

SEPTEMBER 2026

ST MARTIN DE PORRES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK



It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school and to see our children return looking so happy, confident and ready for the year ahead.

The first week has been a lovely opportunity to settle into new classes, reconnect with friends and teachers, and establish the routines that help our school run so smoothly. We have been incredibly proud of the way the children have approached the start of the new school year, and it has been a pleasure to see them already demonstrating our school values.

A particularly warm welcome goes to all our new children and families. We are delighted to have you as part of our school community and hope that you will quickly feel at home.

We are also delighted to welcome some new members of staff to our school community this year. Mrs Batchelor joins us as the teacher of 5M, Mrs Naqvi takes on the role of class teacher in 3P and we are pleased to welcome Mrs Xygaki, who will be teaching 4M. We are very excited to have them as part of our team and know that they will quickly become valued members of our school community.

There is lots to look forward to over the coming weeks and months, and we are excited about the learning, experiences and opportunities we have planned for the children.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Working in partnership with our families is such an important part of ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Here's to a happy, successful and exciting year ahead!

Mrs A. Barnaville & Mrs H. Gallagher



LOOKING AHEAD

As we begin the new school year, our focus is on creating a positive, purposeful environment where every child feels happy, valued and ready to learn. We will continue to have high expectations for learning, behaviour, attendance and personal development, while supporting every child to achieve their very best. We are looking forward to providing a wide range of exciting learning experiences and opportunities for children to develop their confidence, independence and resilience. With the continued support of our families, We are confident that we have a wonderful year ahead of us.

WORKING TOGETHER WITH SCHOOL

We really value positive communication with our families and encourage parents and carers to speak with us whenever they have a concern about their child. If you would like to discuss something with your child's class teacher, please arrange an appointment through the school office rather than approaching the teacher at the end of the school day. At collection time, teachers are responsible for safely dismissing all of the children in their care and may also have meetings or other commitments immediately afterwards, so they are not always able to give concerns the time and attention they deserve. By arranging an appointment, we can ensure that you have the opportunity to speak with the teacher properly, without being rushed, and work together to support your child.

Teachers also have dedicated planning and preparation time on Friday afternoons, so parent appointments are not normally arranged during this period. We appreciate that Friday afternoons can be convenient for families following collection, but protecting this time enables teachers to plan effectively for the children and prepare for the week ahead. We will always do our best to offer an alternative appointment at a mutually convenient time. Thank you for your continued understanding and support in helping us to keep our routines calm, safe and consistent for everyone.

A FEW IMPORTANT REMINDERS

A gentle reminder that the school gates open at 8:25am, ready for the school day to begin promptly at 8:30am, when registration is taken. Anyone arriving after the gates have shut will need to be brought to the main office and signed in by the parent or adult responsible for dropping off. If a pupil arrives after registration then they will receive a late mark.

KS1 children finish at 3:10pm and KS2 children finish at 3:20pm. On Fridays, KS1 finishes at 1:10pm and KS2 at 1:20pm.

We are not able to supervise children who are not collected on time. We do have the services of Playtarium on site should after school care be required. please see their website for details.

<https://www.playtarium.com>

Please take a moment to read the attached Uniform Policy and Late Collection Policy, which provide important information to help us maintain consistent expectations across the school.

RHE CURRICULUM UPDATE

We have recently updated our Relationships and Health Education (RHE) curriculum to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of our pupils and reflects the new guidance issued by the Department of Education. Further information about the updated curriculum, including what children will be learning, will be shared with parents and carers later this month.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As we settle into the new term, we will share further information over the coming weeks about important dates and events taking place throughout the term. This will include key events in our Church calendar, school photographs, PLSP evenings, parents' evenings, class collective worship, as well as any additional events and opportunities that arise throughout the term.

Please keep an eye on our school communications and remember to follow us on Instagram at [@smdpluton.co.uk](https://www.instagram.com/smdpluton.co.uk) for regular updates and a information of what is happening in school.



SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

Going forward, our school newsletter will be shared with families at the end of each half term, rather than monthly. This will allow us to bring together key news, celebrations, updates and important information from across the school, giving families a fuller picture of the children's experiences and achievements each half term.

AND FINALLY...

We would like to share that our much-loved Family Worker, Miss Williams, will be leaving us at the end of September. Miss Williams has worked with us in this role for the past four years and has built wonderful relationships with many of our families, while providing invaluable support to so many of our children.

We are incredibly grateful for everything Miss Williams has contributed to our school community and know that she will be greatly missed by children, families and staff alike. We wish her every happiness and success in her new role and hope that she enjoys this exciting next chapter.

We will keep families updated as we progress with our plans to appoint a new Family Worker in due course.
