

# St Martin de Porres Primary School

## January 2024



Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to everyone, we hope you had a resful Christmas although is seems like so long ago.

### Young Voices

Pupils from our choir took part in this years Young Voices event in Birmingham on Wednesday 10th January. All the hard work really paid off as they joined in performing with other schools across the county for this fantastic occasion. Well done to all the children involved, who thoroughly enjoyed taking part. Also a massive thank you to Miss Mulcahey for organising this along with Mrs Dye for her support in rehearsals.



Peter Haddon from CAFOD spent some time working with Years 5 and 6 at the start of the term. He carried out workshops with each class and explored how Catholic Social Teaching and Catholic virtues can be lived out in our lives everyday.

Well done to all pupils across the school who raised £472.00 through the 'Global gifts campaign' Each class planned a fundraising activity and choose a gift which will benefit communities in developing countries.

### Collection at the end of the day.

Despite sending Parentmails and mentioning in previous newsletters, we still have had a number of children who are not being collected on time at the end of the day. We **do not** have staff available to supervise any children who are not picked up on time after school. Should your child not be collected from the playground at their collection time, they will be taken to Care Club, where you will incur a charge.

If you need to meet with the class teacher or any other member of staff, please speak to the school office to arrange an appointment or send a message via [help@smdpluton.co.uk](mailto:help@smdpluton.co.uk) Please do not approach teachers on the playground at the beginning or end of the school day, as they need to be supervising the children.

### Free School Meals (not to be confused with Universal Infant Free School Meals)

If your circumstances have changed since last completing the form regarding Free School Meals, then please complete a new online form via your local council website to see if you are now eligible. Not only will your child receive a school meal and other benefits, such as subsidised school trips, music lessons and food vouchers to be used over the school holidays, but the school will also receive some extra funding. (If your child is in KS1, Reception or Nursery, you can still claim for Free School Meals).

The school also has some access to vouchers for the Foodbank, coats and shoes. Please contact Miss Williams, our family Worker, if you need any additional support.

## Illnesses

If your child has been sick or has diarrhoea, they must be kept off school for 48 hours following the last episode. Please notify us immediately if your child has chicken pox, slapcheek or scarlet fever.



Please report all absences to the school office 01582 617600

## Parking

Parking is still difficult outside the school and a huge thank you to the majority of parents who have made a great effort to help reduce this. Unfortunately, there are a few who continue to block our neighbours' drives. Could we please ask everyone to park safely and not to drop your child off in the middle of the road. Please find somewhere safe to park and make sure that your child gets out of the car and onto the pavement. We should all be showing our children positive role models in our own behaviour.

## Uniform - Please make sure that all uniform is labelled.

Please can we remind you of a number of issues around uniform that we have noticed with just a few children (full details of our uniform policy can be found on our website):

- Earrings are not allowed. However, a stud (not hooked or looped) in each ear is, but these must be removed for PE. (Health and Safety guidance for schools.)
- Tracksuits for outdoor PE should be plain navy blue or black in colour, with no logos. Please do not send your child in a 'hoody' – these are dangerous for PE as they can get caught or pulled.
- Current fashions in shoes, clothing and hair should be avoided. Children's hair should be smart and tidy and long hair must be tied back using the school colours (boys and girls) Fashions involving patterns, very closely shaved or those similar to the mohican style, should be avoided.
- School bags need to be a reasonable size - a small back pack – we do not have room for larger bags in the cloakrooms.

## Contact details

If your contact details have changed e.g. your phone number or email, please let the school office know as soon as possible. It would be useful have at least 3 emergency contact numbers.

## Dogs on site

As stated in our school prospectus, please can I remind you that dogs are not to be brought onto site, with the exception of guide dogs.

## Bikes and Scooters

As much as we encourage all our families to come to school using an alternative method other than driving, can we please ask that if you allow your child to come on a bike or scooter, that they do not use these on the school grounds ie the playgrounds or in the car park. We have had a few accidents and a lot of near misses where children riding bikes and scooters have collided with parked cars and other children.

## Passports

Please be advised that as a school we will not be counter signing passports. If you need a passport form signed, please refer to the other eligible occupations listed. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

## Upcoming dates this term

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan           | Year R Dental Hygiene   |
| Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb          | Year 6 CSE sessions   |
| Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb            | Year 1 Candlemas Assembly   |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb            | Children's mental health awareness week   |
| Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb           | Safer Internet Day<br>5P School Linking Network<br>5M CSE session                                       |
| Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb         | Year 6 residential to Alton Castle<br>Internet Safety Parent Workshop                                   |
| Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb          | 5M School Linking Network<br>5P CSE session   |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb        | Ash Wednesday   |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb           | NON UNIFORM DAY – Shine Bright, Wear Bright (CHUMS)   |
| <b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>     | <b>HALF TERM – School shut all week</b>   |
| Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March          | TT Rockstars – NON UNIFORM DAY, Dress as a Rock Star  |
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March        | <b>World Book Day</b>   |
| Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March          | Early Years – Mothers Day Assembly  |
| Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March        | Year 5 Carbon monoxide safety sessions  |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March       | Year 5 to Science Museum<br>Year 2 Carbon monoxide safety sessions                                      |
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March       | Year 2 to Tring Museum  |
| <b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b> | <b>Last day of term – Break up for Easter</b><br><b>Children return on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b> |

As always we thank you for your support towards the school

Kind regards



Mrs. A. Barnaville & Mrs. H. Gallagher

Co -Head Teachers

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024

