

# St Martin de Porres Primary School

## February 2024



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to February's newsletter.

### Candlemas

At the beginning of the month Year1 celebrated the Feast of the Presentation in the Temple, sometimes known as Candlemas. This was a very prayerful celebration and it was lovely to see so many parents who had come to support their children. Thank you to Miss Taylor, Miss Mulcahey and all the Year 1 support staff who worked so hard to prepare the children.

### Stay and Play

Miss Williams will be running Stay and Play sessions every Tuesday morning 8.45 – 9.45am for all parents who have babies and toddlers.

A stay and play group is a great way for you and your child to meet new people and make new friends in a friendly, gentle and relaxed atmosphere.

All parents, grandparents and carers and their children under four are welcomed to our sessions where you can access friendship, play and educational activities and support.

It helps young children to become familiar with education settings and helps them to prepare for Nursery and School.

It helps to develop children's physical, emotional, intellectual and social skills through play.

We look forward to seeing many of you and your little ones there.

### Care Club

After the February half-term, Care Club will close at 5 pm Monday to Thursday, we will have to limit numbers so we are asking parents to be mindful when booking their children in. On Friday afternoons we are unable to offer any Care Club therefore, all children **must be picked up by 1:20 pm**.

### There is no change to the Breakfast Club

We are in the process of outsourcing the club which will provide more availability and activities for the children. The new company will not be able to take over until after the Easter Holidays so we are hoping this limited arrangement is only for half a term

We do apologise for any inconvenience this may cause; however, the safety of the children must be prioritised for us to be able to run any form of Care Club.

### 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.

### Parent consultation evenings

These will take place on Tuesday 26th March and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Further details, about this will be sent after half term

### Instagram

Our Instagram page is finally live! Follow us @smdpluton for regular updates about what is happening in school.

### Leave of Absence

We have received many requests for leave of absence already this term. Please do not ask for leave that is during term time, unless it is for something serious, like a bereavement. The government have advised schools that we can only grant leave in exceptional circumstances. I know that holidays are really expensive and it is tempting to go during term time, but we will not grant holiday or for other reasons such as First Holy Communion in another country (it can be made in the UK)

Could we ask you to please read our leave of absence form and policy, which are available on the website and from the school office. Can we 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 teachers 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 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.

### World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. The children will be asked to dress up as their favourite book character and there will be prizes for the best homemade costumes. Donations raised will go towards buying new books for our library. So why not use your creative skills over half term to come up with a great costume.

### CAFOD

This year the theme for CAFOD's fundraising will be 'The Big Lent Walk.' During Lent, the school will be raising money, for CAFOD, through a range of activities, including a sponsored walk. More details will follow after half term.

### Mother's Day

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March we will be holding a Mother's Day stall in school. Children will be able to choose up to 3 gifts at a price of £3.00 per gift. Further details and payments will be set up on Parentmail after half term.

### Mobile Phones

Please can we remind you **NOT** to use your phone to film or photograph children, members of staff or any other adults on the school premises when you drop off or collect your own children. Also please remember that mobile phones **SHOULD NOT** be used in the reception area of the school.

## Year 6 Alton Castle Trip

Despite the snow and the rain while they were away, Year 6 had a great time during their residential at Alton Castle last week. They spent lots of time doing activities such as bike riding, trekking, rock climbing and survival and still had enough energy to get up early. Time spent in reflection together as always was very special and we all returned in one piece. A very big thank to to all the staff members who gave up time away from their own families to supervise the Year 6 children.

## Upcoming dates this term

<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Break up for Half Term</b>
<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
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Mothers Day Stall
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 Year 2 Carbon monoxide safety sessions
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Sponsored walk
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 2 to Tring Museum Year 5 lenten activities
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Yr 6 Soup Day
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 Easter Reflection Parents Consultation Evening 3.35 - 5pm
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Consultation Evening 5.30 – 8pm
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Last day of term – Break up for Easter</b> <b>Children return on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>

As always we thank you for your support towards the school and look forward to seeing you at events coming up in the next half term.

Kind regards



Mrs. A. Barnaville & Mrs. H.Gallagher

Co -Head Teachers

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

