St Martin of Porres Catholic Primary School

Dove News
2nd October 2026
Issue 5

Growing in Knowledge and the love of Jesus

Dear Parents, Carers, and Children,

Today's Gospel is filled with joy as Jesus' disciples return from their mission, excited by what they have achieved. Jesus reminds them that our deepest joy comes not from success, but from knowing that we belong to God. Like the names remembered at the Douaumont memorial, every name represents a life that matters. God knows each of us by name.

What a fabulous week we have had! The sun has been shining nearly every day, and the children's motivation and learning rhythm after being back at school for five weeks is really starting to show. Their enthusiasm has been simply overwhelming!

Yes, I know we have also had some significant sporting successes over the last couple of weeks, which may have something to do with it! A huge congratulations to the St Martin's football team, who won every single game at their tournament — what an achievement! The St Paul's team also had a fantastic result, and we are incredibly proud of all the children who represented our schools so brilliantly. The children from both classes are already campaigning for a friendly federated Year 6 match, so I think we are going to have to make that happen!

I have also had some lovely classroom experiences this week, watching children across both schools create artwork for our whole-school 'Dot Project', inspired by Peter H. Reynolds' wonderful story The Dot. The story reminds us that creativity begins with simply having a go, believing in ourselves and seeing where our ideas can take us. It has been wonderful to see the children's confidence and individuality shine through their artwork, and I cannot wait to see how all of their 'dots' come together to create our whole-school project.

This week, Beech Class enjoyed a visit to the Natural History Museum, while Alexandra Palace headed to the British Library for a fantastic Windrush workshop. What wonderful opportunities for our children to extend their learning beyond the classroom and bring their curriculum to life.

Black History Month was launched this week, but our commitment to respect, empowerment and creating a sense of belonging runs throughout the whole school year. These values are woven through our curriculum, our school values and, most importantly, the relationships we build with one another every day.

Another busy and joyful week across our federation — thank you to our wonderful children, staff and families for everything you contribute to our school community.

Have a super weekend, everyone!

Andrea Smith
Head of Schools



The Douaumont Ossuary (French: Ossuaire de Douaumont), aerial view, Inaugurated 7 August 1932, UNESCO World Heritage Site

We are delighted to celebrate Father Perry becoming a Canon with his installation ceremony on Tuesday 6th October at 4.45pm at Westminster Cathedral. To make this special occasion and show our appreciation for his service to our school and parish community, we are inviting families to make a donation towards a gift for Father Perry. Any contribution, however small, would be greatly appreciated and will help us mark this wonderful milestone together. Please leave in either school office.
Thank you!

Dates for your diary

Mon 5th Oct	
Tue 6th Oct	Multi Sports Club/Football (Years 1 – 4) 3.30 – 4.30pm Drama Club: (Years 3 - 6) 3.30 - 4.30pm
Wed 7th Oct	Karate Club: 3.30 - 4.30pm (Years 1 – 6)
Thu 8th Oct	Irish Dancing: 3.30 - 4.30pm (Years 1 - 6)
Fri 9th Oct	**Mental Health Day**: pupils can wear something yellow and bring in a donation of £1 for the charity 'MIND' Celebration Assembly 2.45pm
Mon & Tue 12th & 13 Oct	Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6.00pm Bookings will open on Arbor on Monday 5th October at 12.00pm

Head Boy and Head Girl





Last week, the pupils elected their head boy and head girl and their deputies. Pupils were invited to make a speech indicating how they would represent the school and all the pupils voted.

Liam was elected as Head Boy and Olivia as Head Girl. Both Liam and Olivia are looking forward to representing the school in future events.





James and Maria were elected the deputy Head Boy and Head Girl.

House Captains

St Teresa of Calcutta



St Nicholas



The elections for the House Captains and Vice Captains also took place this week. After giving their speeches to their houses, all pupils were invited to vote. The following pupils were elected to be House Captain and Vice House Captain of their respective houses.

St Teresa of Calcutta
HC – Tori
VC – Lucia

St Nicholas
HC – Hailey
VC – Milo

St Catherine of Siena



St Luke



St Catherine of Siena
HC – Kei
VC – Alex

St Luke
HC – Theo
VC – Nellie Rose

Goodbye and Thank You to Fred Palmer

After nearly 20 wonderful years at our school, we are sadly saying goodbye to a much-loved member of our staff, **Fred** our caretaker. Throughout his time with us, **Fred** has always shown just how much he cares about our school and our community. He has **always** been there to lend a hand, solve a problem, support staff and go that extra mile to make sure everything is running smoothly. His dedication, kindness and willingness to help have made such a difference to our school, and he will be greatly missed by pupils, staff and families alike. We are incredibly grateful for everything he has done over the past 20 years and for the care and commitment he has shown to our school.

Thank you, Fred, and we wish you every happiness for the future — you will be very much missed!



On Thursday, taking part in the Haringey Schools Mixed Football Festival, Year 6 were invincible and unstoppable, taking on other Haringey schools, with courage, skill and determination. They played like a pride of lions – fearless, united and never backing down from a challenge. They haven't lost a single game, and they're determined to keep that unbeaten record alive!





Beech Class Natural History Museum Trip

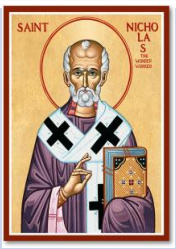
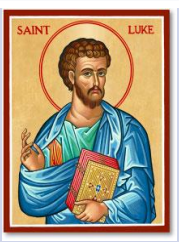
Beech Class had a fantastic day at the Natural History Museum! We explored the amazing bird and dinosaur exhibits, discovering fascinating facts about animals from the past and present. We also took part in an exciting workshop all about ocean life and habitats, learning about the creatures that live in our seas and how they are adapted to their environments. It was a fun and memorable day filled with curiosity, discovery and lots of learning!





Celebration

House Points

Feast Days 5th September 6th December 29th April 18th October				
Name of Saint	St Teresa of Calcutta	St Nicholas	St Catherine of Siena	St Luke
This Week	112	124	152	95
Total	248	246	296	203

Congratulations to all our House Point Winners and everyone in St Catherine of Siena this week!

Top Table Award

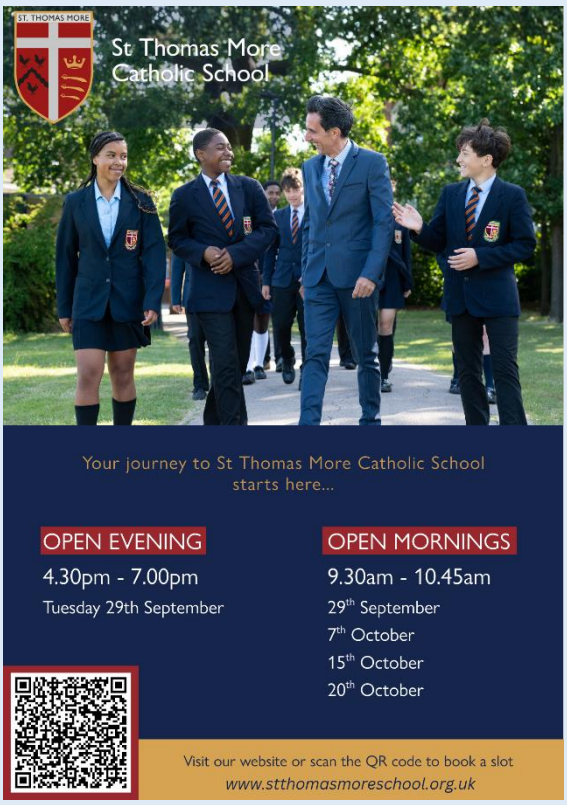
KS1	Bartosz – Ash Class
KS2	Milly – Horse Chestnut Class

Gold Star of the Week

Ash	Imogen	For excellent mathematical work this week. We have been focusing on comparing numbers and using the greater than, less than and equal to signs which Immy has mastered so well! Well done Immy, you are working so hard!
Beech	Jacob	For always trying your best with your work and behavior! Jacob, you take such pride in presenting your work beautifully and put so much effort into everything you do. Your eagerness to please your teachers is wonderful. Well done and keep it up!
Sycamore	Joel	For showing fantastic determination and growing confidence in yourself. Your progress in cycle training has been brilliant to see, and even more impressive is how this confidence and belief are shining through across all of your learning. Super impressed!
Horse Chestnut	Sarah	For your fantastic determination and commitment to learning. You've worked conscientiously towards your targets and gone above and beyond by completing extra projects at home, including your fascinating research into the history of the floppy disk!

Good Shepherd Award

Ash	Juliet	For always showing compassion and care towards others. Juliet is always the friend to give a welcoming smile, gentle hug or friendly wave to everyone in our school. Keep shining bright Juliet.
Beech	Kayla	For being such a wonderful role model and always showing fantastic behavior! Kayla, you are always kind and caring towards others and consistently try your very best in everything you do. You truly lead by example, just like the Good Shepherd. Well done.
Sycamore	Ilda	Ilda has shown such a kind and caring nature this week, following in the footsteps of St Therese by doing little things with great love. Her thoughtful actions may be small, but they make a big difference to those around her.
Horse Chestnut	Marsavanna	For always giving your very best, especially in your writing. Your creativity, effort and determination are a wonderful example of using the gifts and talents God has given you. Keep working hard and letting your talents shine!





Wednesday Word

(Based on the forthcoming Gospels at Mass)

MESSENGER

"How wonderful it is to proclaim to everyone the love of God which gives meaning to our lives!" – Pope Francis (2013 – 2025)

Ask your child what the word 'messenger' means to them. Who do they think are God's messengers today? Who brings the message of Jesus to them? Which of Jesus' messages does your child like best, and which is your favourite? You may want to tell your child which messengers brought the good news about Jesus to you when you were younger (e.g. a family member, a teacher, a priest, a friend), through what they said and how they lived.

What do we think are the best ways that we can be God's messengers in these coming weeks. Perhaps we can: demonstrate our faith in God through being peacemakes – showing God's love and kindness to those around us; remember to start our day with a quiet time of prayer, just listening to God in our hearts before moving into action; talk with others about why we believe in God. **Let's help God's messengers throughout the world by offering this week's Family Time prayer below for priests, missionaries and for all those who share the message of God's love.**

*Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for all your **messengers** who help us to know you. Help us to be your faithful **messengers**, so that others will come to know the joy of loving you. Amen*

Wednesday word is available via the link below.

Please see https://www.stmartinofporres.co.uk/Let-s-pray-at-home/ for more information on the Wednesday Word.

Weekly Attendance

If your child cannot attend school, please report the absence by 9.30am by either calling 0208 361 1445 or using the school app.

Attendance for week beginning

Whole School
97.5%

1st place 100% Ash Class

2nd place 99.3% - Sycamore Class

Contact us:

Email:
adminstmartins@stpm.org.uk
Phone: 020 8361 1445
Website:
www.stmartinporres.co.uk

School app: To download follow the instructions at –

https://www.stmartinofporres.co.uk/St-Martin-of-Porres-Catholic-Primary-School-Mobile/

Our Parish

We are delighted to continue our outstanding links with St Paul the Apostle Church and are grateful to Father Perry for his continued support and positive contribution to the Catholic life of the school.

Please find a link to the Parish Newsletter below:

https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/woodgreen/news/

Friends of St Martin's

Annual General Meeting

The PTA (Friends of St Martin's) will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 7th October at 9.00pm via Zoom. We encourage all parents and carers to join if you can so that you can have a say on how we raise and spend our funds this year. We also have some vacancies on the official committee that we would like to fill so please do join if you are interested in taking on a role, large or small.

The joining details are as follows:

Topic: St Martin of Porres PTA AGM
Time: 7th October 2026 at 9.00pm

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81395508632?pwd=Kc059GNtF5hoLhqdeecr3WBnSv586m.1

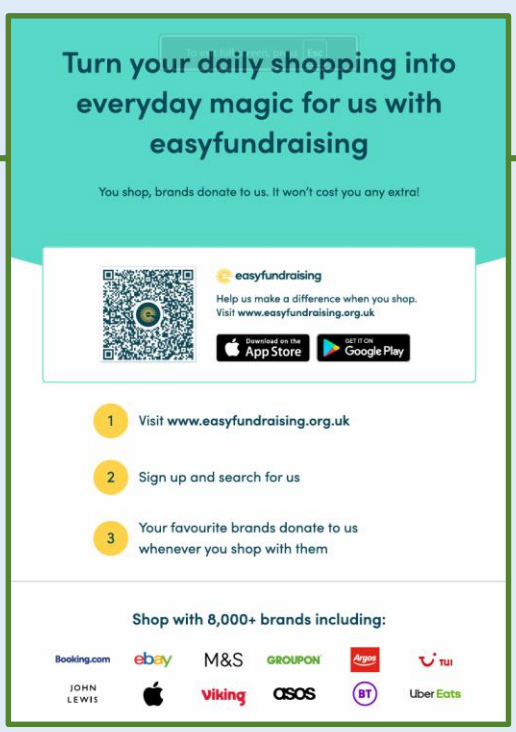
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Passcode: 487141

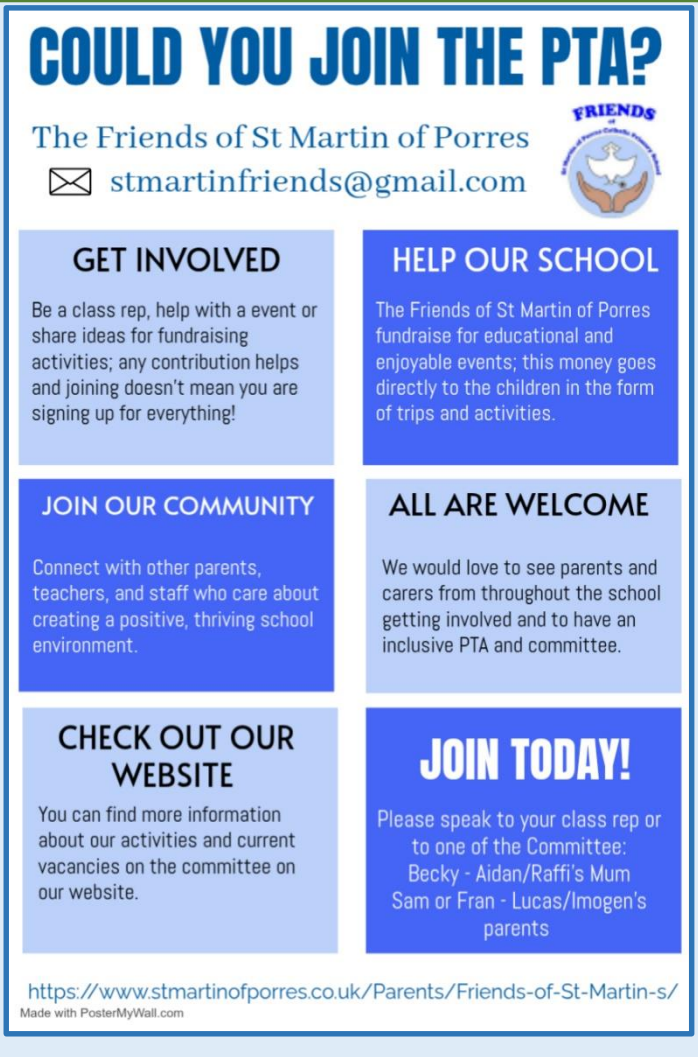
easyfundraising

The PTA raises funds while you shop online via easyfunding.

We encourage all parents and carers to sign up for easyfunding. Once you set up an account and link to our cause (St Martin of Porres Primary School), you will be fundraising for the PTA each time you shop at one of the associated brands.

Please follow the steps set out in the attached flyer →→→ to set up the app.







Stay and Play Programme 2026 – 2027

All pre-Reception children aged 2 – 4 years old are welcome to attend the school on the following dates to for a Stay and Play themed-event session. All events are free and tea and coffee are provided for the parent/carers.

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.

Arbor Parent Portal and App

The school uses Arbor Parent Portal (and app) for parents to access various services provided by the school.

We have set up an account for you. Please use a desktop browser or a mobile browser to set up your account. You won't be able to do this in the app.

Your username is the email address we've sent this email to. To finish creating your account you just need to set a password.

Go to https://login.arbor.sc and **click Forgot your password?** to finish setting up your account.

When you login for the first time only, it will ask you for your child's date of birth and to tick the box stating that you accept Arbor's standard terms and conditions.

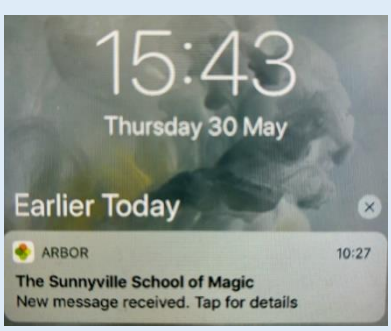
There is lots of help for parents/guardians at the **Arbor Help Centre**. We recommend having a quick look at the **quick introduction guide** in particular, especially if you have more than one child at the school.

The Parent App can be downloaded from either the Playstore for android phones or the Apple Store for iPhones.

Scan to download the Arbor Parent App for your phone from the QR codes below – you can use this to access Arbor on your mobile device, or use a browser on your computer.

Android Play Store

iOS App Store



Make sure that you allow Push Notifications for this app to receive notification of in-app messages.

If you have any queries please contact the office at adminstmartins@stpm.org.uk

- The school uses the in-app messaging system within Arbor. We no longer send text messages to your phone.
- We will be using the booking system within Arbor for parents/carers to book appointments with teachers for parent/teacher evenings.
- You will also be able to view your child/ren's attendance and merits (house points).
- We will be required to pay for trips and clubs and the school building fund through Arbor.

Instagram

We are excited to announce that we have launched our new Instagram page! This is a wonderful way to stay connected and share the amazing experiences happening within our school community.

We invite you to check out our page, like it, and share with your friends and family. Your support will help us grow our online presence and showcase all the wonderful things happening at our school!

@STMARTINOFPORRES

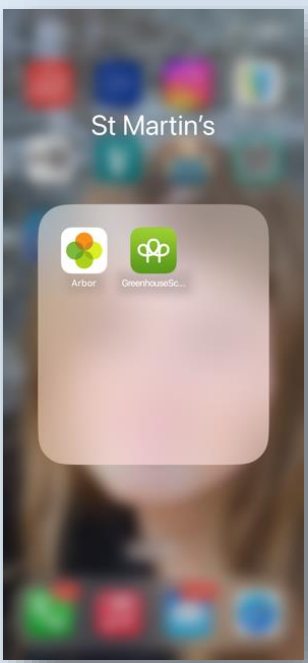
Scan the QR code to find us!

Arbor Parent Portal and App

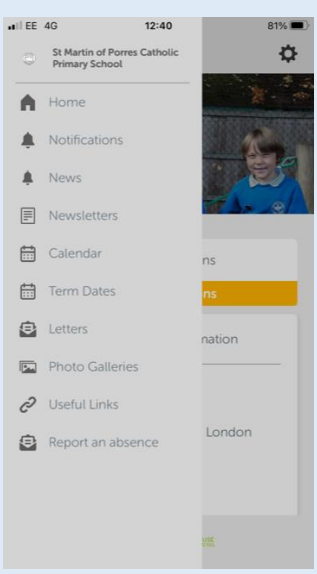
Have you logged in to the portal and then downloaded the app?

If you haven't logged in yet please go to - https://www.stmartinofporres.co.uk/Arbor-Parent-Portal-App/ for instructions.

If you have any queries/problems logging in, please contact the office at adminstmartins@stpm.org.uk or come to Reception.



After downloading both apps, it would be useful to store both apps in one 'St Martin's' container on your phone for ease of use!



School Website App

Many parents have already downloaded the School Website App available from the app store. Just in case here is a reminder on what to do.

For instructions on how to download please go to - https://www.stmartinofporres.co.uk/St-Martin-of-Porres-Catholic-Primary-School-Mobile/

Find letters home, newsletters and calendar and term dates all together in one handy place. You can also report your child's absence from the app and the website where you book your child's lunch.