



St Martin de Porres Primary School

Newsletter

September 2022

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.

Head Girl and Head Boy

I am delighted to announce Winnita and Arnold from Year 6 have become 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. Winnita and Arnold received a blessing from Fr Liam in our mass for the beginning of the year.

House Captains

New House Captains for this year have been selected.

Augustine: Kyle & Isabel

Benedict: Jenessa & Chayce

Dominic: Angel & JJ

Francis: Anna-Nicole & Isaiah

Macmillan Coffee & Cake Morning and non-uniform day

On Friday 30th 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 29th September or Friday 30th 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 28th September 3.30 - 5pm in the KS2 hall. Class teachers will contact you to arrange a suitable appointment.
- Year 6 Information evening – Wednesday 28th September at 6pm in the KS2 hall. (This will be about High School Transfer – the parent/carer of every child in Yr6 should attend,)
- 'Meet the teacher' – Wednesday 12th October 6 - 7.30pm and Thursday 13th October 3.45 - 5.45 pm. (For all parents/carers to meet the class teacher, visit the classroom and view resources. Further details to follow.)

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. 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 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. Forms are available from the school office and we are happy to help parents to complete these. (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.

Birthday Sweets

I am 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 I 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 7th October to coincide with CAFODs fast day. Below is a list of suggested items that you can donate during the week beginning 3rd 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	

Nuts

We have had several instances over the last two weeks of children having products containing nuts in their packed lunches. We have several children with severe allergies to nuts. If they come into contact with nuts (e.g. touching a door handle when someone else has eaten nuts 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,

Healthy packed lunches

I am aware that a small number of children are coming into school with packed lunches that are decidedly unhealthy. Please find below an example of what a packed lunch might look like:

Sandwich/roll/wrap (savoury not sweet)	Drink (not fizzy, no cans)
Piece of fruit/yoghurt/raw vegetables	
Small biscuit bar (not sweets/chocolate)	

Uniform - Please make sure that all uniform is labelled.

Please can I remind you of a number of issues around uniform that I 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.

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. Please do not let your child get out of your car in the middle of the road. This is extremely dangerous. Try parking at the swimming pool and walking up to school. We do not have a school crossing patrol at the moment, so please take extra care when crossing the road.

You must not park across the front of the school car park gate.

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.

Waiting for school to start and end

When you are waiting outside the school gates or on the school grounds, please set a good example to the children. Try not to block the pavement, so that other users can pass easily. Make sure that your children are not riding up and down on scooters and bikes, so that other users can pass safely. If you are dropping off or collecting a child on the school grounds, please line up when it is the correct time for your child's class. Please do not let your child play in the car park and as adults, please do not lean on staff cars. We have had one member of staff who had their car window broken and another who has had their car scratched by scooters. Our children learn from our behaviour, so let's make sure that we are good role models.

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 3 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 if your child has chicken pox, slapcheek or scarlet fever, please notify us immediately.

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 to have at least 3 emergency contact numbers.

Dates for this term.

		Time
21.9.22	Year 6 Trip to see 'Joseph and his amazing technicolour dream coat.'	1.30 – 5.30pm
28.9.22	PLSP meetings	3.30- 5.30 pm
28.9.22	Year 6 Parent information evening	6.00 pm
30.9.22	Macmillan Coffee Morning	9.00-11.00 am
3.10.22	Harvest Food Bank Collection week	
7.10.22	School's Mass at St Mary's Church in Dunstable	11.00 am
12.10.22	Book Fair arrives	
12.10.22	Year 3 Dance performance	2.45 pm
12.10.22	Meet the teacher	6.00 -7.30 pm
13.10.22	Year 3 Egyptian Day	
13.10.22	Meet the teacher	3.45 -5.45 pm
17.10.22	Africa week	
24.10.22	Half Term	
31.10.22	School reopens	
1.11.22	Mass for All Saints & St Martin's Feast Day	
3.11.22	School Photos	
14.11.22	Anti-bullying week	
30.11.22	Year 5 Dance Performance	2.45pm
2.12.22	Christmas Bazaar	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	
14.12.22	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day	
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 look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks.

Kind regards

N. J. Morgan.

N J Morgan

Wednesday 21st September 2022

Head Teacher

