

St Martin de Porres Primary School

September 2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back and, to our new starters, welcome to St Martin's. We hope you will be very happy here. It is great to see everyone coming happily into school and looking so smart. Another new start is for us as the new Co-Heads and we look forward to meeting you at upcoming events during the term.

Head Girl and Head Boy

I am delighted to announce Elissa and Moses 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. Elissa and Moses received a blessing from Fr Liam in our mass for the beginning of the year.

House Captains

New House Captains for this year have been selected.
Augustine: Gabriel and Emerald
Benedict: Shanelle and Chris
Dominic: Maddox and Jenna
Francis: Dawid and Nilah
Congratulations to them on their appointment



Macmillan Coffee & Cake Morning and non-uniform day

On Friday 30th September, we will be holding a coffee and cake fundraising morning in the KS1 hall. Please come along for a chat and to support both of these charities in memory of members of our school community who have been affected by these illnesses. Please donate cakes to the school office on Thursday 29th September or Friday 30th September. This will also be a non-uniform day and we will be asking for a donation of £1 per child.



Parent meetings this term

Please look out for information that will be sent out via Parentmail.

- PLSP meetings – Wednesday 20th September 3.45 - 5pm in the KS2 hall.
- PLSP Appointments will be available to book on Parentmail.
- Year 6 Information evening – Wednesday 27th September at 6pm in the KS2 hall. (This will be about High School Transfer – the parent/carer of every child in Yr6 should attend)
- 'Meet the teacher' – Wednesday 11th October 3.45 – 6pm and Thursday 12th October 6 - 8 pm. (For all parents/carers to meet the class teacher, visit the classroom and view resources. Further details to follow.)



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.

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.

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



Birthday Sweets

We are aware that many families are struggling financially and so we have decided that if you do want to give something when it is your child's birthday, that a donation to the Luton Foodbank would be more appropriate. You can talk to your child and explain that this is a really positive thing to do. We will set up a donation point in school and we would encourage you to bring your child with you to make the donation. **Please do not send in sweets or any other gifts, as they will not be given out.**

Harvest Celebration

Every day people in the UK go hungry for many reasons. Luton Foodbank provide emergency food supplies for people in crisis. We will holding a Harvest Celebration on Friday 6th October to coincide with CAFODs fast day. **Below is a list of suggested items that you can donate during the week beginning 2nd October. Please do not send in fresh fruit, vegetables, bread or meat.** Thank you, in anticipation, for your support and generosity.

Suitable items:

Fruit Juice (Carton)	Tinned Tomatoes	Shampoo
Milk (UHT/Powdered)	Tinned Vegetables	Shower gel
Meat/fish (Tinned)	Tinned fruit	Toilet rolls
Rice Pudding/Custard (Tinned)	Dried Rice (500g)	Washing up liquid
Tea Bags/Instant Coffee	Pasta Sauce	Tissues
Sugar/Jam	Soup	Toothpaste
Breakfast Cereal	Baked Beans/other beans	Soap
Lentils	(Tinned)	
	Biscuits	



Uniform - Please make sure that all uniform is labelled.

Please can we remind you of a number of issues around uniform that we have noticed with just a few children (full details of our uniform policy can be found on our website):

- Earrings are not allowed. However, a stud (not hooked or looped) in each ear is, but these must be removed for PE. (Health and Safety guidance for schools.)
- Tracksuits for outdoor PE should be plain navy blue or black in colour, with no logos. Please do not send your child in a 'hoody' – these are dangerous for PE as they can get caught or pulled.
- Current fashions in shoes, clothing and hair should be avoided. Children's hair should be smart and tidy and long hair must be tied back using the school colours (boys and girls) Fashions involving patterns, very closely shaved or those similar to the mohican style, should be avoided.
- School bags need to be a reasonable size - a small back pack – we do not have room for larger bags in the cloakrooms.
- Children need to wear shoes, not boots.

Collection at the end of the day.

As per our Parentmail sent last week, unfortunately we have 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.

Contact details

If your contact details have changed e.g. your phone number or email, please let the school office know as soon as possible. It would be useful have at least 3 emergency contact numbers.

Social Media

You will have received an email informing you that in the coming weeks we will be launching a St Martin de Porres Facebook and Instagram page. Many other schools already use these platforms to celebrate good news and to keep parents informed of events. The children do not have access to these platforms in school and will only be able to view these at home with parental consent.

Parking

Thank you to the majority of parents who have made a great effort at the start of this new year to reduce the amount of parking outside of the school. Unfortunately, there are a few who continue to block our neighbours' drives. Could we please ask everyone to park safely and not to drop your child off in the middle of the road. Please find somewhere safe to park and make sure that your child gets out of the car and onto the pavement. We should all be showing our children positive role models in our own behaviour.

Dates for this term

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

Date	Event
20.9.23	PLSP evening
22.9.23	Multi faith theatre for years 5 & 6
23.9.23	Peace walk 2023 – information to be sent to parents / carers
25.9.23	Cycle to school week
29.9.23	Macmillan coffee morning – Non uniform day - fundraising National Teacher Assistant day
6.10.23	Year 6 Harvest Assembly Family fast day – foodbank appeal Schools mass
11.10.23	Year 3 Egyptian Workshop
19.10.23	Year 4 Roman workshop
23.10.23	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

We hope to be able to invite parents/carers into school for some of these events, more details will be sent closer to the time.

We look forward to seeing you over the coming weeks.

Kind regards



Mrs. A. Barnaville & Mrs, H.Gallagher

Co -Head Teachers

Monday 18th September 2023

