



# St Martin de Porres Primary School

Newsletter

December 2022

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Dear parents/carers

## Carol Service

Thank you to all those parents who attended our Carol Service on Wednesday, which, as always, was a great evening. Well done to the choir for singing so beautifully and the readers who reminded us of the importance of Christmas and its true meaning. A big thank you to Mrs Banville and Miss Mulcahey for leading the choir and for preparing the readers. Many thanks to Mrs Dye for supporting Mrs Banville and Miss Mulcahey with the choir and for Mr Banville for playing the piano and accompanying the children so beautifully.

## Reception & Nursery Nativities

We certainly got into the spirit of Christmas last week with the Reception Nativity. The children were amazing and celebrated the birth of Jesus in a very special way. Our Nursery children also put on a wonderful performance of "Our First Nativity". I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff in Reception and Nursery for all their hard work and for preparing the children so well.

## Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday the children and staff enjoyed Christmas lunch. It was great to see the children dressed up in their Christmas jumpers and they really seemed to enjoy the occasion. A big thank you to Grace and the kitchen staff for putting on a lovely meal. Thank you to Fr Christmas for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit the KS1 & EYs children.



## Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar was a great success and we raised just over £2,000. As always, the support was amazing and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. I would like to say thank you to the staff and parents for all the time and effort they have given to this event. A particular thanks to Mrs Harris, Mrs Woolhead and Mrs Saunders, who all work in the school office and did an amazing job of organising and coordinating the Bazaar. Thank you to Starbucks in Dunstable for their generous donation of all of the proceeds from their sales on Friday. Thank you to our caterers, Chartwells for the donation of the burgers. Thank you to Gerry the butchers, for the food hamper and to Oakley Road Studios for the photography vouchers. The money raised will be used towards purchasing playtime equipment for the children.

## Raffle winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Zainab - Xbox
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Kiara – Food hamper
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Siobhan – Oakley Studios voucher

## Panto

Years 3, 4 and 5 all had a wonderful trip to see Cinderella, the Pantomime at the Grove Theatre on Tuesday. Years N, 1, 2 and 3 were all treated to Puss in Boots the Pantomime in school. A great time was had by all and the children were commended for their good behaviour.

## 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, music lessons and food vouchers to be used over the school holidays, but the school will also receive some extra funding. Can I urge you to apply on line to Luton Borough Council to see whether your child is entitled to a free school meal?

(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. We have lots of unnamed Lost Property in school that you are free to come and have a look and to take any items of uniform that you may need.

Dinner money next half term 4.1.23 – 10.2.23

Per Day	£2.46
Per Week (5 days)	£12.30
Half Term ( 5 weeks, 3 days)	£68.88

#### Leave of absence

I 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. I know that holidays are really expensive and it is tempting to go during term time, but I am not able to grant leave for 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.

#### School closure

We will always endeavour to be open, but we need to ensure that the school site is safe for children and staff. If it is necessary to close the school due to poor weather conditions then we will notify you by the following means. The most important of these is parentmail so please ensure your contact numbers/email addresses are up to date with us.

- Parentmail text and email - if you are not yet registered, or your contact details have changed, then please contact the office ASAP.
- Message on the school website - [www.stmartindepordesluton.co.uk](http://www.stmartindepordesluton.co.uk)
- Message on LBC website - <http://www.luton.gov.uk/schoolclosures>

Please do not call the school on the morning of a closure

Dates for next term.

4.1.23	School opens to children	
9.1.23	Yr6 English Booster sessions begin	
12.1.23	Yr6 Maths Booster sessions begin	
25.1.23	PLSP meetings	
2.2.23	Yr1 Candlemas	
7.2.23	Young Voices: Choir	
13.2.23	Half Term	
20.2.23	School reopens	
22.2.23	Ash Wednesday	
7.3.23	Parent Consultation meetings	3.45 -5.45
8.3.23	Parent Consultation meetings	5.00-7.30
17.3.23	YrR Mother's Day Assembly	
27.3.23	Yr3 Easter Reflection	
28.3.23	Yr3 Easter Reflection	
29.3.23	Yr6 Alton Castle Residential Trip	
31.3.23	Term Ends	
17.4.23	Summer term begins	

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, staff and children for all of their support over the last term. I hope you have a holy and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Kind regards

*N. J. Morgan.*

N J Morgan

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Head Teacher

