

# St Martin de Porres Primary School

## June 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the Newsletter for June

### Wintershall

Our Faith Ambassadors and Head Boy and Girl, visited Wintershall to watch the performance of 'The life of Christ' They set off early in the morning with the Faith Ambassadors from the other Catholic schools in our Trust, and had a great time reflecting on the many events, in Jesus life, played out.

### Singing Spectacular

Some of our Year 3 and 4 children took part in the Singing Spectacular at Stopsley Baptist Church. It was a long, hot afternoon rehearsing, before they performed to their parents in the evening but they were absolutely brilliant and sang their hearts out. A huge thank you to Miss Mulcahey and Mrs Dye for preparing them over the weeks leading up to the event.

### Sports Day

Well done to all the children in KS1 and KS2 who had great fun on Sports day. So many of them showed great teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the morning.

Congratulations to Francis, the winning house, and to Augustine, who won the relay.

A massive well done to our Early Years children, who took part in their first sports day. Judging by the smiles on their faces, they enjoyed it immensely.

A big thank you to all the parents who came to support their children, your support is always greatly appreciated and it was fantastic to see so many of you there. Next year we hope to include a parents race, so you have a year to prepare and get fit!

### West Zone Athletics

A number of children took part in the West Zone Athletics this month and they were absolutely fantastic!!!! Overall, we came in second place, with 39 children qualifying for the town sports in various events. Each of our relay teams in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 came first in their relay races. We are so proud of all of those who took part and we look forward to the results from the town sports, to be held early next week. Wishing you all good luck!

### Instagram

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

### Free School Meals

If your income is low or you are in receipt of benefits to supplement your income, you might be eligible for Free School Meals for your child (**this applies to children in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 as well as Key Stage 2.**) The school receives additional funding for children who claim free school meals. It may also mean that you are entitled to a reduction in the cost of school trips and music lessons. To apply please contact Education Welfare, Luton Borough Council ([www.luton.co.uk](http://www.luton.co.uk)) and search Free School Meals.

### **IMPORTANT NEWS! Late collection after the school day**

We are still having a number of children who are not being collected on time at the end of the school day. Please be aware that we are not insured to look after any children who are collected late at the end of the day, this can pose a safeguarding risk and unfortunately, **we need to inform children's services of parents who persistently collect their children late.**

We do have an after-school care club onsite, Playtarium, that you can book into if you need childcare after school. Please be aware that this is run independently from the school and you need to use their booking system to book a place.

**Playtarium contact number 07950972951**

You must register your child/children to be able to book sessions

### **IMPORTANT NEWS! Leave of Absence**

We are still receiving many requests for leave of absence, a lot of these are for either just before or after a school holiday. **Please do not ask for leave that is during term time**, unless it is for something serious, like a bereavement. The Government makes it clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Headteachers now also determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

Absence during term time means pupils missing lessons, and the government says there is clear evidence doing so impairs children's attainment.

We know that holidays are really expensive and it is tempting to go during term time, but we **will not** grant holiday or for other reasons that are not exceptional.

Could we ask you to please read our leave of absence form and policy, which are available on the website and from the school office. Can we 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 teachers 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 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.

Previous leave of absence.

### **IMPORTANT NEWS! Playground equipment and supervision of children**

Children are not allowed to play on the equipment on KS1 or KS2 playground either before or after school. The equipment is only to be used during school break-times when it is supervised by school staff. When you are waiting to collect your child, **do not allow younger children to play on the equipment or to run around the car park.** Toddlers are running around in the car park and are being allowed to climb the equipment – please take responsibility for your own children. We have had some near accidents recently and our first concern is your child's safety.

### **IMPORTANT NEWS! Parking**

Unfortunately, once again, we need to ask you to be considerate of our neighbours during school drop off and collection times. Despite mentioning this in previous newsletters, there are still a few who continue to block our neighbours' drives. Could we please ask everyone to park safely and **not to drop your child off in the middle of the road.** Please find somewhere safe to park and make sure that your child gets out of the car and onto the pavement. We should all be showing our children positive role models in our own behaviour.

Apologies for the sections entitled 'IMPORTANT NEWS' however, despite mentioning these items in many previous newsletters, they are still happening. We would urge you to read these sections carefully and take note of what has been written so as not to be offended should you need to be contacted regarding any of them.

Finally, to end on a nice note.....

### Picnic on the Field

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July, we will be holding our annual 'Picnic on the Field' This year we will be celebrating the many different cultures that make up our school community. We are encouraging the children, and the parents, to come to school that day dressed in something that represents their culture, eg their country's football shirt, traditional dress or their national colours. **No domestic football kits please, international representation only!** The fun will start at 11am where the children, and staff, will take part in a parade celebrating the wonderful cultures we have within our school. As in past years, all parents are welcome to attend to watch the parade and then to sit on the field to enjoy a picnic brought by yourselves for you and your children to enjoy. We will also have a DJ to really help to create a celebratory atmosphere.

Here are some dates for your diary for next month:

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July Music Concert to parents 5pm

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Multi faith Storytellers for Years 5 and 6  
- Year 2 to Wardown Museum

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Transition day

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Production 6pm

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Production 6pm

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July: Picnic on the field 11am

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July: Year 6 leavers mass 1.30pm at St Martin de Porres Church) **This is for Year 6 pupils and their parents only.**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July – **LAST DAY OF TERM** - normal collection times at the end of the day.

As we enter the final few weeks of the year, we look forward to seeing many of you at the various events taking place.

Kind regards

*A. Barnaville. H. Gallagher*

Mrs. A. Barnaville & Mrs. H. Gallagher

Co -Headteachers

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024

