



St Martin de Porres Primary School

Newsletter

17th December 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Carol Service

I hope that you have all been able to access the Carol Service through either Class Dojo or parentmail. I am sure that you have really enjoyed the way in which the whole school was able to participate and has meant that everyone is able to enjoy this when usually only selected parents and friends are able to attend. My thanks go to Mrs Banville for organising the whole process and to Mr Davis for recording and editing the whole thing. I would also like to thank the staff for preparing the children so well. The children will have the opportunity to watch the Carol Service in their classes this week.

Reception and Nursery Nativities

Parents in of Reception and Nursery children will have had access to the Nativity performances via Class Dojo. I do hope that you enjoy sharing these with your families at home. Thank you to the staff for preparing the children and to Mr Davis for recording and editing.

Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday, the children and staff enjoyed Christmas lunch. It was great to see the children dressed up in their Christmas jumpers. A big thank you to the kitchen staff for putting on such a lovely meal. The children all received a 'virtual' visit from Santa, which seemed to go down well. Thank you Santa for taking time to send us this message.

School Meals

From January 5th, we will have a new Catering Company, Chartwells, providing our school meals. There will be no increase in the cost of KS2 meals. They will remain at £2.30 per day. If your child has known allergy, we will need to ask you to complete an allergy form supported by your child's GP or Consultant. You may have completed one of these before for our previous caterers, but because this is a new company, they need to have their own forms completed. If your child has an allergy and you have not informed the school, please contact the school office.

We are looking forward to working with Chartwells to improve the quality of the school meals that are provided. New menus will be available on our website and will be emailed to you so that you can discuss meal options with your child.

Please see below the costs for dinner money for the next half term:

5.1.21 – 12.2.21

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Per Day | £2.30 |
| Per week | £11.50 |
| Half term (5 weeks, 4 days) | £66.70 |

Free School Meals

If your income is low or you are in receipt of benefits to supplement your income, you might be eligible for Free School Meals for your child (this applies to children in Nursery,

Reception and Key Stage 1 as well as Key Stage 2.) To apply please contact Education Welfare, Luton Borough Council (www.luton.co.uk and search Free School Meals).

Morrisons

We would like to thank Morrisons Supermarket for the very generous donations of toys and food that they have given to the school recently to support some of our families.

Raffle and Star

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes to the Christmas raffle. It was a great success and we have raised over £600 towards school funds. Thank you to for those of you who purchased a star for Clic Sergeant, this has raised over £300 for this charity who support children and teenagers with cancer.

The winners of the first three raffle prizes are:

1st Prize – Smart TV – Miguel D 6M

2nd Prize - £50 Beauty Voucher - Elijah G 5P

3rd Prize – Irish Butchers Hamper – Daniel M 4M

COVID routines in January 2021

I met with the Governing Body earlier this month and they have agreed that we should continue with the routines that we have in place for the Lent Term to try to continue to keep our school community safe.

This includes:

- No Friday afternoon activities
- Staggered start and end to the day
- No increase in Care Club numbers

While I understand that this will continue to pose challenges for some families, as a school, we have not closed any of our year groups this term. All of the schools in this area have had at least one year group sent home. This may be luck, but I also believe it is largely as a result of the procedures that we have in place. Therefore, I would ask you to continue to be understanding of our decision to keep these routines in place.

Positive Testing for Coronavirus (Covid-19)

If your child tests positive (after having a test) during the first 6 days after school finishes (Friday 18th–23rd December) you must email the help in box help@smdpluton.co.uk, so that I can manage the track and trace procedures for our school.

As a reminder, the main symptoms of Coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means that you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new continuous cough – this means you are coughing for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change of smell – you cannot smell or taste anything or things smell and taste differently.

If your child has any of these symptoms, you MUST not send them to school and should get a Covid-19 test. They must self-isolate until the test is returned. If it is positive, you must let us know as soon as possible and you must follow the advice of Public

Health England and self-isolate. If the test is negative, your child may return to school as soon as they are well enough.

Since we finish school on 18th December, you do not need to inform me of any positive cases after the 23rd December until the children return to school on **5th January 2021**.

STAY ALERT: Do you have a temperature? A persistent cough? Loss or change in smell or taste? Order a test today: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119

And finally,

Thank you so much for your support, your patience and understanding during what has been an extremely challenging year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for their hard work and dedication to your children. I would also like to thank the Governing Body, who do so much behind the scenes and have given so much support to myself and the school.

I wish you all a very peaceful and Holy Christmas and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on January 5th 2021.

Kind regards

N. J. Morgan.

N J Morgan
Head Teacher

