

OCTOBER 2026

ST MARTIN DE PORRES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ADVENT 1st HALF TERM



It has been wonderful to see the children settle so quickly into the new school year. Classrooms have been busy with learning, friendships have been strengthened, and there has already been a great deal to celebrate. As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to thank all our families for their continued support and share some of the highlights from the past few weeks.

Learning Makaton Together

This term, both staff and pupils have been learning two new Makaton signs each week. Makaton uses signs and symbols alongside spoken language to support communication and understanding. By learning these signs together, we are helping to create a more welcoming and inclusive school community where everyone feels valued, understood and able to communicate with confidence. The children have embraced this challenge enthusiastically, and it has been lovely to see them using their new signs around school.

Macmillan Coffee Morning and Staff News

Thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning. Thanks to your generosity, we raised an incredible **£527** for this important charity.

The event also provided an opportunity to say goodbye to **Miss Williams**, our Family Worker. We thank Miss Williams for all her hard work and dedication to supporting our children and families, and we wish her every happiness for the future.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome **Miss Bennett-Williams**, who will be joining us as our new Family Worker after half term. We look forward to her becoming part of our school community, and I know she will receive a very warm St Martin's welcome. Please do introduce yourselves if you see her at the school gate.

Supporting the Luton Foodbank

A huge thank you to everyone who donated items for the **Luton Foodbank**. Together, we collected a fantastic amount of food that will help support families experiencing difficult times.

This is a wonderful example of the Catholic Social Teaching principle of **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**, which reminds us that we are called to care for those most in need and to put our faith into action through kindness and generosity. We are incredibly proud of the compassion shown by our school community.

October: The Month of the Rosary

As October is the Month of the Rosary, all children received their own rosary beads. This special gift helps children to remember the importance of prayer and our devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Throughout the month, classes have spent time learning about the Rosary and reflecting on how Mary's example helps us grow closer to God.

Black history month

Throughout October, children across the school have been taking part in activities to mark Black History Month, exploring this year's theme, "Honouring Our Communities." The theme encourages us to recognise and celebrate the many individuals whose kindness, service, leadership and determination make a positive difference to the lives of others every day.

Our learning during Black History Month links closely to the Catholic Social Teaching principles of Human Dignity and Solidarity. As Catholics, we believe that every person is made in the image and likeness of God and should be treated with dignity, respect and fairness. By learning about the achievements, experiences and contributions of Black individuals both past and present, children have been encouraged to celebrate diversity, challenge prejudice and recognise our responsibility to stand together as one human family. This reflects our mission to ensure that every member of our school community feels valued, included and respected.

Carbon Monoxide Workshops

Children in **Years 2 and 5** took part in engaging Carbon Monoxide Safety Workshops. They learned about the dangers of carbon monoxide. Through age-appropriate activities, pupils explored how to recognise warning signs, the importance of carbon monoxide alarms, and what to do if they think there may be a leak. The sessions provided valuable information to help children keep themselves and their families safe.

Schools' Mass at St Mary's

Our **Head Boy, Head Girl, and Faith Ambassadors** were honoured to represent our school at the **Schools' Mass at St Mary's**, joining pupils and staff from schools across the Diocese. It was a joyful occasion filled with prayer, song and celebration, reminding us that we are part of a much wider Catholic family. Our children represented the school beautifully and were excellent ambassadors for our community.

Remember to follow us on Instagram @smdpluton and facebook to see more details of what our wonderful school is doing each week.

As we come to the end of a successful first half term, We would like to thank all our pupils, staff and families for their hard work, support and commitment. We wish everyone a restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting term on **Monday 2nd November 2026**

God bless,

Mrs A.Barnaville & Mrs. H.Gallagher
Co-Headteachers