Hello and welcome to Reception at St Martin de Porres School. It is our hope that our learning spaces will be positive, supportive and an encouraging learning environment for your child(ren). We look forward to experiencing many happy and fulfilling times with you and your child(ren) throughout the year.

Please see listed below some additional information regarding the Reception Learning Space in preparation for 2016.

**Family Photo**
In order to create links between home and school, we ask that you provide a standard (6x4) family photo for your child to display in the classroom. Our hope is that this makes clear to our families their value in our learning environment and it also helps in giving the children comfort during the day.

**Morning Routine**
The learning space will open at 8:45am and your child is invited to come into the room and begin unpacking their own school bags. They will need to bring in their message folder, reader, drink bottles and any communication for the office box. Once your child has completed their morning jobs, they are encouraged to find their playful learning activity. At 8:50am, we ask parents to say goodbye to their child so that the children are able to continue their learning activities independently.

Playful learning is an important part of our teaching and learning program. Through thoughtfully planned learning experiences, your child will continue to develop their social skills, oral language, literacy and numeracy skills and emotional well-being. Activities will include fine motor activities, construction, dramatic play, reading activities.

**Message Folder**
The message folder is used as a tool for parent/teacher communication. Each night, your child’s message folder will come home. Please check it each night for notices. It is essential for them to bring their message folder to school each day. It must contain their reader and any notices for the teacher and/or office. It is also very important that your child learns to unpack their own message bag each morning.

**Reader**
Your child will be given a hard reader cover to take home each night. Please cover it in contact and clearly name it on the outside so that it is easily recognisable to your child and their teacher.

**PE Uniform**
This year the students are having their PE lessons twice a week. They will need to wear their full sports uniform on these days *(days to be advised at the start of the 2016 year).*

**Library**
Each week your child will be taken on a library visit. During this time your child will have the opportunity to explore our library and borrow books to take home for the week. Your child will need a clearly labelled library bag that is brought to school on this day *(days to be advised at the start of the 2016 year).*

**Sharing**
As a part of our oral language program this year, the children will be involved in sharing circles to promote and develop their speaking and listening skills. Your child will have the opportunity to share to the class over the term. We ask that you please do not send valuable items to school.

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Hats
Please ensure that your child has a named hat each day during Term One and Term Four to ensure that they are able to go out to recess and lunchtime play.

Water
We encourage the children to keep up their water levels during the day. So they are given free access to their drink bottles we ask that you provide one drink bottle for the drinks basket in the classroom and one for keeping in their school bag that can be accessed at break times – 2 labelled bottles bought to school each day.

Brain Food
Each morning, we will have a healthy snack or ‘brain food’ time. This helps the children to keep up their energy levels between breakfast and recess. Please send in a small fruit, veggie or cheese snack that has been cut or sliced for easy eating. Please leave messy foods (yoghurt) for recess time. All food packaging will be sent home in the child’s lunch box in line with the St Martin de Porres School Sustainability Policy.

Headphones
Can you please send to school a set of labelled, working headphones suitable for ICT use. They will need to be kept in a labelled and suitably sized bag (such as a glad bag) to keep them untangled and protected.

Art Smock
Please send in a labelled art smock for your child. We will be painting on a regular basis and these help to keep your child’s uniform clean. The smocks will be kept in the learning space for easy access and will be cleaned regularly. If you would like to help wash the smocks please let us know so we can add your name to a fortnightly roster.

Canteen
The School Canteen operates on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for lunch orders. Lunch orders will need to be placed in the ‘yellow lunch box’ in your child’s classroom in the morning.

Recycling
This year we will be exploring ways to reduce rubbish in our learning space and the school yard. We will be using a three bin system in the learning space with the food scraps going into our worm farm. Lunch box rubbish that cannot be recycled will be sent back home in your child’s lunch box.

We are looking forward to an exciting year with you and your child(ren)!!!

To Do:

- ☐ Cover Reader
- ☐ Headphones
- ☐ Family Photo
- ☐ Art Smock
- ☐ Library Bag