



# St Martin de Porres Primary School

## Newsletter

## November 2019

### Christmas Bazaar

The Friends of St Martin need your help. Please send in your donations for the Bazaar as soon as possible. If you are able to help with any of the preparations, including setting up or running a stall for part of the evening, please let Janine Donaldson know. Please look out for further information from the FOSM.

### Fund-raising event

I would like to say a huge thank you for your support of our recent Run a Mile sponsored event. We have now raised just over £1,600 and this will go towards supporting Alton Castle. A big thank you to the children for their efforts during the event and for collecting the money and to Mr Flynn, who organised the event for us. If you still have sponsor money to send in, could you please do so by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

### Book Fair

We have raised over £1000 which means we will receive £600 worth of books for the school. I would also like to thank the Year 6 pupils who worked so hard to make the Book Fair a success. Thank you so much to everyone who has bought a book or two!

### Faith Ambassadors

Congratulations to our new Faith Ambassadors who were inaugurated during our Feast Day Mass. I am sure that they will do a wonderful job of promoting and supporting the faith of the school.

They are:

|     |                        |     |                  |     |                 |
|-----|------------------------|-----|------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 3M  | Winnietta & Sean       | 3P  | Arnold & Michal  | 4M  | Mercy & Nana    |
| 4P  | Saoirse & Jaynell-Rose | 5M  | Arnold & Jessica | 5P  | Tanaka & Joshua |
| Yr6 | Summer                 | Yr6 | Onome            | Yr6 | Grace           |

### Nuts and fish

We have had several instances over the last two weeks of children having either fish or products containing nuts in their packed lunches. **Can I please remind you that we do not allow fish or nut products in school.** This is because we have several children with severe allergies to fish and/or nuts. If they come into contact with fish or nuts (e.g. touching a door handle when someone else has eaten nuts/fish and has touched the door handle or being in the same room as someone eating nuts), they could go into anaphylactic shock, which in the worst cases, can lead to death.

**So please do not send your child with products such as:**

- Peanut butter, Snickers, Nutella or other chocolate spreads, 'Celebration' sweets or variety packs containing any type of nuts,
- No fish fingers, tuna, sardines, mackerel, fish paste, prawns or any other type of fish.

### Parent Forum

On **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November** we held our Parent Voice Forum. This was well attended and a big thank you to those that were able to make it. You will find a copy of the minutes from the meeting attached to the Newsletter, so please take the time to read them.

## **RSE Parent Workshop**

Thank you to those parents who attended the RSE workshops. We hope that you found it useful. At the workshops, I reassured parents that our curriculum for RSE meets all of the requirements for the compulsory teaching of RSE that the government has announced for 2020 and that our curriculum is in line with the teaching of the Catholic church. All of the resources that were discussed at the workshop are available on the school website.

## **Free parenting support resources**

Luton are currently providing a free on-line parenting support that gives advice to parents from birth through to teenagers. To access this free resource go to [www.inourplace.co.uk](http://www.inourplace.co.uk) and the access code is HATTERS. You will just need to put in your postcode. If you live in Dunstable or Houghton Regis, you can use the school postcode to register – LU4 0PF.

## **Uniform**

We have a large amount of lost property in school in the KS1 and KS2 Lost property Bins, most of it unnamed. Could I please ask you to name your child's clothing including coats. **If your child comes home with clothes that do not belong to them, please return them.**

## **Parking**

We would ask you to park safely - not on the grass verges or pavements. Some parents continue to park in an unsafe way. We will report anyone who is parked illegally and we have asked our neighbours to contact the police on 101 if they have any issues with parking.

### **Rule 243 (from the Highway Code)**

#### **DO NOT stop or park:**

- **near a school entrance**
- **anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services**
- **opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space**
- **where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles**
- **in front of an entrance to a property**

## **Just a few reminders:**

**Boots:** Please remember that **boots are not part of our school uniform**. As the weather becomes colder, a child may wear boots to walk to school, but will be expected to wear shoes during the school day.

**Earrings:** One plain gold round stud in each ear (which must be removed for PE and swimming). Children will not be allowed to take part in physical activities if they are wearing ear studs. **Ringed sleepers or other earrings are not acceptable. Reception and KS1 children should not wear earrings at all on PE days as many find it difficult to remove them.**

## **School closure**

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.stmartindeporesluton.co.uk](http://www.stmartindeporesluton.co.uk)
- Message on LBC website - <http://www.luton.gov.uk/schoolclosures>

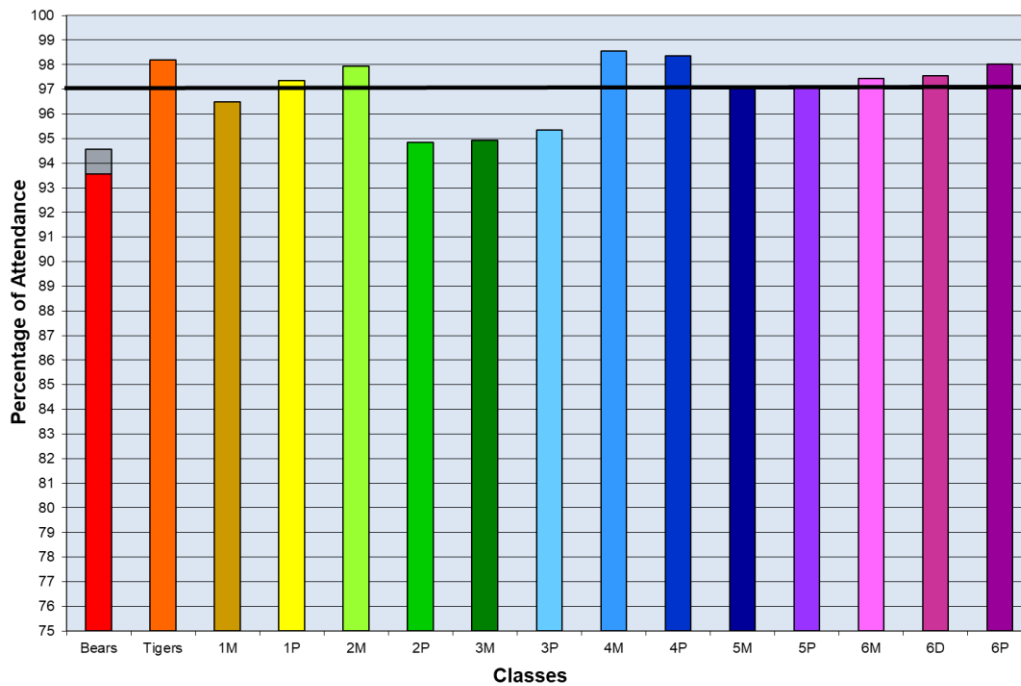
**Please do not call the school on the morning of a closure**

## Attendance Award: 2<sup>nd</sup> September – 8<sup>th</sup> November

Congratulations to our first Paddington Bear winners for the year: **Tigers** and **4M**.

I know it is early in the year but there are a few of classes below our target of **97%** (see chart below) so please encourage your child to be one of those receiving a 100% certificate next half term.

**St Martin de Porres Attendance Award Chart**  
2nd September to 18th October 2019



### Dates for this term

| Date         | Time      | Event / Activity                                     |
|--------------|-----------|--|
| December 02  | 2.45      | Year 1 Christingle for parents (doors open at 2.35)  |
| 03           | 9.15-3.00 | Year 4 trip to Verulanium                            |
| 04 Wednesday | 3.30      | Early Years Workshop                                 |
| 11 Wednesday | 9.30      | Bears Nativity for parents                           |
| 12 Thursday  | 9.30      | Tigers Nativity for parents                          |
| 13 Friday    | am        | Pantomime for whole school                           |
|              | 6.00pm    | Christmas Bazaar                                     |
| 17 Tuesday   | 10.00     | Nursery Nativity to parents                          |
| 18 Wednesday | All day   | Year 2 History of the page –The Great Fire of London |
|              | 10.00     | Nursery Nativity to parents                          |
|              | 12.00     | Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day             |
|              | 7.00      | Carol Service  |
| 19 Thursday  |           | Term ends  |

I look forward to seeing everyone over the next few weeks at some of our many Christmas Celebrations.

Kind regards

*N. J. Morgan.*

N J Morgan  
Head Teacher

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## Minutes from Parent Voice Forum

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 2.30pm

### Present:

Nicola Morgan (Head Teacher)

Cheryl Harris (PA to Head Teacher and SLT)

Parents Forum: Parent Representatives.

| Item | Discussion Points  | Action  |
|------|--|---|
| 1.   | Agenda was circulated to the forum.<br>Opening Prayer.<br>NM thanked all for attending and introductions were made.  |   |
| 2.   | <p><b>Issues raised for discussion.</b></p> <p>NM advised that she would speak about any issues that had been raised by parents, via the form section on parentmail along with the feedback from the recent changes to Care Club and the new homework.</p> <p><b>Reading Challenge.</b></p> <p>NM noted that she thought the reading challenge cards had been changed to read that the books suggested are just an option for children to choose from. It is the school's intention that children should read 15 books throughout the year, 5 books per term to complete the challenge.</p> <p>A parent queried that they had lots of books at home for their child to read and if they could read it as part of the challenge. NM agreed they could however, some of the books on the list are a requirement and children would have to know the vocabulary used in some of the older texts for year 6.</p> <p>NM advised that any books they read that are not on the cards should be written in place of another suggested book.</p> <p>Another parent enquired why the reading challenge cards only have the title of the book and not the author. NM advised that this would be changed and correspondence will be sent to parents.</p> <p>NM advised that she would take the feedback and comments made by the parent voice forum back to the English Team.</p> <p><b>Care Club.</b></p> <p>NM advised that Care Club had undergone some changes with a new booking system and new staff. NM confirmed that we would not be looking to open Care Club any earlier than 7.50am and the hours of Care Club cannot be extended. NM also advised that if parents are unable to book their child into Care Club then this means that it is full. NM reminded parents that they should not turn bring their child to Care Club without making a booking, as this</p> | <p><b>Updated information to be sent out.</b></p> |

could result in no space being available for your child. Care Club have limits and for Health and Safety reasons; having more children than allowed in Care Club means we are not insured.

NM noted that there was an issue with booking Care Club if parents are using Childcare Vouchers or Student Finance which we hope is now resolved.

Cancelling & Rescheduling bookings: You can do this prior to the day on Parentmail otherwise you can contact Sian through phone or email. The email address for Care Club that can be used for this – [careclub@smdpluton.co.uk](mailto:careclub@smdpluton.co.uk)

**Homework.**

NM advised that following the feedback from the homework survey, parents disliked the Learning Logs which is why the Passports were introduced as homework. NM noted that the Passports should be a way for parents and children to spend time together to do something fun, creative and to do something other than school work. NM advised that parents and children should choose 3 activities to complete per half term.

NM also advised that the school was looking at other online resources for children to assist with homework and learning. NM stressed she wanted to have a balance for children’s mental health and to allow them to just be children.

A parent raised concerns that their child was struggling with the passport and that with the Learning Log, they could see what their child was learning about in school.

NM advised that she would take on board the concerns regarding the passport but also advised that parents could see on the school website a curriculum overview for each year group, for each subject. NM also advised that learning journeys have also been introduced for each child and each subject. This is a map that children will take from Early Years to Year 6 which shows what they have learnt in each subject.

Another parent asked if it was possible to have the Learning Logs also, NM replied that the passport will run for the year and then the school will look into feedback at the end of the year.

NM noted that parents can add their own activities into the passport to complete too.

**Parentmail Correspondence.**

Following a parents concern over ‘bumped head’ emails or texts and not knowing which of their children had been hurt, NM confirmed that any message sent to parents will include the child’s first name to elevate any confusion for parents with more than one child in the school.

**Parents to be consulted on changes to homework in June 2020.**

**Office staff to action.**

A parent asked why the upcoming Year 4 Harry Potter trip had to be paid so early. NM advised that we have to pay for the tickets up front and given that the tickets are non-refundable it is not a cost the school can prefund. The Harry Potter studios are a popular attraction and tickets are sold out quite quickly. NM noted that the same had to be done for Young Voices tickets to reserve the amount of tickets needed.

NM advised that teachers have been asked to book all trips early, even at the end of the year, to assist parents with paying for them. As many parents have multiple children in the school it can be costly to have trips to pay all at once, this way parents have longer to pay.

A parent raised concerns over the short notice of a Cross Country competition. NM apologised for the short notice and advised that Active Luton had been late in sending out the information which had not given the school enough time to train and prepare the children. Having said that the children all did well in the competition.

#### **RSE Workshop.**

A parent had enquired with regards to what the school was planning regarding the government introduction to RSE on the curriculum. NM advised that we already have Relationship and Sexual Education in school and that it complies with the law and is approved by the Catholic Church.

NM also advised that the school will be holding a RSE workshop for parents on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November after school. NM stressed that it would benefit all parents to attend, even if they have done so before, as different materials are supplied for different year groups.

#### **Children coming into school in their PE kit on PE days.**

A parents had suggested that it may be useful for children to come in wearing their PE kit on their PE days to reduce the timeframe of changing and allowing more time for PE. NM advised that a big discussion was had regarding this subject but the school prefers children to come in in their uniform. NM worried that a life skill would be taken away from doing this and also the aspect of hygiene, especially for older children.

NM noted the parents' concerns over PE and children being more active in school. NM also noted that we were sourcing funding for a track on the field and the new dance provision was working well.

#### **Play Equipment.**

A parent had queried the opportunities for children in KS1 to use the playground equipment. NM noted that there is a rota for each of the playground equipment and would make sure staff use the rota for children.

#### **Site Checks.**

A parents raised concerns regarding animal faeces on the ramp in the KS1 playground. NM advised that this is part of the site checks

|           |   |  |
|-----------|---|--|
|           | <p>done every morning by the site agent; however, we have a family of foxes that live on the field who wander the grounds.</p> <p><b>Lost Uniform.</b><br/>A parent requested assistance with tracking down lost uniform. NM advised that all parents should label the uniform. There are two lost property bins either side of the school and all lost property is put into them. NM will again advise parents via the newsletter.</p>   |  |
| <b>3.</b> | <p><b>Ad Hoc Parental Comments.</b></p> <p>A parents asked if parents evening could be moved to later in the Advent term. They suggested that one month into the new school year, teachers have not had enough time to get to know the child or to assess them suitably. NM noted that she would speak with staff and see if this could be moved.</p> <p>Another parent enquired if more rewards can be given other than the Star of the Week to help boost the children's confidence. NM advised that she would speak with SLT to see if there is other ways to congratulate children's success.</p> |  |
| <b>4.</b> | <p><b>AOB.</b><br/>NM asked for volunteers on behalf of the Friends of St Martins regarding the Christmas Bazaar. NM will advise of the next Friend's of St Martin's meeting once it has been confirmed.</p>  |  |
| <b>5.</b> | <p><b>Date of Next Meeting.</b><br/>To be confirmed.</p>  |  |