



St Martin de Porres Primary School

Newsletter

September 2021

Dear Parents

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.

Head Girl and Head Boy

I am delighted to announce Helina and Dawid W 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.

Sad news

Please pray for Mr Kashama, who has children who attend this school, who passed away at the weekend. Let us remember in our prayers his family, Bobeth, Osse, Ephraim, Joshua, Noah and Abigail at this very difficult time. Mr Kashama was always a great support to the school and will be sadly missed. May he rest in peace.

Can I ask you to remember the Pollard family in your prayers. Sarah, who was the Head Teacher at Southfield Primary School, passed away following a recent diagnosis of cancer. Sarah had worked in Luton for many years and contributed so much to the development of the West Area Partnership of schools and has supported many other schools throughout Luton. I would like to share my condolences with her family and the staff at Southfield's. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this sad time. May Sarah rest in peace.

Macmillan/British Heart Foundation Coffee & Cake Morning and non-uniform day
On Friday 1st October, 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 30th September or Friday 1st October. This will also be a non-uniform day and 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 – week beginning 27th September - via TEAMS
- Year 6 Information evening – 29th September at 2pm and 6pm – in the KS2 hall and via TEAMS.
- Parent consultation meetings – week beginning 18th October – via TEAMS

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. 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 one to see if you are now eligible. Not only will your child receive a school meal and other benefits, such as free school trips, but the school will also receive some extra funding. Forms are available from the school office and we are happy to help parents to complete these. (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 Mrs Jarvis, our family Worker, if you need any additional support.

Birthday Sweets

Parents have been asking whether they can send in sweets for their child's birthday. Last year because of the COVID restrictions, we decided that this would not be sensible. This year we have decided that sweets will still not be allowed.

I am 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 I would encourage you to bring your child with you to make the donation.

Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. Luton Foodbank provide emergency food supplies for people in crisis. Below is a list of suggested items. 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	

Education Sunday

Education Sunday will take place on 10th October this year. It would be great to see the children at mass in their uniform. We will not be able to all sit together as we have done in previous years.

Would you like to be a governor at our school?

We are currently trying to recruit governors for the school. If you can spare 4 evenings to attend meetings that last for about an hour and a half over the course of the year and you would like to know more about how the school is run behind the scenes, then please contact the school office or speak to me about what is involved and how to apply.

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)
Piece of fruit/yoghurt/raw vegetables
Small biscuit bar (not sweets/chocolate)
Drink (not fizzy)

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. 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.

Uniform

Please can I remind you of a number of issues around uniform that I have noticed with just a few children (full details of our uniform policy are in the school prospectus which 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.
- Hair can be as short as you like but please avoid lines and shaved sides with longer hair on top.
- Long hair must be tied up (boys and girls).
- 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.

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.

Waiting for school to start

When you are waiting outside the school gates or on the school grounds, please set a good example to the children. Try not to block the pavement, so that other users can pass easily. Make sure that your children are not riding up and down on scooters and bikes, so that other users can pass safely. If you are dropping off or collecting a child on the school grounds, please line up when it is the correct time for your child's class. Please wait outside the school grounds for the previous year group to go onto the playground. It is difficult for staff when handing over children at the end of the day to identify the correct parents when year groups are mixed up. Our children learn from our behaviour, so let's make sure that we are good role models.

COVID update

Our contingency plan and risk assessment are now on the school website, under the COVID tab. We would ask you to continue to take sensible precautions. Please wear a face covering when entering the school building.

If your child is unwell, please do not send them to school, book a PCR test for them. Additional symptoms have now been added and include a runny nose, sore throat and/or an upset stomach. You must notify the school if your child tests positive. Class teachers will continue to provide work through Class Dojo if your child is required to isolate.

Please notify the school if you or anyone in your household tests positive as the whole household needs to book a PCR test. Do not send your child to school until you have the results of the test.

Hockwell Ring is the nearest testing site but you must book a test through the government website. You do not need to have symptoms to book a test if you live with someone who has tested positive or have had contact with someone who has tested positive.

We have had some cases of COVID within the school community, so it is important that everyone plays their part in keeping us all safe.

STAY ALERT: Do you have a temperature? A persistent cough? Loss or change in smell or taste? Order a test today: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119

I look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks.

Kind regards

N. J. Morgan

N J Morgan
Head Teacher

Friday 24th September 2021

