



# St Martin de Porres Primary School

## Newsletter

November 2021

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

### Sad news

Please pray for two members of Trust staff who sadly passed away over the weekend. One was a teacher at St Margaret of Scotland school and the other was one of our young apprentice IT technicians who had recently started to work regularly at our school. Please remember their families and the school communities who are greatly saddened by the loss of two young people.

### COVID-19 Procedures/Social Distancing

With the increasing numbers of COVID cases, we have reintroduced many of the protective measures to try to reduce the number of infections in school. We are keeping year groups separated whenever possible and have returned to on-line Collective Worship in classrooms. The windows in the classrooms will be open to ensure good ventilation. If your child is cold, tell them to put a t-shirt underneath their school shirt to provide an extra layer.

Unfortunately, the Reception Classes Nativity Play and the Carol service will be on-line again this year. We will send out more information closer to the time.

All parents/carers must wear a mask when coming onto the school site - this includes lining up in the morning and afternoon.

Only come onto the school site when it is time for your child to line up - do not mix the year groups.

Do not send your child to school if they are unwell - use a lateral flow test or book a pcr. Symptoms now include sickness and diarrhoea, runny nose and cough in addition to the high temperature/persistent cough/ loss of taste & smell.

If someone in your house tests positive, the child may come to school but you must test them daily using a lateral flow test - you need to email the result to [help@smdpluton.co.uk](mailto:help@smdpluton.co.uk). (Tests suitable for primary aged children are available from pharmacists)

Could I please remind parents that they should not be standing around on the school grounds in groups. Once your child is on the playground, please leave the school site quickly to avoid crowds gathering. Line up on the pavement outside school and only come onto the school site when it is your child's year group time.

Only one parent is allowed in the school office area at a time and you must wear a face covering at all times on the school site. This includes when dropping off and collecting children outside.

When waiting in the car park, please keep your child with you as some peripatetic staff and deliveries arrive during the drop off period. Some staff are also reporting some damage to their cars where children or parents have leant against their cars. Please be aware of this when you are waiting.

I am in constant contact with Luton Public Health for advice and guidance. I will try not to close any year groups but I may need to if staff absence means that we cannot operate safely. If this is the case, we will prioritise Key worker children, KS1 and Early Years staff (as it states in the outbreak management plan).

I am asking everyone to help us with this, as my priority is the safety of all of our school community, children, staff and yourselves.

#### Care, courtesy and respect

I am concerned that a small number of parents have been speaking to staff in a disrespectful and sometimes aggressive manner, in person, on the phone and sometimes in front of children and other parents. Whilst I understand that this is a stressful time, everyone deserves to be treated with care, concern and respect. If you wish to discuss a concern that you may have, please make an appointment to discuss this with the relevant member of staff. I would also like to refer you to the Trust policy 'Unacceptable behavior on the school premises.'

#### Parking

A gentle reminder –please do not park across our neighbours' drives or the school gate. Make sure that your child crosses the road safely. Do not let your child get out of the car into the road.

#### Harvest Festival – Luton Foodbank

Thank you for your generosity in contributing to the Luton Food bank. The Luton Foodbank have sent us a link to their 'Advent Calendar'. The link will take you to their website where you will find further details.

The Advent season is a time to prepare for Christmas. Each day the calendar suggests an item of food to set aside. By the time Christmas arrives there will be an extra food parcel to put on the food bank warehouse shelves ready and waiting for the busy January period.

<https://lutonfoodbank.org.uk/advent-2021/>

In school, we will continue to collect items for the Foodbank and will donate these towards the end of term.

#### Trust Survey

Thank you to those of you who have completed the Trust Survey. This replaced our annual survey to parents. The link will close on the 30<sup>th</sup> November, so you have just one day left to complete it.

#### Change of shoes

The children are having daily access to the field at playtimes and to access the daily mile track. Could they please have their trainers in school every day so that we can reduce the amount of mud coming into the classrooms.

## Faith Ambassadors

Congratulations to our new Faith Ambassadors who were inaugurated during our Feast Day Mass. I am sure that they will do a wonderful job of promoting and supporting the faith of the school.

3M	Gabriel	3P	Noah		
4M	Macksikka	4P	Jenna		
5M	Jayda	5P	Edward		
6M	Isaiah	6D	Mercy	6P	Biannca

## Nuts and fish

We have had several instances over the last two weeks of children having either fish or products containing nuts in their packed lunches. Can I please remind you that we do not allow fish or nut products in school. This is because we have several children with severe allergies to fish and/or nuts. If they come into contact with fish or nuts (e.g. touching a door handle when someone else has eaten nuts/fish and has touched the door handle or being in the same room as someone eating nuts), they could go into anaphylactic shock, which in the worst cases, can lead to death.

So please do not send your child with products such as:

Peanut butter, Snickers, Nutella or other chocolate spreads, 'Celebration' sweets or variety packs containing any type of nuts.

No fish fingers, tuna, sardines, mackerel, fish paste, prawns or any other type of fish.

## Healthy packed lunches

I am aware that a small number of children are coming into school with packed lunches that are decidedly unhealthy. Please find below an example of what a packed lunch might look like:

Sandwich/roll/wrap (savoury not sweet)

Crisps

Piece of fruit/yoghurt/raw vegetables

Small biscuit bar (not sweets)

Drink (not fizzy)

## 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.stmartindeporryesluton.co.uk](http://www.stmartindeporryesluton.co.uk)
- Message on LBC website - <http://www.luton.gov.uk/schoolclosures>

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

## Illness

The usual sickness absence procedures are still in place, so you need to notify the school if your child is unwell. If your child is self-isolating, work will be provided via Class Dojo or TEAMS.

If your child becomes unwell in school, we will ask you to collect them as soon as possible and you will be asked to book a test for the child and your household.

If you or your child has symptoms of COVID 19, you should book a test by going to the government website. Please notify the school immediately through the office by calling 01582 617600 or via [help@smdpluton.co.uk](mailto:help@smdpluton.co.uk). You will need to notify the school office as soon as you have the result whether it is positive or negative.

**STAY ALERT: Do you have a temperature? A persistent cough? Both?**  
**Order a test today: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test>**  
**Or by calling 119**

Thank you for your on-going support.

Kind regards

*N. J. Morgan.*

N J Morgan  
Head Teacher

