St Martin of Porres Catholic Primary School

Dove News
25th September 2026
Issue 4

Growing in Knowledge and the love of Jesus

Dear Parents, Carers, and Children,

Wow — what a Friday it has been! The energy in our school halls today was absolutely electric, and I couldn't be prouder of our amazing new leadership team across St Paul's and St Martins. A huge congratulations to every pupil who showed the courage and bravery to put themselves forward for a leadership role. We have never had so many candidates across both schools, which is a wonderful reflection of the confidence, ambition and enthusiasm of our pupils.

I am incredibly excited to see the impact our new leadership team will make across the federation. I know they will bring fantastic ideas, energy and commitment to their roles, and I can't wait to see what they achieve together.

And, as if that wasn't enough excitement for one Friday, we finished the week in fantastic style at the Mini Olympics at St Thomas More — coming first and second! What an incredible achievement!

A huge well done to everyone who took part. What a way to finish a fabulous Friday!

Have a wonderful weekend — you have all certainly earned it!

Andrea Smith
Head of Schools



The Parable of the Father and His Two Sons in the Vineyard, Engraving by Georg Pencz (ca. 1500–1550)

Matthew 21:28-32

Sunday's Gospel reading reminds us that changing our minds can be a sign of wisdom, not weakness. Like the two sons, our first response does not always reflect where our hearts will eventually lead us. What matters is turning words into action. We should also show others the same grace when they reconsider their decisions, allowing space for growth, change and new beginnings.

Dates for your diary

Mon 28th Sep	**Cycle Training for Years 4 and 5 (continues during the week)** **Y6 attending Orchestra Performance at St Thomas More School (AM)**
Tue 29th Sep	**Beech Class visiting the Natural History Museum** Multi Sports Club/Football (Years 1 – 4) 3.30 – 4.30pm Drama Club: (Years 3 - 6) 3.30 - 4.30pm
Wed 30th Sep	Karate Club: 3.30 - 4.30pm (Years 1 – 6)
Thu 1st Oct	**INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY PHOTOGRAOHS (AM)** Y5/6 Mixed Football Competition at New River Irish Dancing: 3.30 - 4.30pm (Years 1 - 6) Creative Writing Club (Years 3 – 4) 3.30 - 4.30pm Zoom Meeting for Y6 Parents Re: Pendarren Residential – 4.30pm
Fri 2nd Oct	**Friends Event - MacMillan Coffee Morning 9.00am – 10.00am** Celebration Assembly 2.45pm

Congratulations to our Year 6 Head Boy and Head Girl candidates!

We are incredibly proud of all our Year 6 pupils who showed such courage and confidence in standing up in front of the school to deliver their speeches. Speaking to an audience can be daunting, yet they rose to the occasion with great bravery, maturity and enthusiasm. Their speeches were thoughtful, eloquent and inspiring, and each candidate spoke passionately about how they would represent and support our school community. A huge well done to every one of them — you should all be extremely proud of yourselves!







GDPR – Privacy Notice for Parents and Carers

We have updated the Federation's Privacy Notice to ensure that parents and carers have clear and up-to-date information about how we collect, use, store and protect personal data in accordance with UK GDPR and data protection requirements. The updated Privacy Notice is available to view on St Martin's website at –

https://www.stmartinofporres.co.uk/Privacy-Statement/

NEWS FROM ST PAUL'S PARISH

BAPTISM CLASSES

After half term, we will be starting baptism classes for children aged 5 and over who have not yet been baptised. If you would like your child to take part, please register with Fr Perry by 16 October.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS

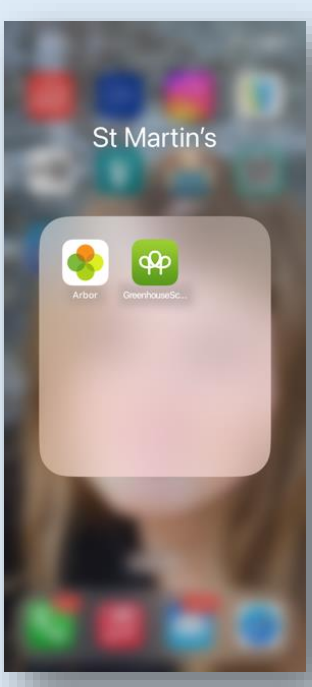
We will have training for new Altar Servers on Wednesday 7th and 14th October at 3.30pm in the church. This is for those in Year 2 or above. Please give your names to Fr Perry.

ARBOR

Could all parents please make sure they have logged into their account on Arbor and downloaded the app. Instructions can be found on the page at the end of the newsletter or on the website at - https://www.stmartinofporres.co.uk/Arbor-Parent-Portal-App/

If any parent has any login problems, please come to the office for help.

All payments and consents for trips go through Arbor.



For ease keep your Arbor app and Greenhouse app together. Access to the newsletter is available in the Greenhouse app and other website information. See below for the code to install.

Please take 10 mins each Sunday evening to see the week's events and if they apply to your child and log into Arbor to see if any trips need consent/payment. Thank you!

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

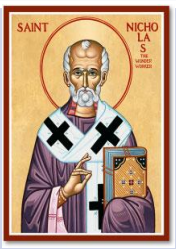
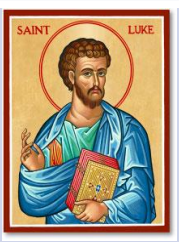
FRIDAYS
9:15 - 10:15 AM

- 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.

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	38	39	42	29
Total	136	120	144	112

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

Top Table Award

KS1	Juliet – Ash Class
KS2	Elika – Sycamore Class

Gold Star of the Week

Ash	Ian	For his amazing work in RE this week. We listened to God's creation story and you were able to write a detailed paragraph all about what you were thankful for. Well done Ian!
Beech	Milosz	For always being keen to share your wonderful ideas, working incredibly hard and showing such kindness to your peers. Well done and keep it up! You are a delight to teach and a joy to have in Beech Class!
Sycamore	Larry	For his excellent behaviour, a fantastic attitude to learning, enthusiasm in every lesson and thoughtful contributions. You have shown great focus, kindness and a real determination to do your very best this week!
Horse Chestnut	Theo	For always giving 100% and showing that hard work and determination bring amazing results. Your outstanding art skills and creativity continue to shine. Keep believing in yourself and creating wonderful things.

Good Shepherd Award

Ash	Magnus	For being a kind, helpful and joyful member of our class. You always make us laugh with a joke everyday and spread your happiness all around the classroom. We are really lucky to have you in our school Magnus, thank you for being you.
Beech	Daniel	For being such a wonderful role model to others. You always make the right choices, show excellent behaviour and treat everyone with kindness and respect. You are a true delight to teach, and we are so happy to have you in Beech Class. Keep shining!
Sycamore	Vasilis	Vasilis has brought such a wonderful, positive attitude to our class this week. His beautiful smile lights up the room, and his kind, caring nature shows Jesus' love through the way he treats everyone around him.
Horse Chestnut	Maria	For lighting up the room not only with a candle, but also with your beautiful smile and positive spirit. Just as Jesus taught us to 'let you light shine', you bring kindness, joy and hope to those around you. Keep shining brightly!





Sycamore Class - In music this week, as well as continuing to learn how to play the glockenspiel, we studied the late, great Dolly Parton as our weekly music artist and learnt about the wonderful book giving charity she founded for children. Thank you Dolly!

Wednesday Word

(Based on the forthcoming Gospels at Mass)

CHANGE

"We all can improve and change for the better." – Pope Francis (2013 – 2025)

Ask your child what the word 'change' means to them. As a family, share any positive changes which have recently taken place at home, at school or within the community. Let your child know about at least one way in which they have changed for the better and grown in goodness over the past months (e.g. in behavior, in attitude, in helpfulness). How does your child think that changing in that way has helped them? How has it helped the family or their friends?

Each of you share something about yourself that you would like to change – and say why. Perhaps it is: trying to listen better at school; being more patient; helping out more at home; always remembering to say your daily prayers. How can you make that change? Do you need anyone's help? Are there any other ways to make a change for the better over the coming days? You may also like to choose something new to do together that will make life better for the family.

*Dear Lord Jesus, grant me the courage to **change** what can be **changed**, the peace to accept the things that cannot be **changed**, and the wisdom to know the difference. 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
98.8%

1st place 100% Beech Class

2nd place 99.5% - Horse Chestnut 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



Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Friends are hosting a coffee morning to raise funds for Macmillan cancer support on Friday 2nd October from 9.00a.m. to 10.00a.m. Please get in touch with your class rep if you would like to contribute.

All are welcome to attend and enjoy a chance to catch up over a hot drink and some cake.

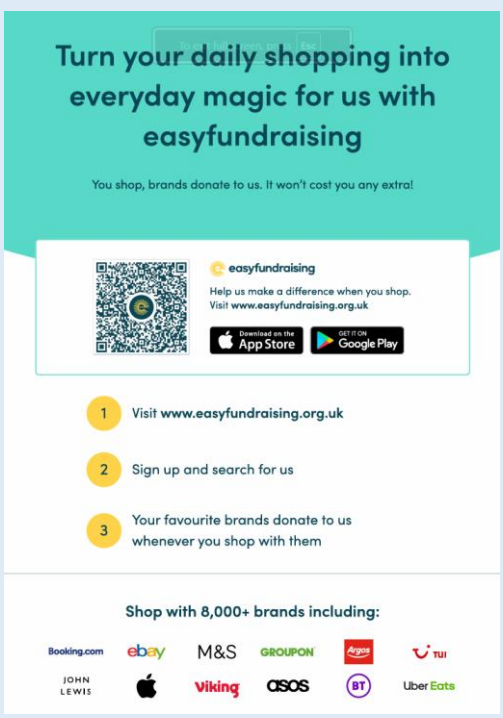
easyfundraising

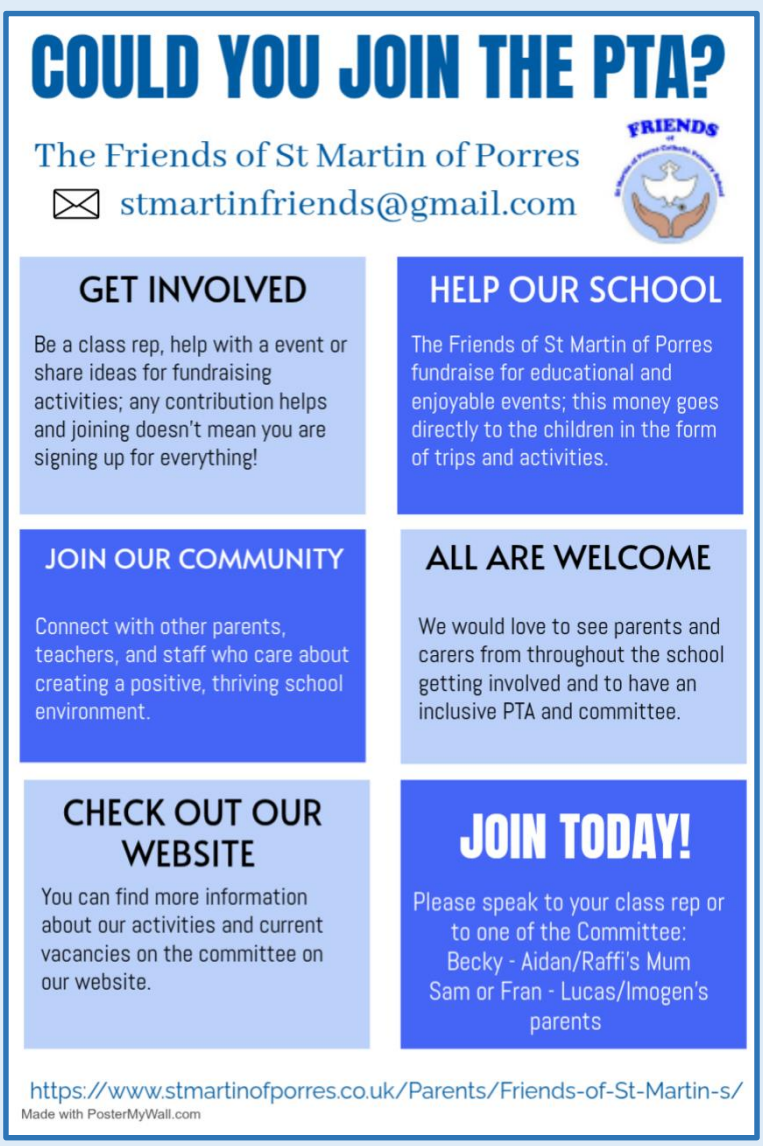
The PTA raises funds while you shop online via easyfunding.

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 flyer below to set up the app.







Events and Communication

Please keep an eye out for upcoming events on newsletters and on our website page. Joining your class Whatsapp group is a great way of staying informed. Details of these groups are being sent to all parents so please sign up if you haven't already.

Secondary School Open Events









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.

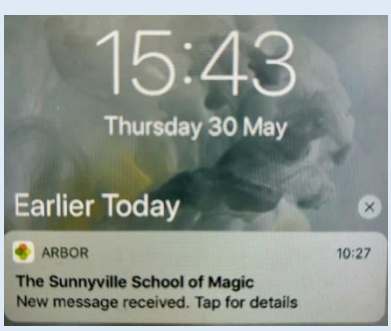
There is lots of help for parents/guardians at the **Arbor Help Centre**. We recommend having a quick look at the **quick introduction guide** in particular, especially if you have more than one child at the school.

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

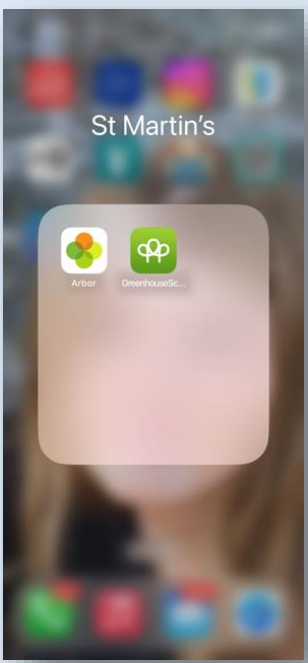
Scan the QR code to find us!

Arbor Parent Portal and App

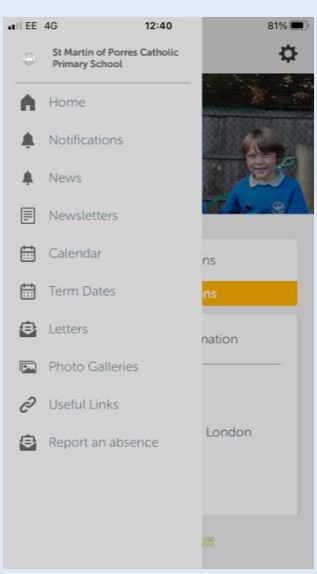
Have you logged in to the portal and then downloaded the app?

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.