



St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents & Guardians

Welcome Back to School

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer, filled with time to relax and recharge. As we begin this new term, I want to extend a warm welcome to both returning families and those joining our school community for the first time. We look forward to tomorrow morning when we get to see the wonderful smiles from children, and parents, at the gates on the first day of this academic year.

I thought I would take some time to offer a few reminders ahead of our first day back.

Gate Changes

We wish to trial some changes to our gate openings in the mornings. **We will only open the large gates on the corner of Forest and Oakland Road in the mornings at 8.40-8.50am.** This is to ensure as many staff as possible are in class working with your children as soon as they come to school. Children will be directed into the entrance when they arrive. Please DO NOT attempt to park closer to this gate and cause congestion for other road users.

Punctuality – BE ON TIME, TEN TO NINE!

The school gate will open at 8.40am and close at 8.50am. This will give your child enough time to get to their class for registration which is at 8.55am. **If your child comes through the main entrance after this time, this will be classed as a late mark, and will be recorded on the registers and your child's permanent record as such.**

Medication

Please ensure children have their prescribed medication in school from the first day of term. If this applies to your child, please ensure that the school office knows via the data collection forms sent out. Please send in with medication, any consent forms or Asthma care plans your child needs. If your child does not have the medication they require, they are not safe to be in school and you will be contacted. Thank you for your support in safeguarding the children.

Uniform

I know our children will be super-smart on the first day of term, with lots of lovely new SHOES particularly! Please feel free to send children in summer uniform if needed during the next few weeks, as the weather is still quite warm. I would also ask that the children are prepared for rain though, by bringing a waterproof coat just in case – we generally go out to play in all-weather.

Could I also remind parents that for those children who wear earrings, please only one piercing in each ear, and that should be a stud only, for health and safety reasons. Rings, bracelets, Smart Watches and necklaces should also not be worn due to safety concerns. We also cannot be responsible should any valuable or precious jewellery become lost or damaged.

If you are struggling with uniform, we are happy to help and have surplus stock in school, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Healthy Snacks & Lunchboxes

In Key Stage 1, fruit is provided free-of-charge, at break times, for children. In Key Stage 2, children are allowed to bring in some fruit or a small healthy snack for first break should they require – please try and avoid breakfast bars or yoghurts for this quick snack. All children should have a water bottle to keep hydrated, but please ensure it is **not** flavoured, fizzy, or squash. If you are providing a lunch for your child, please ensure it is a predominately 'healthy lunchbox' with only one small 'treat'.

We **cannot** accommodate parents delivering meals to the school on a daily basis. Children can have a packed cold lunch as outlined about, or a hot dinner provided by the school kitchen. Children are timetabled in the hall at specific times, and office staff have other duties to perform. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Pencil Cases & Toys/Stickers

All of our classrooms are fully stocked with stationery and resources – children **do not** need a pencil case in school. We have found them to be a distraction to learning in many cases, and at times are too big for shared desks. If your child brings a pencil case, they will be politely asked to put them in their bag and take them home to use with homework.

Likewise, please ensure small toys/games and stickers/cards remain at home – our playground has lots of equipment provided that we have safety checked and we can ensure fair use for all children.

Communication

If you wish to talk to a teacher, a member of the Senior Leadership Team, SENDCo, Family Support Worker, or myself for any reason, then please do not hesitate to make an appointment or see us on the school playgrounds. We find that face-to-face conversations are so much more meaningful in a school setting, so please try to avoid emails. Schools are not like offices, if you do email the school, please do expect that this will take longer to be read, forwarded and responded too. No emails are read after 4.30pm, when the office closes for the day, or before 8.00am when it opens.

We all look forward to another positive, exciting and successful year at St Martin's.

God bless.



A Crehan
Headteacher