

St Martin de Porres Primary School

February 2025

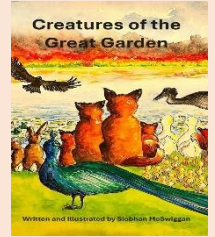


Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the newsletter for February

World Book Day

We are excited to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday, 6th March! The children have been invited to dress up as an animal from one of their favourite books. To make the day even more special, we are thrilled to welcome local author Siobhan McSwiggen to our school. Siobhan will share her inspiring story of how she achieved her dream of publishing a book, despite overcoming the challenges of dyslexia. Her book, *Creatures of the Great Garden*, is available for purchase on Amazon. If you'd like to buy a copy and send it in with your child on World Book Day, Siobhan will be happy to sign it!



LENT FUNDRAISING

Next week marks the start of Lent, a season when we focus on supporting CAFOD and reflecting on our recent virtue, 'Love of Neighbour.' This year, instead of our usual silver collection, we're doing something special to help children understand how their actions can make a real difference to others. We are encouraging all students to take on jobs at home, and we ask parents and carers to reward them with silver coins, which they will then donate at school. The funds will be used by each class to purchase a gift from CAFOD's World Gifts, supporting communities in need around the world.

In addition, Year 5 will be running their own Lenten activities. We hope these activities will deepen the children's understanding of how they can make a positive impact, and we truly appreciate your support in helping us make a difference to those fighting the injustice of poverty.

Baby News!

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Miss Dominy and Mrs Bassett on the safe arrival of their baby boys. We offer our warmest wishes to them and their husbands, and warmly welcome their babies into the world.

Mobile Phones

Please can we remind you **NOT** to use your phone to film or photograph children, members of staff or any other adults on the school premises when you drop off or collect your own children. Also, please remember that mobile phones **SHOULD NOT** be used in the reception area of the school.

Instagram

Remember to follow us [@smdpluton](https://www.instagram.com/smdpluton) for regular updates about what is happening in school.

Leave of Absence

We continue to receive a significant number of requests for leave of absence during term time. Please be aware that requests for leave during term time **will not be authorised**, unless in exceptional circumstances such as a bereavement. The government has advised schools that we can only grant leave in truly exceptional cases. While we understand that holidays can be expensive and it may be tempting to take them during term time, we cannot approve requests for holidays or events such as a First Holy Communion abroad (which can be celebrated in the UK).

We kindly ask you to review our leave of absence form and policy, which are available on our website and from the school office. Please note the following key points:

Requests for term time leave should be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance.

The Headteachers will only authorise leave if the circumstances are exceptional. Leave will not be granted in the following situations:

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 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.

Upcoming dates this term

Date	Event
5.3.25	Ash Wednesday
6.3.25	World Book Day
25.3.25	5-7.30pm Parents Evening
27.3.25	4-6.30pm Parents Evening
28.3.25	4+ Mothers Day to Parents
31.3.25	Year 6 to Alton Castle
2.4.25	World Autism Day – Wear Blue Non Uniform Day
2.4.25	8.50am Y3 Easter Production to Parents 3M
3.4.25	8.50am Y3 Easter Production to Parents 3P
4.4.25	BREAK UP FOR EASTER
23.4.25	Children return to school

As always we thank you for your support towards the school and look forward to seeing you at events coming up in the next half term.

Kind regards

A. Barnaville. H. Gallagher

Mrs. A. Barnaville & Mrs. H. Gallagher
Co -Head Teachers

Friday 16th February 2025

