



St Martin de Porres Primary School

Newsletter

February 2022

Dear Parents

Cause for celebration

On Tuesday, we had a Peer Review in school. This is when other Head teachers, senior staff from other Trust schools, the CEO, Primary Improvement Advisor and one of the Directors of the Trust, spend the day in school reviewing our curriculum, our teaching in class, the progress that the children are making and the Pastoral Care that we provide for our children. They also speak to different groups of children to see what they think about the school and their experience of being part of St Martin's. A report is then produced and shared with staff, parents and the Local Governing body. Yesterday was a great success and there were many strengths celebrated. I will share the report with you once we receive it. There is one quote that a member of the reviewing group made about our school and it is the one that I am most proud of:

'The children feel loved and safe - they appreciate all that you do.'

I would like to thank all of the staff for their on-going dedication to your children.

Synod

Pope Francis has invited all the parishes and schools to engage with the preparation process for a Synod that he has called in 2023. The word 'synod' comes from two Greek words 'syn' meaning together and 'hodos' meaning way. The English word synod, therefore, means making our way together, journeying together along the way, united in Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Pope Francis has asked that schools be involved in talking to parents and children about their experience of being part of the Catholic community by attending a Catholic school. After half term, I will be sending out some further information inviting parents to come into school to talk about their experiences. I will also be sending out some questions for you to think about and would really appreciate your input. This is open to all parents – you do not have to be Catholic. The Synod will help to shape the way in which the church grows and develops to better serve the needs of everyone.

School closure

If it is necessary to close the school due to poor weather conditions, then we will notify you by the following means. The most important of these is parentmail so please ensure your contact numbers/email addresses are up to date with us.

- Parentmail text and email - if you are not yet registered, or your contact details have changed, then please contact the office asap.
- Message on the school website - www.stmartindepurresluton.co.uk
- Message on LBC website - <http://www.luton.gov.uk/schoolclosures>

Please do not call the school on the morning of a closure

Please make sure that your children are warmly dressed for school. They may wear boots to walk to and from school, but will be expected to change into shoes inside

school. If it should snow, please send a change of trousers so that they can go out to play.

Luton Foodbank Award

We were delighted to receive an award from Luton Foodbank 'Harvest Challenge Heroes' for our fundraising and food donations to the foodbank. Thank you so much for your generosity. Please continue to donate via the front office as many families in the town rely on the support that they receive. I am aware that many of families are finding things challenging with the rising fuel and food costs. Our Family worker, Miss Williams, is able to provide foodbank and clothing vouchers, so please contact her if you would like some support.

Lost Coats and uniform

Please, please put your child's name in all of the clothing that they wear to school. Lots of children had new coats for Christmas, but none of them seem to be named.

Important Information for EU, EEA or Swiss Citizens!

Did you know that although the deadline has passed, you can still apply to the EU Settlement Scheme for Settled or Pre-Settled status?

If you haven't, it is important that you do so if you want to keep your rights to live, work or study in the UK and access healthcare and benefits.

An application must also be made for every eligible child within a family *even if the parent(s) have already applied and been granted a status themselves.*

If you need to check whether you need to apply, Citizens Advice can help

By phone: 01582 544778

By email: eussadvice@lutoncab.org.uk

Via website: <https://www.citizensadviceluton.org.uk/eu-settled-status/>

Advice can be given about applying as well as help to complete applications, or to give follow up support about refusals, evidencing the correct documents, contacting the Resolution Centre and switching from Pre-settled to Settled status.

Parking

Please be patient when bringing your children to school and park considerately. Do not park across the school gates or just stop your car in the middle of the road and let your child get out of your car. We have had several complaints from our neighbours and other parents about the selfish and dangerous parking by a small group of parents. When the residents have asked parents to move, they were extremely rude. We have advised them to report incidents to the police as well as to us We are currently working with the council to try to improve the situation. Why not try parking a short distance from the school and then walk?



SEND – Local Offer

The Local Offer helps you find information about local services, support and events for children and young people aged 0 to 25 years who have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

The aim of the local offer is to provide clear, comprehensive, and accessible information about support and opportunities available for children and young people with special educational needs in your area.

To ensure that the provision of services in education, health and social care are more responsive to local needs and aspirations of children and young people by directly involving them, their parents/ carers and service providers in its development and review.

Find out more about the Local Offer, run by the councils, in your area by clicking on one of the links below:

Luton:	https://directory.luton.gov.uk/kb5/luton/directory/localoffer.page
Central Beds:	www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/15/special_educational_needs_and_disability_-_local_offer
Beds Borough:	https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/home.page

Leave of absence

Recently I have met with many parents requesting leave of absence during term time. Could I ask you to please read our leave of absence form and policy, which are available on the website and from the school office. Can I draw your attention to the information below:

Term time leave should be applied for at least 2 weeks in advance of leave being taken.

The Head teacher will only allow your child to take leave during term time if your circumstances are exceptional. Authorisation for leave will not be given in the following circumstances:

- Pupil's attendance is less than 97% attendance in the current academic year.
- Pupil's attendance was less than 97% attendance in the previous academic year.
- In SATs examination years (Year 2 and Year 6).
- At the beginning of any academic year.
- Any leave requested retrospectively (requested after the leave is taken).
- If there are any other attendance concerns such as poor punctuality.

School Meals

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

5.1.22 – 11.2.21

Per Day	£2.35
Per week	£11.75
Half term 6 weeks	£70.50

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 8th March – World Book Day – come in your pyjamas and share a story.

Tuesday 8th March and Wednesday 9th March – Parent Consultation meetings - via Teams

Wednesday 23rd - Friday 25th March- Year 6 to Alton Castle

Thursday 24th March – Mother's Day Assembly for Tigers

Friday 25th March - Mother's Day Assembly for Bears

Wednesday 30th March – Easter Assembly for 3M

Thursday 31st March – Easter Assembly for 3P

We are really hoping to be able to host the assemblies in school with parents attending.

We will send out further information nearer the time.

Thank you so much to all of those parents who have supported the Covid measures we have had to put into place. For at least the first two weeks after half term, we have been advised by Public Health to continue to keep these measures in place as case numbers have been so high for us as a school and in the local community.

I hope you all have a happy and healthy half term.

Kind regards

N. J. Morgan

N J Morgan
Head Teacher

Wednesday 9th February

