St Martin of Porres

Catholic Primary School

Growing in knowledge and the love of Jesus

Dove News

23rd October 2026
Issue 8

A message from the Headteacher

What a fabulous way to end the first half term!

It has been such a pleasure to read the children's writing entries from across the school, inspired by the themes of empowerment, equality, solidarity and human rights, stereotypes and identity. I have been truly touched by their words and overwhelmed by how much they value their families and communities. Their writing has highlighted the recognition, respect and appreciation they have for the people around them, and the many ways in which others help, support and inspire them. So many children chose to write about their families and personal experiences, giving me a newfound appreciation for the dedication, hard work and commitment that families demonstrate every day, both at home and in their jobs. What a privilege it has been to read their thoughtful reflections and see the world through their eyes.

A huge thank you once again to our fantastic PTA for supporting our wonderful forest campfire event, complete with treats! We are so fortunate to have such incredible members who give their time, organise exciting events and purchase all the items needed to make them happen. We are equally grateful to our supportive families, whose partnership means so much to us. The children had the best time, and many told me it was their best day ever!

Monday's author visit was another real highlight. JT Williams was truly inspiring, and it was particularly special to welcome a local author from Bounds Green. We are already looking forward to another author visit after half term, this time from a little further afield! Lottie Saahko is Finnish, and *Lumi and the Wolf* is her debut publication in the UK.

There have been plenty of exciting learning experiences beyond the classroom, too. Today, Year 6 at St Martin's visited the Stem Cell Centre at Queen Mary Hospital, while Year 5 at St Paul's enjoyed a visit to the Paddington Bear exhibition. Despite the unpredictable weather, we have still managed to make the most of every opportunity to learn, explore and enjoy ourselves!

As we head into the half-term break, I would like to thank our wonderful children, dedicated staff, supportive families and fantastic PTA for everything they contribute to our school community. It has been a half term full of learning, creativity, kindness and memorable experiences.

Wishing everyone a restful and happy half term!

Andrea Smith
Head of Schools

Gospel Reflection For The Week

This Sunday's Gospel: *25th October 2026*

"They who are filled with love are filled with God himself." St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

What did Jesus say was the greatest commandment? Loving God first, with all our heart, helps us to be more loving to one another. Is Jesus asking the impossible when he says that we should love others as we love ourselves? *Perhaps it is: being more patient, tolerant and understanding; forgiving others; treating people as your equal – treating them the way you would like to be treated yourself. By loving others as we love ourselves, we experience the harmony and peace which comes from following the greatest commandment in God's Law – to love.*

Talk about it at home: *Each of you choose a special way in which you will show your love for God and for each other at home this week. Perhaps you can: show and tell family members how much you love them through unexpected acts of kindness; be peacemakers; pray for others, particularly anyone whom you find difficult to like; look for a chance to help a teacher or friend at school.*

Link for the Wednesday Word: https://www.stmartinofporres.co.uk/Let-s-pray-at-home/

Dates and Notices

Dates for your diary

Mon 26th – 30th Oct	***Half Term***
Mon 2nd Nov	***Inset Day – School closed for pupils***
Tue 3rd Nov	***St Martin of Porres Feast Day Mass in the Hall at 11.00am – Parents welcome*** *Multi Sports Club/Football 3.30 – 4.30pm (Years 1 – 5)* *Drama Club (Years 2 – 6) 3.30 – 4.30pm*
Wed 4th Nov	*Karate Club (Years 1 – 6) 3.30 – 4.30pm*
Thu 5th Nov	***Horse Chestnut Class trip to Alexandra Park Library*** *Irish Dancing (Years 1 – 6) 3.30 – 4.30pm*
Fri 6th Nov	*Celebration Assembly – 2.45pm*

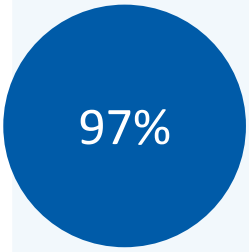
Eco-Challenge

This week's challenge

Autumn is here … go exploring!



Attendance



Whole school

Best class this week

99% - Sycamore Class

The gates close at 8.55am

All pupils should be at their desks at 9.00am

Please contact the school by 9.30am if your child is absent.

Contacting the School and Staying Connected

Address
Blake Road, New Southgate,
London N11 2AF

Phone
020 8361 1445

Email
adminstmartins@stpm.org.uk

@STMARTINOFPORRES

Instagram

Android Play Store iOS App Store

Arbor app

Website

Trips and Events This Week



Thursday 22nd October

Forest School Launch for this year

Whole School

The whole school enjoyed a lovely sunny afternoon in our very own Forest School for the first main session this year. The best part was toasting marshmallows and then eating them!

More photos available on the website at –
https://www.stmartinofporres.co.uk/News/Galleries/

Hello Yellow – fundraising for children's mental health

We are pleased to report that the school raised a brilliant £120 for YoungMinds. A great effort by all – thank you!



School Council

The School Council are running a stall at the Christmas fair. At the fair we will be selling soft toys as Christmas gifts for younger friends or relatives.
We would love, if you can bring your new or nearly new soft toys, (no need to buy new soft toys) bring your soft toys in the collection box in your classroom.
The School Council are also collecting spare change that you may have in your purse or pocket or a drawer at home. Please can you spare it and bring it to school to drop in the coin jar in your child's classroom. We are raising money to buy playtime equipment.

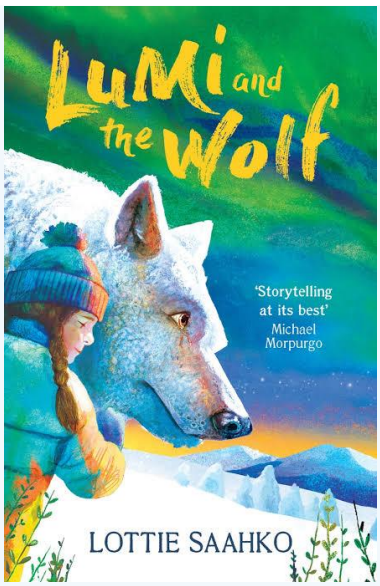


Autumn Art Competition

Join in the fun of the Autumn art competition the school council have organised.

Use an A4 or A3 paper sheet to do the Autumn art project at home. Please bring it back to school, completed and with your name on the back, by Tuesday 3rd November.

Good luck from The School Council



6th November

Author Event at St Martin's

Order a signed copy of Lumi and the Wolf by 28th October 2026

We are delighted to welcome the award-winning Finnish author **Lottie Saahko** to school on **6th November** for a special event based on her stunning new children's book, *Lumi and the Wolf.*

During the event, Lottie will introduce pupils to the story, share insights into life in Finland, and workshop a new adventure story with the children. There will be an opportunity for pupils to ask questions and learn more about what it takes to become an author.

If you would to order a copy, parents/carers have until ***Wednesday 28th October*** *to order online using the link below. Pre-ordered books will be available for collection on the day and Lottie will sign them.*

Lumi and the Wolf - Lottie Saahko author event at St Martin of Porres – Pickled Pepper Books

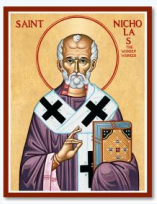
Celebrating Success

House Points



St Teresa of Calcutta

69
454



St Nicholas

61
455



St Luke

77
405



St Catherine of Siena

75
528

Gold Star Award Winners

Class	Name	Reason for the award
Ash	**Freja**	*For your fantastic dedication to all your school work. You have started Year 1 with a bang and are working so hard across all of your learning. We are very proud of you Freja!*
Beech	**Gabriel**	*For working so hard on your addition! You independently practiced your sums on the whiteboard without even being asked. Your fantastic effort and determination make us so proud. Keep up the amazing work!*
Sycamore	**Sana**	*For your amazing determination and can-do attitude. You always give things a go, work hard and never give up. Your confidence is growing every day and I have been so impressed by your willingness to challenge yourself and keep trying!*
Horse Chestnut	**Liam**	*For showing absolutely EPIC determination by improving your handwriting, baking a banana cake that deserves its own episode of The Great British Bake Off, and bravely entering a writing competition despite life throwing a few unexpected plot twists your way.*

Good Shepherd Award Winners

Name	Reason for the award	
Ash	**Amilia**	*For always looking out for your friends and being a kind and helpful member of our class. You listen to others and make sure everyone is looked after. Thank you for being you Millie*
Beech	**Junior**	*For always being polite, kind and considerate to others. You quietly get on with your work, behave beautifully and are always willing to share. You truly set a wonderful example by showing kindness and care, just like a Good Shepherd.*
Sycamore	***Aysu***	*Aysu has been a wonderful helper in our class this week, always caring for and supporting her peers. Her happy smile brightens our classroom, and her kindness, compassion and generosity show our school values in action.*
Horse Chestnut	***Milo***	*Your friends say that you're cheering up others when they're feeling blue. And sharing kindness in all that you do. Like Jesus, you spread love, hope and light. Turning sad faces to smiles so bright!*

Top Table Award

Layla – Ash
Aresema - Sycamore

Friends of St Martin of Porres

Latest news

We are excited to announce that in the 2025/2026 year the PTA raised £6,615.96! Thank you to all the parents and carers for supporting cake sales, our Christmas and Summer Fairs, raffles, the Easter fun run, the discos, our ongoing fundraising activities such as Your school Lottery and the clothes recycling scheme and for all of the hours of behind the scenes help – THANK YOU!

Get involved

Want to help raise funds for St Martin's at no extra cost? It's easy.

Download the Easyfunding app and sign up. If just 10 new people download and register, St Martin's could receive £50! Every sign-up makes a difference. (You must sign up via the app not the website!)

*New for **Morrisons** shoppers – don't miss this offer!*
Please your first online Morrisons food shop via the easyfunding-linked page, spend £80 or more, and £10 will be donated to St Martin's! Plus, use code NEWHERE15 to get £15 off your shop. (code is valid until 25th October).

A win-win: money off your shopping and money raised for our school!

Please share with family and friends – the more people who sign up, the more we can raise for St Martin's!

Coming up

27th November	***Non-uniform day for Christmas Fair tombola***
4th December	***Christmas Fair***
8th December	***Red, green & sparkles day for Christmas Raffle donations***
14th December	***Christmas Raffle Draw***

St Paul the Apostle RC Parish Wood Green
22 Bradley Road
N22 7SY

Mass times

Saturday:	*17.30*
Sunday:	*08.00, 10.00, 12.00*
Weekdays:	*09.30 Mon – Fri*

Parish news

Growing in knowledge and the love of Jesus

ST MARTIN OF PORRES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

FREE Stay & Play

FRIDAYS
9:15 - 10:15 AM



Nature and Me - 16th October



Fireworks! - 13th November



Have a Jolly Christmas - 4th December





Story Time - 8th January
Share a story with me



I can see a Rainbow - 12th March



Finger Gym Fun - 11th June



Getting To Know Me - 9th July
Share a story with me

Tea & coffee provided.
Welcoming all pre-Reception aged children.