

St Martin de Porres Primary School

May 2024



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the Newsletter for May

Warmer Weather

As the weather becomes warmer, please remember to put sunscreen on your child before they come to school. Please make sure that they have a water bottle and a sun hat – these must both be named.

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) and search Free School Meals.

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.

Instagram

Remember to follow us **@smdpluton** for regular updates about what is happening in school.

Playtarium – After school care club

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 a school 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

Friends of St Martins

It was lovely to see more parents come along to the last 'Friends of St Martins' meeting. If, as a parent or carer you feel you are able to give some time to this wonderful group to help raise much needed funds for our school, please contact help@smdpluton.co.uk All help is greatly appreciated.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to all our children who made their first Holy Communion this month.

'May you grow in the light and love that comes from our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that Jesus, the Bread of Life and Cup of Eternal Salvation, will always nourish your faith'

Mr McCullion

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of one of our former teachers, Mr McCullion. Mr McCullion taught at our school for 35 years before he retired in 2010. Some of you may even have been taught by him as a former pupil.

In memory of Mr McCullion, we are raising money to buy a memorial bench to place outside his old classroom. If you were ever taught by Mr McCullion or if you would simply like to donate towards this cause, you can do so by using the link below.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/MrMcCullion-emorial?utm_id=1&utm_term=8bpvQ6ZWq

Dear Jesus, We give you thanks for the life of Mr McCullion, Like you he was a great teacher, and he gave of himself to his pupils and to our school. Bless the pupils whom he taught, and help them to have pride in all that they learned from him. Rest in peace Mr McCullion. Amen

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.

Here are some dates for your diary for next half term:

Monday 27th May: Half term week

Monday 3rd June Children return to school

Friday 14th June: Year 2 Father's Day Assembly

Wednesday 5th June Photographer in school – Class photos

Monday 17th June Year 4 to Westow Anglo Saxon Village
Thursday 20th June: Sports Day
Friday 21st June – Singing Spectacular choir Years 4 & 5 1.30 – 6.45pm
Singing spectacular performance to parents 6pm – 6.45pm
Friday 28th June Year 5 Assembly to parents
Saturday 29th June – Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul
Monday 1st July Music Concert to parents 5pm
Tuesday 2nd July – Multi faith Storytellers for Years 5 and 6
- Year 2 to Wardown Museum
Thursday 4th July – Transition day
Tuesday 9th July – Year 6 Production
Thursday 11th July – Year 6 Production
Friday 12th July: Picnic on the field
Wednesday 17th July: Year 6 leavers mass 1.30pm at St Martin de Porres Church) **This is for Year 6 pupils and their parents only.**
Thursday 18th July – **LAST DAY OF TERM** - normal collection times at the end of the day.

Have a restful half term break, we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 3rd June

Kind regards



Mrs. A. Barnaville & Mrs, H.Gallagher

Co -Headteachers

Friday 24th May 2024

