



St Martin de Porres Primary School

Newsletter

2nd October 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Head Girl and Head Boy

I am delighted to announce that Tanaka and Miguel from Year 6 have become the new Head Girl and Head Boy. They are excellent role models for the other children and I am sure that they will be great ambassadors for our school.

COVID-19 Procedures/Social Distancing

I have had some queries from parents about the staggered start and finish times for the school day. As this current pandemic is on-going, we have no plans to change the arrangements that we have put in place. These are to ensure the safety of the children, staff and parents. We will always try to get the children off the playground as quickly as possible, but we need to maintain the gaps between classes coming into school to reduce the mixing of different year groups.

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. Please do not stand under the KS1 entrance. Today there were several parents and children standing there and this is not in-line with government guidelines.

Some schools are not allowing parents onto the school grounds at all and children have to come in through the external gates on their own. I do not wish to introduce this, as I am sure that I can rely on your common sense. We all want everyone to be safe.

Only one parent is allowed in the school office area at a time and you must wear a face covering.

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

Class Dojo

We will be continuing to use Class Dojo to set work for the children and to communicate with you, so please make sure that you have signed up. If your child is self-isolating, work will be set for them via Class Dojo or through work packs if you do not have access to the internet or an appropriate device. Staff are now putting their weekly plans on Class Dojo and the resources that they are using to support lessons. They are recording some of the introductions for lessons for English, Maths, Science and RE. These videos should help your child to understand the work that is being set. If your child has a special educational need, work will be put into their individual portfolio. Teaching assistants will also be providing work for children. Remember, your child can post any questions to the teacher through Class Dojo and they will try to answer them as quickly as possible, but not during the school day, as they will be teaching in class.

School Website

Our new website is now live. The web address has not changed and all of the information that you need should now be much easier to find.

Harvest Festival – Luton Foodbank - October 5th to 23rd

At this time of year, we would usually be collecting food items for the Luton Foodbank. In recent years, you have been very generous in your donations and I would ask you to be so again.

This year we are doing things a little bit differently due to COVID-19. We will not be able to collect food and instead, Luton Foodbank are encouraging schools to hold a non-uniform day and to ask children and staff to donate £1. Our non-uniform day will be on Friday 23rd October.

The Harvest Challenge is a competition amongst all Luton schools. Of course, some schools are larger than others and they want to make this a fair competition. As a result, each school has been set a target based on their size. Luton Foodbank will be awarding trophies to schools who have met their targets.

Luton Foodbank has created a personalized fundraising Virgin Money Giving link for our school:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/StMartindePorresCatholicPrimarySchool>

A promotional banner for the Luton Foodbank Harvest Challenge. On the left, there is a logo for 'Luton Foodbank' with a sun icon, and below it, the text 'HARVEST CHALLENGE' in a stylized font. Underneath the logo is the question 'ARE YOU A HARVEST HERO?'. To the right of the logo is a photograph of a young girl with blonde hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. Further to the right, the text reads 'Supporting Luton Foodbank Harvest Challenge.' in blue, followed by 'Help St Martin de Porres change the world! Make a donation now' and the website 'uk.virginmoneygiving.com'.

The donation period will run from October 5th to 23rd

PE

Thank you for sending your children into school in the correct PE kit. Now that the weather is becoming more changeable, we still intend to have PE lessons outside whenever possible. If you are able to, please provide your child with a lightweight waterproof coat so that they can continue to be outside for PE. PE in heavy winter coat will be make it difficult for the children to join in lessons and they will get very hot.

Parking

We would ask you to park safely - not on the grass verges or pavements. Some parents continue to park in an unsafe way. We will report anyone who is parked illegally and we have asked our neighbours to contact the police on 101 if they have any issues with parking. Please do not let your child get out of your car in the middle of the road. This is extremely dangerous. Try parking at the swimming pool and walking up to school. You must not park across the front of the school car park gate.

Rule 243 (from the Highway Code)

DO NOT stop or park:

- near a school entrance
- anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
- in front of an entrance to a property.

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.

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.

Please refer to the chart that we sent home about children who have a runny nose, sore throat but no temperature – it is fine for these children to be in school.

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. 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. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

N. J. Morgan.

N J Morgan
Head Teacher

