



St Martin de Porres Primary School

Newsletter

October 2022

Dear parents/carers

Macmillan Coffee & Cake Morning and non-uniform day

It was great to see so many parents at the coffee morning that was held last month. Thanks to your generosity, the coffee morning raised £407, with a further £353 donated through the non-uniform day. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Book signing

Sereen Hislop in Year 3 had a book published last year called 'Friends.' The book is available to buy through Amazon and was one of the top selling titles last year. On Saturday 22nd October at 3pm, Sereen will be reading and signing copies of her book at the Discovery Room in John Lewis at Westfield's shopping centre as part of their celebration of Black History Month. Congratulations to Sereen. What a remarkable achievement for one of our pupils!

Harvest Celebration

Year 4 presented a wonderful Harvest Celebration Assembly yesterday. It was really thought provoking and a joy to welcome parents to join us. Thank you for your generosity of donations for the Food Bank. Thanks to you, many families will benefit from this.

Meet the teacher

It was great to see so many parents at the 'Meet the teacher sessions.' Thank you to those of you who completed the questionnaire, 185 parents in total. The majority of the feedback was very positive, as you can see in the attached response sheet. Following the feedback, we will hold these sessions much earlier in the Autumn Term next year. Just to reassure you that we will be holding traditional parent consultation meetings in February of next term. If you have any concerns regarding your child, please make an appointment to see the class teacher before this.

Africa Week

Thank you so much to Mr Adu-Ansere and Ms Awoniyi, who came into school to speak about Ghana and Nigeria. The children really enjoyed hearing about the different cultures and the staff really enjoyed the food!

We will be holding more weeks later in the year based on different continents and we would love more parents to come into school to talk to 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 one to see if you are now eligible. Not only will your child receive a school meal and other benefits, such as free school trips, music lessons and food vouchers to be used over the school holidays, but the school will also receive some extra funding. Can I urge you to apply on line to Luton Borough Council to see whether your child is entitled to a free school meal?

(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. We have lots of unnamed Lost Property in school that you are free to come and have a look and to take any items of uniform that you may need.

School Dinners

Next half term, fish will be on the menu on a Friday. Some parents have asked whether packed lunch children may now have fish. At this time, I am afraid we are saying no to fish in packed lunch. We still have a number of pupils with a fish allergy. We can control the days when we know the menu for lunch contains fish, by making seating arrangements that will minimise the risk for those with allergies. However, if we allow packed lunch children to have fish, we will not know on which day or who is eating it, so we cannot control the risk to the allergy children. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Dinner money next half term

Per Day	£2.46
Per Week (5 days)	£12.30
Half Term (7 weeks)	£86.10

COVID update

Although many restrictions have now been lifted, we all need to act responsibly as regards COVID. Over the course of the year, if cases increase again, we may need to reintroduce some of the restrictions that we had in place last year. We would ask you to continue to take sensible precautions. We have had 12 confirmed cases of COVID in school this term, so please be cautious about sending your child to school if they are unwell.

If your child is unwell, please do not send them to school if you suspect COVID. Additional symptoms have now been added and include a runny nose, sore throat and/or an upset stomach. You must notify the school if your child tests positive and we ask you to keep them off school for 3 days. They may then return to school if they are well enough after the 3 days.

Class teachers will continue to provide work through Class Dojo and TEAMS if your child is required to isolate.

Other 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, slap cheek or scarlet fever.

Leave of absence

I have received many requests for leave of absence already this term. Please do not ask for leave that is during term time, unless it is for something serious, like a bereavement. The government have advised schools that we can only grant leave in exceptional circumstances. I know that holidays are really expensive and it is tempting to go during term time, but I will not grant holiday or for other reasons such as First Holy Communion in another country (it can be made in the UK) or for medical treatment in another country.

Dates for this term.

24.10.22	Half Term	
31.10.22	School reopens	
1.11.22	Mass for All Saints & St Martin's Feast Day (At the church)	10.30am
3.11.22	School Photos	
14.11.22	Anti-bullying week	
18.11.22	4M to mass at St Martin's church	9.30am
23.11.22	Yr5 Stone Trip to Celtic Harmony	
25.11.22	4P to mass at St Martins' church	9.30am
30.11.22	Year 5 Dance Performance	2.45pm
2.12.22	Year 6 to mass at St Martin's church	9.30am
2.12.22	Christmas Bazaar – hopefully.	3.00 -5.00pm
8.12.22	Reception Nativity for Bears parents	9.00am
8.12.22	Carol Service	6.00pm

9.12.22	Reception Nativity for Tigers parents	9.00am
13.12.22	Year 2 The Great Fire of London workshop	
	Years 3, 4 & 5 to the Grove theatre: Pantomime	1.30pm
14.12.22	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day	
15.12.22	Pantomime for Years N, R , 1 & 2 in school	
16.12.22	Term Ends	
4.1.23	School reopens	

We hope to be able to invite parents/carers into school for some of these events. We will send out more details closer to each event.

I hope that you all have a great half term and look forward to seeing the children back well rested on Monday 31st October.

Kind regards

N. J. Morgan.

N J Morgan

Friday 21st October 2022

Head Teacher

