

# St Martin de Porres Primary School

## July 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the final newsletter of the year!

### Town Sports

What a result for team St Martins! After coming in 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Zone Sports, we then went onto to gain 3<sup>rd</sup> place at The Town Sports. A fantastic effort from everyone involved. Well done to all of the children who represented our school.

### Thank You for Joining Our Cultural Awareness Picnic!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Picnic on the Field, a joyful celebration of cultural awareness and unity within our school community. The event was a tremendous success, showcasing the rich diversity that makes our school so special.

It was truly inspiring to see so many children, parents, and staff proudly wearing traditional clothing and colours that reflected their heritage. The sharing of traditional dishes from around the world created a warm and welcoming atmosphere, bringing families together through food and conversation.

The sight of our school community dancing, laughing, and connecting across cultures was a beautiful reminder of the strength found in our diversity. We are incredibly proud to be a school family made up of so many nationalities, each contributing to the vibrant tapestry of our community.

Thank you once again for making this event so memorable. We look forward to celebrating with you all again next year!

### School Uniform

Please refer to our website for the correct uniform to be worn once we return. School jumpers/cardigans, ties and bags are available from **Prestige Design and Workwear** – Unit 12 Barton Le Clay Industrial Estate, Barton Le Clay, Bedford, MK45 4RP – 01582 883222. You can also access the shop online via the link on the school's website. All other items of school uniform can be purchased from any supplier but please ensure these are in line with the School Uniform Policy. **Please remember to name every piece of uniform.**

### Farewell to Our Wonderful Year 6 Pupils

It is with both pride and sadness that we say goodbye to our fantastic Year 6 pupils. Their time at St Martin's has laid a strong foundation, and we are confident they will go on to achieve great things as they begin their secondary school journey.

This year, they truly shone in their end-of-year production of Olivia, a spectacular showcase of their singing, dancing, and acting talents. A huge well done to all involved, and heartfelt thanks to the Year 6 staff for their dedication and support throughout the year.

We also want to congratulate our Year 6s on their excellent SATs results. Their success reflects the hard work and perseverance they've shown not just this year, but throughout their time at St Martin's.

A beautiful and reflective Leavers' Mass was held at church on Wednesday, a fitting farewell to a very special group of pupils.

We wish each and every one of you the very best for the future. You will always be part of the St Martin's family.

Year 6 SATs Results 2025			
	Maths	Reading	Grammar
Expected	91%	89%	88%
Greater Depth	27%	45%	39%

### **ATTENDANCE – Fixed penalty fines**

**As mentioned in every newsletter, leave will not be authorised during term time unless it is considered exceptional circumstances. We regret to inform you that visiting relatives abroad who are ill, is not considered as an exceptional circumstance. Please read the important information below, from the Local Authority, updating all parents and carers about recent changes in relation to attendance.**

Please be aware that as from August 2024, since the publishing of the latest DfE Working Together to Improve School Attendance guidance, there have been some significant changes to how and when Parents can receive Fixed Penalty Fines for unauthorised absences (including holidays).

Please note the following changes:

The Local Authority can and will take action on 10 or more sessions (half days) - equal to 5 school days - of unauthorised absence\* within a 10 school week rolling period

The 10 week rolling period spans both terms and school years (e.g. two days of unauthorised absence at the end of July and 3 days of unauthorised absence in September will count as 5 days of unauthorised absence under the guidance and may result in further action being taken against you (e.g. a Fixed Penalty Fine per Parent per Child of £80 payable in first 21 days or £160 thereafter).

The Local Authority also reserves the right to issue a Fixed Penalty before the above threshold is met. This could include where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below threshold, or for repeated absence for birthdays or other family events.

Please remember to consult your School's Attendance Policy for the correct process and time frame for you to request any Leave of Absence for your child. Under the new guidance, Leave of Absence can only be authorised by the Head Teacher in the most exceptional of circumstances and in accordance with your School's Attendance Policy.

We know that your Child will only achieve their full potential in life when they are in School and learning and therefore we ask you to support us with this.

If you have any questions or concerns about this or any other attendance issue, please contact the Attendance Officer at your School in the first instance.

\*Unauthorised absences are not just holidays, they also include late marks (after the close of the register), unreported absences (not reported in line with the school's current attendance policy) and absences where you have previously been notified to provide medical evidence by your Attendance Officer and are unable to do so.

### **Water Bottles Reminder**

To help keep our classrooms safe and spill-free, we kindly ask that all water bottles brought to school have a sports cap. Bottles do not need to be plastic or transparent, but they must have a sports cap rather than a screw cap to help prevent spills.

We also remind families that children should only bring water in their bottles to drink throughout the day. If we are informed that a bottle contains juice or any other drink, it will be emptied and refilled with water.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a healthy and safe learning environment for all our pupils.

### Staff leaving us

Sadly we are also saying goodbye to some staff who are leaving us and we would like to say a big thank you to them. Mrs Stafford and Mrs Rewt have served the school with commitment and dedication and many of our children have benefitted from their expertise and care during their time here. We wish them both good luck with their future endeavours, they will be missed very much. We also say goodbye to Miss Roberts, Miss Brown and Miss Wiltshire who joined us during the year. Thank you for all your hard work and we wish you the best of luck in your new roles.

### Finally.....Thank you

We would just like to end by saying a huge thank you to all of the staff who have done such a fantastic job to make sure that your children have continued to receive a good education. We would like to thank all of the Office staff, our Family Worker and Learning Mentor, TAs, Cleaners, Kitchen staff, IT support, mid-day supervisors, Care Club staff and our Site Agent, who have been behind the scenes making sure that the school has run smoothly.

Dear God,

*At the end of this school year we give thanks to you: For all the teaching and learning that has taken place in our school, both in and out of the classroom, For the talents and gifts that have been shared and the challenges that have been faced.*

*Amen*

School opens again to pupils on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025**

We hope that you have a great summer and look forward to seeing everyone back in September

Kind regards

*A. Barnaville. H. Gallagher*

Mrs. A. Barnaville & Mrs. H. Gallagher

Co -Headteachers

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

