	14	21	28	Thur		5	12	19	26		Thur	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri		1	8	15	22	29	Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24		
Sat		2	9	16	23	30	Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun		3	10	17	24		Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26		
DECEMBER 2023							JANUARY 2024							FEBRUARY 2024						
Mon			4	11	18	25	Mon		1	8	15	22	29	Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tues			5	12	19	26	Tues		2	9	16	23	30	Tues		6	13	20	27	
Wed			6	13	20	27	Wed		3	10	17	24	31	Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thur			7	14	21	28	Thur		4	11	18	25		Thur		1	8	15	22	29
Fri		1	8	15	22	29	Fri		5	12	19	26		Fri		2	9	16	23	
Sat		2	9	16	23	30	Sat		6	13	20	27		Sat		3	10	17	24	
Sun		3	10	17	24	31	Sun		7	14	21	28		Sun		4	11	18	25	
MARCH 2024							APRIL 2024							MAY 2024						
Mon			4	11	18	25	Mon		1	8	15	22	29	Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tues			5	12	19	26	Tues		2	9	16	23	30	Tues		7	14	21	28	
Wed			6	13	20	27	Wed		3	10	17	24		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thur			7	14	21	28	Thur		4	11	18	25		Thur	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri		1	8	15	22	29	Fri		5	12	19	26		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
Sat		2	9	16	23	30	Sat		6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun		3	10	17	24	31	Sun		7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		
JUNE 2024							JULY 2024							AUGUST 2024						
Mon			3	10	17	24	Mon		1	8	15	22	29	Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tues			4	11	18	25	Tues		2	9	16	23	30	Tues		6	13	20	27	
Wed			5	12	19	26	Wed		3	10	17	24	31	Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thur			6	13	20	27	Thur		4	11	18	25		Thur	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri			7	14	21	28	Fri		5	12	19	26		Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat		1	8	15	22	29	Sat		6	13	20	27		Sat	3	10	17	24	31	
Sun		2	9	16	23	30	Sun		7	14	21	28		Sun	4	11	18	25		

OPEN WEEKENDS ARE INDICATED IN RED



SEPTEMBER 2024							OCTOBER 2024							NOVEMBER 2024						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		7	14	21	28		Mon		4	11	18	25	
Tue		3	10	17	24		Tues	1	8	15	22	29		Tues		5	12	19	26	
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30		Wed		6	13	20	27	
Thu		5	12	19	26		Thurs	3	10	17	24	31		Thurs		7	14	21	28	
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18	25			Fri	1	8	15	22	29	
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	5	12	19	26			Sat	2	9	16	23	30	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	6	13	20	27			Sun	3	10	17	24		
DECEMBER 2024							JANUARY 2025							FEBRUARY 2025						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon		3	10	17	24	
Tues		3	10	17	24	31	Tues		7	14	21	28		Tues		4	11	18	25	
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29		Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thurs		5	12	19	26		Thurs	2	9	16	23	30		Thurs		6	13	20	27	
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24	31		Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat		4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22		
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun		5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23		
MARCH 2025							APRIL 2025							MAY 2025						
Mon		3	10	17	24	31	Mon		7	14	21	28		Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tues		4	11	18	25		Tues	1	8	15	22	29		Tues		6	13	20	27	
Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed	2	9	16	23	30		Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thurs		6	13	20	27		Thurs	3	10	17	24			Thurs	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri	4	11	18	25			Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat	5	12	19	26			Sat	3	10	17	24	31	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30		Sun	6	13	20	27			Sun	4	11	18	25		
JUNE 2025							JULY 2025							AUGUST 2025						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		7	14	21	28		Mon		4	11	18	25	1
Tues		3	10	17	24		Tues	1	8	15	22	29		Tues		5	12	19	26	2
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30		Wed		6	13	20	27	
Thurs		5	12	19	26		Thurs	3	10	17	24	31		Thurs		7	14	21	28	
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18	25			Fri	1	8	15	22	29	
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	5	12	19	26			Sat	2	9	16	23	30	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	6	13	20	27			Sun	3	10	17	24	31	

IN SERVICE DAYS ARE INDICATED IN **PURPLE** (STAFF ONLY)

OPEN WEEKENDS ARE INDICATED IN **RED**

Term 1: Wed 4th Sept – Fri 25th Oct 2024

Term 2: Mon 4th Nov – Fri 20th Dec 2024

Term 3: Mon 6th Jan – Fri 14th Feb 2025

Term 4: Mon 24th Feb – Fri 11th Apr 2025

Term 5: Mon 28th Apr – Fri 23rd May 2025

Term 6: Mon 2nd June – Fri 18th July 2025

FOR STUDENTS ONLY

Monday start 09.30 (doors open 09.20; Tuesday – Friday start 08:55 (doors open 08:45)

Monday – Thursday finish 3:45; Friday finish 3:30

In Service Days

2 & 3 September 2024

6 January 2025

28 April 2025

21 July 2025

Christmas Bank Holidays 25th December 2024
26th December 2024

New Year Bank Holiday 1st January 2025

Good Friday 18th April 2025

Easter Monday 21st April 2025

Early May Bank Holiday 5th May 2025

Spring Bank Holiday 26th May 2025

Summer Bank Holiday 25th August 2025

* 195 days are defined as "School days". In the school year pupils must attend for 190 days. Schools may decide individually or collectively which 5 days in the year are INSET or non-contact days (days pupils do not need to attend).