

St Martin de Porres Primary School

November 2023



Dear Parents/Carers

At the start of the month we celebrated St Martin de Porres feast day. Key Stage 1 took part in a liturgy led by some of our Faith Ambassadors and Key Stage 2 participated in mass led by Canon Michael, his first at our school.



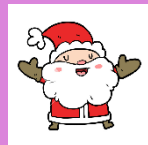
As part of our feast day celebrations we held our sponsored skip event, that all children joined in with. A fantastic amount of £702.72 was raised by them. Following our recent pupil voice, the children asked for some more playground equipment. Our School Council will ensure that the money will be used for this.



Advent Activities Afternoon – Tuesday 6th December

Sadly, as already informed, our Christmas Bazaar is not able to go ahead this year. However, Year 6 will be running an afternoon of Christmas based activities for the children to enjoy. This will be similar to the Lenten activities we run every year, which the children always love.

Tokens are available to purchase for the children to use on various activities through parentmail with a limit of £3.00 per child.



November – Month of Remembrance

During the month of November, as a community, we remember those close to us who have passed away in our remembrance books. We also remember those who have lost their lives due to war. In recognition of this each year group created a piece of art work that has been on display around the school. We held a liturgy in both Key Stages and observed a 2 minute silence at 11am which was followed by the last post.



Caritas Love Christmas Campaign 2023

We will again this year be supporting The Caritas Love Christmas Campaign which supports families with young children, the elderly, the lonely and many others. The children will be encouraged to buy a Christmas Star for £1 to write a Christmas message on, which will be hung on our Christmas trees, as an alternative to sending Christmas cards. The money raised will be donated to Caritas along with gifts you may wish to donate during the Advent Season. A parentmail providing more information will be sent in due course.

Sports News

Children from years 3 & 4 and 1 & 2 recently took part in Sports hall Athletic afternoons at Inspire. Years 1 & 2 came 4th out of eight schools and years 3 & 4 came 6th out of seven schools. It was enjoyed by all who took part and we are proud to say how well the children behaved displaying great sportsmanship towards each other and to pupils from other schools.

Leave of absence & Attendance

We are still receiving many requests for leave of absence. 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 as research demonstrates that absence from school and learning hours lost have a negative impact on attainment and progress and can have a damaging effect on a child's life chances. We 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) or for medical treatment in another country.

Attendance October 2023

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
3+EY Ladybirds	91.6	M	95.3
EYM Bears	95.2	3P	97.1
EYM Tigers	92.7	4M	94.5
1M	95.1	4P	93.6
1P	93.0	5M	95.9
2M	97.2	5P	94.7
2P	94.6	6D	94.3
		6M	97.1
		6P	95.3

Our school attendance target is 97%

Advent Reflections

As we enter the season of Advent, which begins on Sunday 3rd December, Parents and Carers are invited to attend our Advent reflection sessions on Thursday mornings at 8.45am in our Prayer room on the following dates: 7th and 14th December.

Dates for this term

Date	Event
24.11.23	INSET DAY – SCHOOL IS CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS
1.12.23	Year 4 assembly – Christingle Non uniform day
6.12.23	Advent Activities Afternoon
7.12.23	Great Fire of London day – Year 2
7.12.23	Year R nativity to parents
8.12.23	Year R nativity to parents
13.12.23	Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day

	Carol service 5pm
14.12.23	Peter Pan Pantomime to Nursery, Reception and KS1
18.12.23	Cinderella Pantomime at The Grove – KS2
19.12.23	Last day of term – Children return on Thursday 4th January

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Carol Service and at any assemblies carried out by your child's class.
Kind regards

A. Barnaville. H. Gallagher

Mrs. A. Barnaville & Mrs, H.Gallagher

Co -Head Teachers

Thursday 23rd November 2023

