St Martin of Porres Catholic Primary School

Dove News
11th September 2026
Issue 2

Growing in Knowledge and the love of Jesus

Dear Parents, Carers, and Children,

What a fabulous day celebrating Roald Dahl Day today! The children looked wonderful in their incredibly creative costumes, many of which were so carefully thought out. It was great to see the imagination and effort that went into everyone's outfits.

We talked about why Roald Dahl remains so popular today, including how many of his wonderful stories have been turned into films and musicals. So many of his book's appeal to both children and adults and many of his ideas for stories and characters were inspired by his own childhood experiences.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our wonderful Mass celebrating our 140th anniversary of St Paul's School. It was a very special occasion and encompassed so much of what makes our school community so wonderful. A special thank you to St Martin's Year 6 and St Thomas More ex-pupils for joining us. It was lovely to have everyone there to help us celebrate such an important milestone in our school's history.

In our assembly today, we continued our theme of belonging, which we explored last week, by thinking about what it means to thrive. We discussed how important it is for children to learn, develop and grow together as part of a community. We reminded ourselves that thriving does not mean being perfect at everything. Instead, it means trying our best, learning from our experiences and becoming the best version of ourselves that we can be.

Democracy Day is coming up, and we will be electing our School Council next Tuesday.

If you are interested in taking on this important leadership role, have a think over the weekend about why you would be the best person for the job. What ideas could you bring? How would you listen to and represent the views of others?

Good luck to everyone who puts themselves forward!

I hope everyone has a super weekend, and we look forward to seeing you all next week!

Andrea Smith
Headteacher



Celebrating our 140th anniversary of St Paul's School

Dates for your diary

Sun 13th Sep	Blessing of Students – St Paul's Church 10.00a.m. Mass – see pg 5
Mon 14th Sep	
Tue 15th Sep	PE LESSONS FOR ALL PUPILS – CHANGE FROM MONDAYS Multi Sports Club/Football (Years 1 – 4) 3.30 – 4.30pm
Wed 16th Sep	Sycamore Class (Years 4 & 5) Curriculum meeting: 3.30pm Karate Club: 3.30 - 4.30pm (Years 1 – 6)
Thu 17th Sep	Irish Dancing: 3.30 - 4.30pm (Years 1 - 6) Horse Chestnut (Year 6) Curriculum and Transition Meeting: 4.45pm
Fri 18th Sep	Celebration Assembly 2.45pm

Every School Day Counts!

We will be closely monitoring attendance and punctuality on a regular basis. Where concerns arise, follow-ups will take place promptly with parents and carers, including letters, meetings and support plans if needed.

Please use either the Greenhouse app or Arbor to message the school about pupil absence in the first instance. You can also leave a message on the school answerphone. The school should be notified before **9.30am on the day of absence and all subsequent days.**

Helping your child make the most of every school day
Regular attendance is one of the most important things we can do to help children succeed at school. Being in school every day gives children the opportunity to learn, develop friendships, build confidence and take part fully in school life.

Our attendance aim
We aim for **every child to achieve at least 96% attendance** wherever possible.
We understand that children do sometimes become ill and that families can face difficulties. Our approach is to **work with families, not against them**, to help overcome any barriers to regular attendance.

Why does attendance matter?
Even a small amount of absence can add up over time.
For example:
95% attendance = around 10 days of school missed over a year.
Regular attendance helps children to:

- Keep up with their learning.
- Develop positive routines and independence.
- Maintain friendships and relationships.
- Feel part of the school community.
- Make the most of clubs, trips, activities and other opportunities.

Being on time matters too
Arriving on time means your child starts the day calmly and is ready to learn.
Repeated lateness can mean children miss important parts of the school day, including registration, instructions, phonics, maths or morning activities.
Please help your child develop a good morning routine and arrive at school on time.

If you are worried about attendance
Please **talk to us**.
There may be a reason why your child is finding it difficult to attend regularly. This could include worries about school, friendships, learning, family circumstances, health or simply difficulties getting into a good routine.
We would much rather have an early conversation and see how we can help than allow a small problem to become a bigger one.

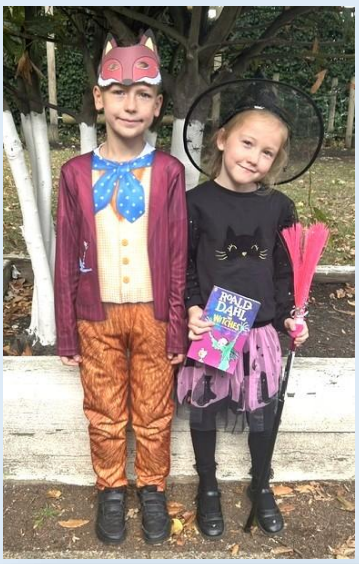
We celebrate improvement
Good attendance isn't just about achieving 100%.
We will also recognise children who are **improving their attendance, overcoming difficulties and developing positive attendance habits**.
Every day is an opportunity to learn, grow and flourish.

What can parents do?

- ✔ Establish a consistent bedtime and morning routine.
- ✔ Encourage your child to attend every day unless they are genuinely unwell.
- ✔ Make appointments outside school hours where possible.
- ✔ Avoid taking holidays during term time.
- ✔ Contact school promptly if your child is going to be absent.
- ✔ Talk to us if there is anything affecting your child's attendance.

Every school day counts – and every child matters.

Thank you for helping us give every child the best possible opportunity to learn, thrive and enjoy school.













Roald Dahl Day















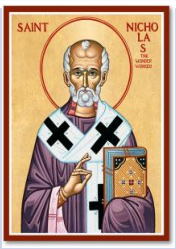
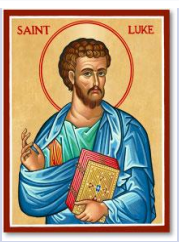






Celebration

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	49	48	54	46
Total	49	48	57	46

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

Top Table Award

KS1	Magnus – Ash Class
KS2	Olivier - Sycamore

Gold Star of the Week

Ash	Raffi	For being an amazing helper this week and using all of his Maths knowledge to tally up all of our class house points. Well done Raffi.
Beech	Micah	For settling into Year 3 so quickly and confidently! You have made a fantastic start, showing kindness enthusiasm and a brilliant attitude to your learning. Well done – we are so happy to have you in our class!
Sycamore	Orla	For making such a fantastic start to the term! She has been brave in sharing her ideas and answering questions, even when she has felt a little nervous. Orla is a lovely, kind and thoughtful member of the class.
Horse Chestnut	Nellie Rose	For being an absolute ray of sunshine in Year 6! Thank you for always doing your best, helping younger children in the playground and spreading kindness, happiness and smiles wherever you go.

Good Shepherd Award

Ash	Greg	For looking after our new reception friends so well this week. You gave them such a friendly smile and are an excellent role model to all your friends.
Beech	Ella	For being such a kind, caring and supportive friend to our new class member. You have made them feel welcome, included and happy in our class. Your kindness and thoughtfulness have been wonderful to see.
Sycamore	Hannah	For settling into our class so beautifully this week. She has been kind, helpful and caring towards others, showing us how to 'love one another' through her thoughtful actions and lovely manners.
Horse Chestnut	Milly	For being amazing at helping children in the playground and teaching them to skip! Your kindness, joy and caring heart show Jesus' love.

BLESSING OF STUDENTS - St Paul the Apostle Church, Wood Green

St Paul's Church will celebrate the beginning of the new academic year with a special blessing for all children and students who are starting or returning to school, college or university, on **Sunday 13th September 2026 at the 10.00 am Mass.** During the Mass each student will receive a San Damiano Cross as a reminder of God's love, guidance and protection throughout the year ahead.

Wednesday Word

(Based on the forthcoming Gospels at Mass)

FORGIVENESS

Pray and Forgive – St Teresa of Calcutta

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that we must try to forgive others in the same way that we want God (and others) to forgive us. Ask you child what the word 'forgiveness' means to them. Has your child ever asked for and received forgiveness? How did it feel to be forgiven? It may help your child if you tell them about a time when you forgave someone, especially when it wasn't easy to do, or when you were forgiven.

Forgiveness is one of God's greatest gifts to us. Each of you say how it feels to forgive someone and make friends again. As we start this new school year, ask you child if there is anyone whose forgiveness they would like. Is anyone they need to forgive? If so, share ideas about how to do this. Perhaps they can: talk gently and lovingly to that person if there is a problem; try to recognize some good qualities in that person; pray and ask God to help them forgive. You might like to end tonight by slowly saying the Lord's Prayer together (please see below).

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be they name; thy kingdom come, they will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and ***forgive*** *us our trespasses, as we* ***forgive*** *those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. 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
96.6%

1st place 99.2 % - Ash Clas
2nd place 96.9% - 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

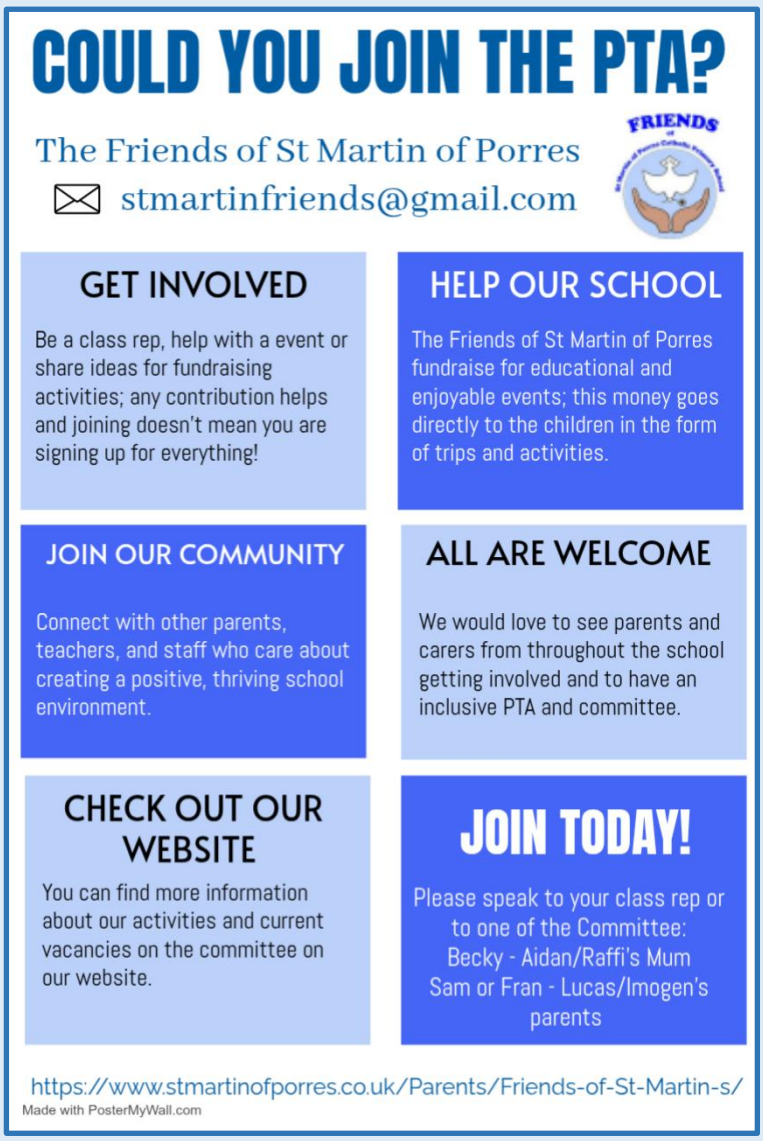
Welcome!

A warm welcome and welcome back to our new and existing families from the Friends of St Martin's. We hope you enjoyed your summer break.

We are hoping to grow our PTA group this year
so please reach out if you would like to get involved.

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.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

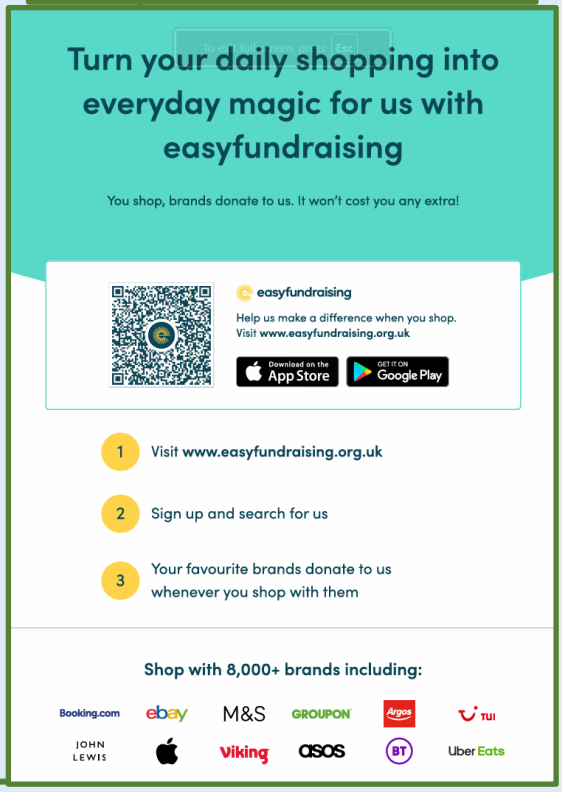
The Friends are hosting a coffee morning to raise funds for Macmillan cancer support on Friday 2nd October from 9.00a.m. to 10.00a.m. Please get in touch with your class rep if you would like to contribute. All are welcome to attend and enjoy a chance to catch up over a hot drink and some cake.



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 below to set up the app – we will get entered into a draw to win £250 for everyone who signs up before 13th September so please register before then if you can.



Thank you for supporting the Friends of St Martin's!



Your journey to St Thomas More Catholic School starts here...

OPEN EVENING

4.30pm - 7.00pm

Tuesday 29th September

OPEN MORNINGS

9.30am - 10.45am

29th September

7th October

15th October

20th October

Visit our website or scan the QR code to book a slot

www.stthomasmoreschool.org.uk

Bishop Douglass School

In pursuit of excellence



Open Events 2026

Open Evening: Wednesday 16th September 5.00pm - 7.30pm
The Headteacher's presentation will take place at 5.15pm - 6.45pm

Curriculum Showcase: Thursday 15th October 4.15pm - 5.45pm

Guided Tours: Sign up on the school website to see the school in action during the day.

HARINGEY
MUSIC SERVICE
PRESENTS

Junior Vox

A vocal group for ages 8 -11

All singers are welcome!

Tuesday
4:15 - 5:00pm
Chestnuts Community Centre
280 St Ann's Road, N15 5BN

An amazing opportunity!

If you are looking for a challenge and want to push yourself musically and get the chance for some exciting performance opportunities, then this choir is for you!

No audition required!

This group is for singers who are looking to explore their vocal harmony and voices in a variety of ways, to eventually work alongside other musicians, vocalists and other ensembles.

Haringey LONDON

*This is *NOT* a standard choir. This is a vocal group with an edge.

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.

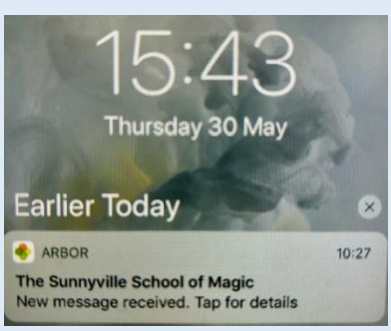
There is lots of help for parents/guardians at the **Arbor Help Centre**. We recommend having a quick look at the **quick introduction guide** in particular, especially if you have more than one child at the school.

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

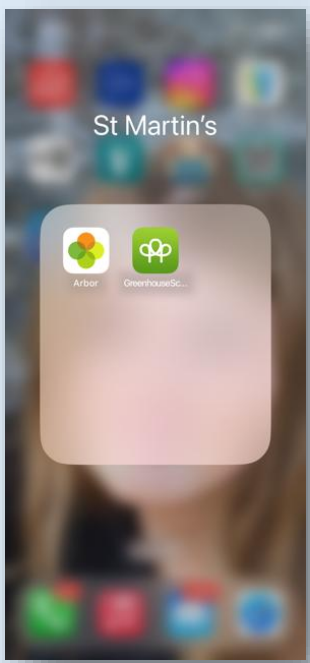
Scan the QR code to find us!

Arbor Parent Portal and App

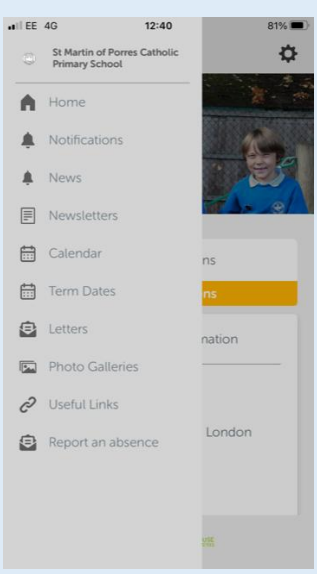
Have you logged in to the portal and then downloaded the app?

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.