



# St Martin de Porres Primary School

## Newsletter

## 10th September 2020

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been great to be able to welcome back the children to school and thank you for being so understanding of all of the new arrangements. (98% of our children have returned to school, so thank you for your support. The children have adapted very well to the new routines and are showing a great enthusiasm for learning.

### Social Distancing

Could I please remind parents that they should not be standing around on the school grounds in groups. The new government guidelines come into force on Monday and we all need to try to help prevent the spread of the virus. Once your child is on the playground, please leave the school site quickly to avoid crowds gathering. Line up on the pavement outside school and only come onto the school site when it is your child's year group time. This will be particularly important from Monday, as Nursery and Reception children will be starting school, which means more parents will be coming onto the school site. Only one parent is allowed in the school office area at a time and you must wear a face covering.

I am asking everyone to help us with this, as my priority is the safety of all of our school community, children, staff and yourselves

We have had lots of feedback from parents and staff about some of our routines, and so we would like to make a few minor changes from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September:

1. PE kit – children may come to school dressed in their PE kit on the days that they have PE. This means that they should wear white PE t-shirt, a plain navy or black tracksuit with no logo (jogging bottoms and sweatshirt) but NO HOODIES – this is because of health and safety. KS2 children should already have these, as they are part of the requirement for PE kit. Children may wear trainers on PE days and will need to bring in their school shoes to change into in case the field is muddy.

As this is quite short notice for parents, and you may not have already bought these items, we will allow children to wear their own sweatshirts and jogging bottoms until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. From Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September, they will be expected to be in plain navy or black tracksuits.

(Asda sell them on-line at a reasonable price)

2. Bags – the rucksacks that many children have been bringing into school are very large, are taking up too much space in the cloakrooms and cannot easily be cleaned. The children will no longer be bringing in PE kits, so from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, children should use their PE bag if they need to bring anything into school. The PE bags are easy to wash. They should be washed weekly. As most homework is on-line, the only thing that a child should need to bring is a reading book and reading diary, so a rucksack or bag of any kind is not to be used. Book bags may still be used.

3. Lunch boxes – although we originally said that there would be no lunchboxes in school, we have now decided that provided they are made of plastic and can be thoroughly cleaned, your child may use a lunch box. This must be clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

### Class Dojo

We will be continuing to use Class Dojo to set work for the children and to communicate with you, so please make sure that you have signed up. If your child is self-isolating, work will be set for them via Class Dojo or through work packs if you do not have access to the internet or an appropriate device.

### On-line learning

The government has announced that they will provide schools with a limited number of laptops for those families who do not have a suitable device to access on-line learning or where several children are sharing a device. They are also going to provide some access to 4G hotspots and dongles to provide internet access. When we receive further information, we will contact parents where we know this is an issue.

### Improvements to the school

Over the summer holidays, we had several projects completed in school. We have created a music room in the Year 3 area that can be used for music lessons. We have installed external sinks in the KS2 courtyard, outside Year 2 and in the Early Years area to help with regular handwashing. I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to the Friends of St Martin, who contributed £12,000 pounds towards the installation of an all-weather daily mile track. This includes a rounder's pitch, cricket wicket and workout stations. This has been a great success with the children. It means that the children will be able to use that area of the field no matter what the weather is doing and will help to support their physical and mental health.

### Medical tracker

We are now using a system called 'Medical tracker' to inform you when your child received first aid or medication. You will receive an email that alerts you giving you information about the treatment that your child has received. There will be no more green forms as the children lost many of these. We hope that you will feel better informed of what has happened in school.

### Mass for Mrs Fayne

At the end of last term, Mrs Fayne retired from St Martin's after 34 years of dedicated service to the school. Unfortunately, due to the current guidelines, we were unable to hold a mass to celebrate her time at the school. However, Fr Simon will be offering a mass of thanksgiving for Mrs Fayne on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30 am at St Martin's church, which you are welcome to attend.

### Illness

The usual sickness absence procedures are still in place, so you need to notify the school if your child is unwell. If your child is self-isolating, work will be provided via Class Dojo.

If your child becomes unwell in school, we will ask you to collect them as soon as possible and you will be asked to book a test for the child and your household.

If you or your child has symptoms of COVID 19, you should book a test by going to the government website. Please notify the school immediately through the office by calling 01582 617600 or via [help@smdpluton.co.uk](mailto:help@smdpluton.co.uk). You will need to notify the school office as soon as you have the result whether it is positive or negative.

**STAY ALERT: Do you have a temperature? A persistent cough? Both?**  
**Order a test today: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test>**  
**or by calling 119**

I would like to thank you all for your cooperation with the way in which we have returned to school. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

*N. J. Morgan.*

N J Morgan  
Head Teacher

