



St Martin de Porres Primary School

Newsletter

February 2023

Dear parents/carers

Candlemas

Last week Year1 celebrated the Feast of the Presentation in the Temple, sometimes known as Candlemas. This was a very prayerful celebration and it was lovely to see so many parents who had come to support their children. Thank you to Miss Taylor, Ms Coombes, Mrs Murnane and the support staff who worked so hard to prepare the children.

Young Voices

On Tuesday, the choir took part in 'Young Voices' at Wembley Arena. Over a thousand pupils from Luton took part, along with 4,000 other children. It was a truly amazing experience. Thank you so much to Miss Mulcahey, Mrs Banville, Mrs Coombes and Mrs Dye for all of the rehearsals and to Mrs Saunders and Mrs Woolhead for organising everything behind the scenes.

Caritas- Love Christmas Campaign

Thank you all for your generosity for this very successful campaign. We raised over £275 and donated 30 gift bags. We received this message of thanks from Deacon Jim Hannigan, Director of Caritas:

Our Love Christmas campaign was a tremendous success again this year due to all the wonderful donations, help, support, and prayers that meant we were able to share God's love for us with so many locally who are in real need and poverty. Thanks to the support of so many schools we were able to donate 950+ gift bags supporting over 2000 individuals this Christmas. We were able to support families with young children, the elderly, the lonely and isolated, young carers, children from broken homes, children in care, young people leaving the care system, refugees and many others. So, thank you again to all those involved for all your love, kindness, and generosity for those in need. Pictures and details are on the diocesan website <https://northamptondiocese.org/lovechristmas>.

Parents supporting parents

Miss Williams is currently running a group that is open to all parents. It takes place every Friday morning between 9 and 10am. Toddlers and babies are very welcome too. So why not come along and meet up with other parents for a chat and coffee.



World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Monday 6th March. The children will be asked to dress up as their favourite book character and there will be prizes for the best homemade costumes. The money raised will go towards buying new books for our library. We have a guest author, Seth Burkett, who will be spending the day working with the children. So why not use your creative skills over half term to come up with a great costume.



Mother's Day

If you would like your child/children to make a personalised gift for Mother's Day, items are now available to purchase via your Parentmail account.

CAFOD

This year the theme for CAFOD's fundraising will be 'The Big Lent Walk.' During Lent, the school will be raising money through a range of activities, including a sponsored walk. More details will follow after half term.

You may also wish to make a donation through their website to support the emergency disaster fund that has been set up following the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Follow this link to donate: [Catholic international development charity \(cafod.org.uk\)](http://cafod.org.uk)

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
- Message on LBC website - <http://www.luton.gov.uk/schoolclosures>

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

Attendance policy

Our most recent Attendance Policy is now available on the school website. Please take the time to read this as it includes information about being late for school. For KS1 and KS2, school starts at 8.30am and registers close at 8.45am. For Early Years, school starts at 8.40 am and registers close at 8.55am. If your child arrives after this time, they will be registered as late. If your child attends a medical appointment, we will require proof of the appointment. This can be by showing a text message or letter to one of the office staff or by sending through an email to help@smdpluton.co.uk.

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 will not grant 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.

Could I ask you to please read our leave of absence form and policy, which are available on the website and from the school office. Can I draw your attention to the information below:

Term time leave should be applied for at least 2 weeks in advance of leave being taken.

The Head teacher will only allow your child to take leave during term time if your circumstances are exceptional. Authorisation for leave will not be given in the following circumstances:

- Pupil's attendance is less than 97% attendance in the current academic year.
- Pupil's attendance was less than 97% attendance in the previous academic year.
- In SATs examination years (Year 2 and Year 6).
- At the beginning of any academic year.
- Any leave requested retrospectively (requested after the leave is taken).
- If there are any other attendance concerns such as poor punctuality.

Dinner money next half term 20.2.23 – 31.3.23

Per Day	£2.46
Per Week (5 days)	£12.30
Half Term (6 weeks)	£73.80

Dates for next half term.

13.2.23	Half Term	
20.2.23	School reopens	
22.2.23	Ash Wednesday	
3.3.23	CAFOD Fast Day	
6.3.23	World Book Day – pay £1 and come dressed as your favourite book character.	
7.3.23	Yr1 Trip to Herrings Activity Farm	
8.3.23	Parent Consultation meetings	3.45 -5.45 *
9.3.23	Parent Consultation meetings	5.00-7.30*
16.3.23	Yr4 Trip to Whipsnade Zoo	
17.3.23	YrR Mother's Day Assembly	9.00
20.3.22	The Big Walk and Wheel starts for 2 weeks	
21.3.23	Yr5 Trip to Whipsnade Zoo	
23.3.23	Yr2 Trip to Wardown Park Museum	
27.3.23	Yr3 Easter Reflection	9.00
28.3.23	Yr3 Easter Reflection	9.00
29.3.23	Yr6 Alton Castle Residential Trip	
31.3.23	Term Ends	
17.4.23	Summer term begins	
*Please note the change of date for Parent Consultation meetings		

I am looking forward to meeting up with you at some point over the next half term and hope that you have a lovely half term break.

Kind regards

N. J. Morgan.

N J Morgan

Head Teacher

