

St Martin de Porres Primary School

October 2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Macmillan Coffee & Cake Morning and non-uniform day



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It was great to see so many parents at the coffee morning that was held last month. Thanks to your generosity, the coffee morning raised **£322**, with a further **£150** donated through the non-uniform day. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Harvest Celebration

Year 6 presented a wonderful Harvest Celebration Assembly. It was really thought provoking and a joy to welcome parents to join us. Thank you for your generosity of donations for the Food Bank. Thanks to you, many families will benefit from this.

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.

Collection at the end of the day.

As per our Parentmail sent last month, we unfortunately have still 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

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 or send messages via Dojo.

Social Media Platforms

We are aware that some children have their own phones and tablets and are using apps such as Snapchat, Discord, Facebook, Instagram and many more. We are obliged to tell you that the **legal age** for these apps is **13 Years old** with the exception being Whatsapp which is **16 years old**. If you do allow your child access to such applications on their devices, it is **parental responsibility** to ensure that usage is monitored. In school all children are made aware of appropriate use of technology in their computing lessons and through other areas of the curriculum. Please can you ensure you remind your child how to use the internet safely and sensibly.

Multi Faith Theatre Group

As part of International Peace week last month, Years 5 & 6 were lucky enough to watch a performance by the Khyaal Theatre company, who through their performance promoted inter-cultural dialogue, engagement and understanding by demonstrating reconciliation between East and West, the traditional and the modern, and Muslims and people of other faiths and traditions. The performance was enjoyed thoroughly by all who watched and we thank the theatre company for visiting our school.

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



RSE Lessons

After Christmas we will begin to use a new RSE programme in school called Ten:Ten. Details of a parent information evening, allowing you the chance to hear more about this scheme of work and look at some of the resources, will be sent via Parentmail after the October half term.

'I have come that you may have life, life to the full' John 10:10

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. 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.

Black History Month

During October we celebrate 'Black History'

Each year group has spent some time focusing on a different person prominent in Black History

EY – Bob Marley

Year 1 – Maggie Aderin-Pocock

Year 2 – Mary Seacole

Year 3 – Kakanga

Year 4 – Nelson Mandela

Year 5 – Doreen Lawrence

Year 6 – Benjamin Zephinah

Sports News

Well done to our Year 5 & 6 Boys who won their first two Football Matches of the year. A 5-0 win against Wenlock Junior School and another 5-0 win against Surrey Street.

And well done to the girls too on their first netball match against Southfields where they won 4-1

Keep up the winning streak!

Healthy Snacks

KS2 - Please can we remind you that if you send a snack in for your child this must be a healthy snack that consists of either fruit or vegetables. We have had a number of children bringing in items such as crisps and biscuits.

KS1 & EY are provided with a healthy snack by school



A big congratulations to our newly appointed Faith Ambassadors who, along with the support of our Head Boy and Head Girl, were officially commissioned by +Bishop David at the recent school mass at St Mary's Church in Dunstable. We are sure that you will all be great role models. Pictured below with our new Parish Priest, Canon Michael.



Meet the Teacher Evenings

It was lovely to meet and see so many of you at the recent Meet the Teacher evenings. We hope that you found these informative as to what your child / children will be learning throughout the year. A more formal parents evening will be held in the Spring term where you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress in detail with their teacher.

Early Years & Key Stage 1 Parents / Carers, please check parentmail for information on the new end of day pick up procedures.

Dates for this term

PLEASE NOTE FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER IS AN INSET DAY – SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED!

Date	Event
20.10.23	Break up for half term – Children return 30 th October 2023
3.11.23	St Martin de Porres feast day mass
10.11.23	Remembrance service led by Faith Ambassadors
24.11.23	INSET DAY – School will be closed to all pupils
1.12.23	Year 4 assembly – Christingle Bring a bottle day - Non uniform day
7.12.23	Year R nativity to parents
8.12.23	Year R nativity to parents Christmas Bazaar 3- 5pm
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

Have a peaceful half term break.

We look forward to seeing you at further events over the next half term.

Kind regards

A. Barnaville H. Gallagher

Mrs. A. Barnaville & Mrs, H.Gallagher

Co -Head Teachers

Thursday 19th October 2023

