



St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School

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"Through Jesus we achieve our very best."

Newsletter No 8 - Friday 12th January 2018

Well Done to Rec & Year 3

Class	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
% Attendance	97.2	94.8	93.3	95.5	89.7	89.8	92.5
No of Lates	37	15	24	13	17	16	35
Whole school attendance this year			94.9%	School Target			96%

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to all our families. It was wonderful to see the children back in school this week. They looked very smart and keen to learn. I need to give a special mention to those children who completed the reading challenge over the Christmas break.

At the beginning of the week, Miss Rafferty organised a wonderful prayer service for the Feast of the Epiphany during which the children thought about the journey of the Magi who travelled from distant lands to recognise God's presence on earth. The story of the Magi challenges us to consider our own lives as a journey to God, who is found in unexpected places.

We are looking forward to the children developing their learning this term. There is a study plan attached to this newsletter; please read it and talk to your children about what they are doing in school.

Curious and Active. This half term, we are focussing on the Catholic virtues of being curious and active. All things are worthy of our attention and curiosity because in each one of them there is the possibility of finding God. This is why, at St Martin de Porres, we offer the broadest curriculum and the widest variety of extra-curricular activities we can.

DIARY DATES

- **Mon 15th Jan - Year 3** 2 week daily swimming block commences
- **Tues 16th Jan - Year 3** Mass 9.30am - all welcome
- **Mon 22nd Jan** - Road Safety Day
- **Tues 23rd Jan - Year 2** Mass 9.30am - all welcome
- **Tues 30th Jan - Year 6** Mass 9.30am - all welcome
- **Tues 6th Feb** - Internet Safety Day
- **Tues 6th Feb - Year 5** Mass 9.30am - all welcome
- **Fri 9th Feb - Year 5** Class Assembly. 9am.All welcome
- **Tues 13th Feb - Year 4** Mass 9.30am - all welcome
- **Fri 16th Feb - SCHOOL CLOSSES 3.15PM HALF-TERM BREAK**
- **Mon 26th Feb - SCHOOL RE-OPENS**
- **Mon 12th March - Year 4** 2 week swimming block commences - details to follow.
- **Fri 23rd March-Year 2** Class Assembly. 9am All welcome
- **Thurs 29th March - SCHOOL CLOSSES 3.15PM EASTER BREAK**

Children from Year 1 upwards are welcome to participate in guitar lessons. We have a tutor in school every Wednesday for lessons which take place after school until 4.30pm. Children need to bring their own guitar and lessons cost £4 per session.

Please see Mrs Sullivan should you require and further details.



Well done to **Ishmail** in Year 3 who was awarded a Certificate of Achievement from Bishop Challoner Sports Centre for improving his soccer skills and developing all parts of his game during the coaching course that he took part in. Fantastic Ishmail!

Our next newsletter will be issued on **Friday 26th January**. Please do continue to share with us any of your children's special achievements in anything that they may participate in outside of school.

Please remember to check your child's bag regularly for letters. This week important letters have gone home with Years 4 & 5 regarding their residential trip in September.



Our PTA work tremendously hard all year round organising fundraising events to benefit the school and our children. Over the last 6 months, the following events have raised: Music Night - £864.07, Summer Fair - £1724.57, Christmas Raffle - £280. Thank you to everyone who has supported these events. As a result, the PTA have been able to fund

the following: £600 towards our Forest School, a £300 donation to Oxfam's East Africa Appeal, £150 to assist with props and costumes for the Year 6 leavers' production, £300 towards our Multi-cultural evening, £485 for Animals In Hands for Key Stage 2, £140 for the magician who entertained Key Stage 1 and £200 for Christmas gifts for all of the children. **Thank you to everyone involved for making each event such a huge success and therefore helping to raise such wonderful sums of money which you can see, benefit our children in so many fantastic ways.** The next PTA meeting is on Friday 26th January at 9am. All are welcome to attend.

Air Pollution There has been news coverage about air pollution this week including a BBC programme about Kings Heath. On the BBC website, it is possible to put in a postcode and see a measure of pollution. I'm delighted that the school's postcode shows the highest level of clean air on the measure. Having clean air is so important for the children's health and is helped by the trees and hedges that surround three sides of the school and the large number of our parents who park away from the school and walk. Thank you for all you do to keep the environment the best it can be for our children. Please keep renewing efforts to park as far as you can from the school and to walk.



Request from Miss Ganley for any unwanted tights/trousers/jogging bottoms please. It is always useful to have a supply of spare clothes, particularly in Reception and while the playground can be wet and muddy!



Whilst we thank your generosity and enjoy helping children to celebrate their birthdays in school, may we please remind you that if your child does bring in a cake to share with the rest of their class, that this is either pre-cut, or individually wrapped portions. Many thanks.

Progress Achievements. The BBC has recently published progress achievement statistics for Reading and Writing. A breakdown by local authority can be seen by visiting www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk It is wonderful to see that out of 364 schools across Birmingham, St Martin de Porres is 49th in progress for reading and 25th in progress for writing standards. For you as parents, this means you can be confident that, whatever your child's starting points and talents, she/he will make progress that contributes to us being one of the top 15% of schools in Birmingham. This is down to the hard work put in by staff and children throughout the school - well done to you all.

The Changing Seasons

Praise the Lord for all the seasons,
Praise Him for the gentle spring,
Praise the Lord for glorious summer,
Birds and beasts and everything.
Praise the Lord, who sends the harvest,
Praise Him for the winter snows,
Praise the Lord, all ye who love Him,
Praise Him, for all things he knows. Amen.



Coffee mornings will be held this term on:

Thursday 15th February & Thursday 22nd March at 9.00am in the Oakland Forest School House.

Please do add these dates to your diary - our coffee mornings are a wonderful opportunity to meet and chat with other parents and our Family Support Worker Mrs Dowling.

