

Information on the Lantern Festival

Dear parents,

On _____ November, we will be holding a Lantern Festival at the nursery. This will be to mark St. Martin's Day, a Christian day of commemoration, on 11 November, which goes back to a soldier who went by the name of Martin of Tours, better known as Saint Martin. He was born in 316 AD in modern-day Hungary.

As the story goes, Martin the soldier was riding past a freezing beggar on a cold winter's day. The beggar was dressed only in rags and begged the soldier for a handout. But Martin had nothing on him except his weapon – and so he took his sword, cut his cape in two and gave one half to the beggar.

We admire what Martin did and the fact that he selflessly helped the beggar. He must have been very cold himself with only half a cloak to wear. As we don't want to forget his good deeds, we celebrate the day with a Lantern Festival – Martin is supposed to have been carrying a lantern on that day. For the Lantern Festival, we take our lanterns and parade through the streets, singing and recalling how Martin helped the poor man.

We also think about the people who are struggling today, who don't have as much as we do – and about how important it is to share.

Kind regards,

Nursery head teacher