

# St Martin de Porres Primary School

## September 2024



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back and, to our new starters, welcome to St Martin's. We hope you will be very happy here. It is great to see everyone coming happily into school and looking so smart after the summer break.

### Head Girl and Head Boy

I am delighted to announce Laura and Rory from Year 6 becoming appointed the new Head Girl and Head Boy. They are excellent role models for the other children and I am sure that they will be great ambassadors for our school. Laura and Rory will receive a blessing at our mass for the beginning of the new school year.

### House Captains

New House Captains for this year have been selected.

Matthew: Yohane and Evangeline

Mark: Kornelia and Noah

Luke: Siobhan and Melvin

John: Sarah and Peter

Congratulations to them on their appointment

As well as new House Captains we also have new House names!



### Macmillan Coffee & Cake Morning and non-uniform day

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, we will be holding a coffee and cake fundraising morning in the KS1 hall. Please come along for a chat and to support both of these charities in memory of members of our school community who have been affected by these illnesses. Please donate cakes to the school office on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September or Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September. This will also be a non-uniform day and we will be asking for a donation of £1 per child.

### Parent meetings this term

Please look out for information that will be sent out via Parentmail.

- PLSP meetings – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 3.45 - 5pm in the KS2 hall.
- PLSP Appointments will be available to book on Parentmail.
- Year 6 Information evening – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm in the KS2 hall. (This will be about High School Transfer – the parent/carer of every child in Yr6 should attend)
- Parent evenings – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 3.45 – 6.30pm & Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 6-8pm. Appointments will be available to book on Parentmail. Details will be sent nearer the time.



If you need to meet with the class teacher or any other member of staff, please speak to the school office to arrange an appointment or send a message via [help@smdpluton.co.uk](mailto:help@smdpluton.co.uk) Please **do not** approach teachers on the playground at the beginning or end of the school day, as they need to be supervising the children.

### 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 online form via your local council website to see if you are now eligible. **Not only will your child receive a school meal and other benefits, such as subsidised school trips, music lessons and food vouchers to be used over the school holidays, but the school will also receive some extra funding. (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.

## Illnesses

If your child has been sick or has diarrhoea, they must be kept off school for 48 hours following the last episode. Please notify us immediately if your child has chicken pox, slapcheek or scarlet fever.



Please report all absences to the school office 01582 617600

## Birthday Sweets



We are aware that many families are struggling financially and so we have decided that if you do want to give something when it is your child's birthday, that a donation to the Luton Foodbank would be more appropriate. You can talk to your child and explain that this is a really positive thing to do. We will set up a donation point in school and we would encourage you to bring your child with you to make the donation. **Please do not send in sweets or any other gifts, as they will not be given out.**

## Harvest Celebration

Every day people in the UK go hungry for many reasons. Luton Foodbank provide emergency food supplies for people in crisis. We will holding a Harvest Celebration on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October to coincide with CAFODs fast day. **Below is a list of suggested items that you can donate during the week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Please do not send in fresh fruit, vegetables, bread or meat.** Thank you, in anticipation, for your support and generosity.

### Suitable items:

|                               |                         |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Fruit Juice (Carton)          | Tinned Tomatoes         | Shampoo           |
| Milk (UHT/Powdered)           | Tinned Vegetables       | Shower gel        |
| Meat/fish (Tinned)            | Tinned fruit            | Toilet rolls      |
| Rice Pudding/Custard (Tinned) | Dried Rice (500g)       | Washing up liquid |
| Tea Bags/Instant Coffee       | Pasta Sauce             | Tissues           |
| Sugar/Jam                     | Soup                    | Toothpaste        |
| Breakfast Cereal              | Baked Beans/other beans | Soap              |
| Lentils                       | (Tinned)                |                   |
|                               | Biscuits                |                   |



## Uniform - Please make sure that all uniform is labelled.

Please can we remind you of a number of issues around uniform that we have noticed with just a few children (full details of our uniform policy can be found on our website):

- Earrings are not allowed. However, a stud (not hooked or looped) in each ear is, but these must be removed for PE. (Health and Safety guidance for schools.)
- Tracksuits for outdoor PE should be plain navy blue or black in colour, with no logos. Please do not send your child in a 'hoody' – these are dangerous for PE as they can get caught or pulled.
- Current fashions in shoes, clothing and hair should be avoided. Children's hair should be smart and tidy and long hair must be tied back using the school colours (boys and girls) Fashions involving patterns, very closely shaved or those similar to the mohican style, should be avoided.
- School bags need to be a reasonable size - a small back pack – we do not have room for larger bags in the cloakrooms.
- Children need to wear shoes, not boots.

## Collection at the end of the day.

Already in the short time we have been back we have had a number of children who are not being collected on time at the end of the day. We **do not** have staff available to supervise any children who are not picked up on time after school. Teachers need to attend training or meetings after school and are not able to stay with any children. If, on the rare occasion, should you know you will be late collecting your child/children at the end of the day, please inform the school office as soon as possible. Children are often very distressed at not being collected on time.

Collection times:

Monday - Thursday KS1 **3.10pm** Year 1 from the KS1 hall, Year 2 from the KS1 playground. **Fridays 1.10pm**  
Monday - Thursday Early Years **3.20pm** Children to be collected from their classroom doors **Fridays 1.20pm**  
Monday – Thursday KS2 **3.10pm** from the KS2 playground. **Fridays 1.20pm**

### Playtarium

Should you require child care after school, we have a very good company, Playtarium, that provides this and can be booked online.

[Home \(playtarium.com\)](http://playtarium.com)

### Contact details

If your contact details have changed e.g. your phone number or email, please let the school office know as soon as possible. It would be useful have at least 3 emergency contact numbers.

### Parking

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. Please do not park in front of the school gates to drop off or collect children

### Leave of Absence

As mentioned last year, leave of absence will not be granted for a holiday or any other absence for leisure or recreation. Please refer to our leave of absence policy on our website and the information sent out via parentmail detailing the Government's legal guidance "**Working Together to improve school attendance**"

### New Staff

And finally we would like to offer a very warm welcome to some new staff to our school:  
Miss Clarke, class teacher in 3P, Miss Sutton, class teacher in 4M and Miss Lydon, Teaching assistant in Year 1.

### Dates for this half term

| Date     | Event  |
|----------|--|
| 10.9.24  | 4+ children begin  |
| 21.9.24  | Peace walk 2024 – information to be sent to parents / carers |
| 25.9.24  | School New Year Mass<br>PLSP evening                         |
| 26.9.24  | National Teacher Assistant day                               |
| 27.9.24  | Macmillan coffee morning – Non uniform day - fundraising     |
| 4.10.24  | Family fast day – foodbank appeal                            |
| 5.10.24  | National Teachers Day  |
| 9.10.24  | School photos – individual and siblings                      |
| 18.10.24 | <b>Children break up for October half term – TWO WEEKS</b>   |
| 4.11.24  | Children return to school                                    |

We look forward to seeing you at various events over the coming weeks.

Kind regards



Mrs. A. Barnaville & Mrs, H.Gallagher

Co -Head Teachers

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

