



St Peter's Newsletter

29th November 2019

Dear Parents,

We are all looking forward to the special time of Advent which is fast approaching. The last three weeks of this term are always packed full of celebrations and preparations towards Christmas. All the children are practising hard for the various Christmas performances including the Advent Service (in school time next week) and the Carol Service which is on Monday 16th December in St Peter's church at 6pm. It is aimed at Key Stage 2 for their families and siblings. It would be wonderful to see all the Juniors take part in this traditional service of readings and carols.

A couple of reminders to you all from the Senior Leadership Team and Governors:

Staff Car park – this is a designated area for staff and blue badge holders to park. Everyday there is a different parent using the car park to turn around, park, drop off their child. It is dangerous to have children walking across the car park and it also blocks the road as staff cars have to wait for the parent to make their manoeuvre. It is also very disappointing when parents are rude to staff when they are challenged. We should all be role models to our children by showing respect to each other and for the rules.

Making an appointment with staff: please can parents speak to the class teacher first when you have a concern or worry. The appointment can be made through the school office. This is a vital first point of contact as the class teacher knows the most about your child. On the rare occasion matters are not resolved then an appointment can be made with the next most senior member of the team.

Thank you all for following our policies which are designed to make the running of the school as smooth as possible.

Library Opening Times

Reading for pleasure is a key focus in our school and spending time in the library can spark real joy. The library is open afterschool for children and parents to enjoy together. It will close at 3.45pm each day. We hope that you will enjoy sharing a book or swapping your books together

Security in the teaching block

We have security fobs for staff to enter the building before and after school. This is because our site is open for long hours and we wish children attending clubs and staff who are working are secure. If you need to speak to a member of staff, please make an appointment through the office.

Kind regards

Sarah Dunning, the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors

Notices

Can you spare 15 minutes twice a week? Parent/Grandparent Reading Programme

We have a fantastic team of parents who dedicate two short sessions a week to hearing someone else's child read. This programme has been in place now for four years and has been hugely successful in developing children's confidence and self-esteem. It takes place from 08:45- 0900 on the mornings of your choice. The adult supports the same child for the whole school year. We are in desperate need of at least two more adults who could commit to supporting a child's progress in this way. If you feel able to help, please contact Mrs Sarah Marshall or Mrs Jane Cook

Farnham Christmas light Switch On

Thank you to parents who supported us by taking the time out to deliver their children who are in the Young Voices Choir and Junior Choir, to Gostrey Meadows on Saturday 23rd for the Farnham Christmas light switch on. The children sang Clip Clop Don't Stop! And Everybody Join in the Party, Little Drummer Boy and Silent Night.



We were delighted with the response to our presentations around our new resilience and wellbeing programme, Trick Box. Over the two sessions, two thirds of our families attended to find out more about the 'tricks' we are using in school to help pupils develop their own strategies for becoming more independent and resilient. The whole concept is based on looking for positive solutions rather than dwelling on a problem. It is underpinned by four key areas: Confidence. Calm. Communication. Creativity. The programme is starting in Early Years with a 'catch up' being delivered in other year groups. As a school we are hoping to develop a common language around which children will learn to understand that they have choices which will determine the outcome of any given situation. It sounds a bit 'adult', put like this, but the programme is taught through very simple visuals which come in the form of a pack of cards. All our staff are on board and as the year goes on, you will find that your child will become very familiar with the cards and strategies.



Many families bought a set of cards last week and we would encourage every family to buy a set. Although the children won't have covered all of the cards, they are reasonably self-explanatory and a great opener for a conversation with a child of any age, if things aren't going as well as expected. **Sets of cards are priced at £5 and are available from the office (Scopay or cash).** Please contact Mrs Marshall if you need financial support for this.

Please ask your child's teacher if you would like more information. From next term, we shall advise parents which tricks are being discussed in each year group. We are unable to send out the presentation but the following link should give you some idea of Trick Box.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nsRwgHZAS8sjqvbtKkIFdDbANVduP4xP/view>

Phyllis Tuckwell Reindeer Run

Following the success of last year, we shall again be participating in the Reindeer Run this year. All children will run on Thursday 19th December and will be asking families to sponsor their efforts. They will be in full festive mood and will run wearing their reindeer antlers or elf hats (given to them). All money raised will go to the local Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. We hope you will feel able to support your child for this important fundraiser.

Book bags

Replacement book bags have been ordered and should be with us very shortly.



What can you do to support your child at home?

Maths Passports present essential skills which your child needs to be familiar with as soon as possible. As these skills need to be recalled to speed, please practise them several times a week, focusing on one objective at a time. Your child will be tested in school, but as there is a time limit for the test, instant recall is necessary.

Mrs Goddin
Maths lead.

Christmas Lunch 18 December – Crisis at Christmas

If you want your child to have a delicious Christmas dinner (vegetarian and other options available) please book by December 3rd. On that day, we shall invite families to donate £1 which will go to the charity: Crisis at Christmas. As you know this charity focuses on the homeless to ensure that not only do people have a meal and company at Christmas, but that they also have access to a shower, haircut, clean clothing and medical facilities. We shall talk to the children about the work done by Crisis at Christmas.

Going into Farnham?

Do go and see our wonderful artwork in the Waiting Room Gallery at Farnham Station – it looks stunning!



Governor's Notices

The Governors would like to publicly thank Jim Pressley for his fantastic talk on Afghanistan entitled 'What's happening and what the future might hold'. We had a huge audience of over 70 people, many from the local community as well as from school. Everyone said how much they thoroughly enjoyed hearing first-hand experiences. Not only was it a really interesting evening it raised over £400 for school funds. Thank you to everyone who supported the event. Watch this space for future talks.

Forest School

In Year 4 we had a forest skills day. We cleaned the fire circle and we played games using teamwork. In one activity you had to go through a web of string keeping your hands linked to each other. In another one we had to get from one side to another using objects. We had to use our listening skills. It was really good fun.

Amy Wattenbach 4S



3G have really enjoyed their time in Forest School. On the 6 November we put our warm clothes on and practised how to tie a knot. We then used sticks and string to make the initial of our first name.



Educational visits



6D have enjoyed a trip to the Weydon science labs this week to study electricity. We made a battery out of 2p coins, tissue paper damped with salt water and foil! Amazingly, they worked! We tested the batteries using a voltmeter and also looked at examples of static electricity

4B Viking workshop

Excerpts of reports:

I enjoyed being the only Valkerie and taking people to Valhalla...the spear fighting because we could fight against the other class and everyone was cheering...I enjoyed the quiz games and riddles...I loved the spear wrestling.....I liked the role play...I enjoyed the stories they told.

Clubs



Gardening club preparing for their Christmas sale next Thursday 5th December in the playground, after school.



Just 1 Tree

Thank you for supporting our Eco Committee's fund-raising activity to raise money for the Just 1 Tree organisation, who plant trees around the world.



£1 = 1 tree

Today we collected £302.83, which means 302 trees can be planted.



Trees absorb the pollutants we humans put into the atmosphere. They clean the air we breathe, filter the water we drink, prevent soil erosion and flooding, give life to the world's wildlife, house complex ecosystems, supply us with medicine and provide jobs to over 1.6 billion people. They really are the superheroes of the planet and we need them in order to survive.

Thank you for your support

From St Peter's Eco Committee



Swimming

If you would like your child to have swimming lessons on a Friday morning at Farnham Leisure Centre, please contact the office to see if there are vacancies or put your name on a waiting list. There are a couple of vacancies for KS2 non swimmers.

On another note, the District Schools Gala is in February. We shall organise a Friday morning in January for trials – (details to follow). If your child swims for a club or is a competent swimmer, please encourage them to come along to the time trials. This is only for KS2 children.

Girls' Football

Andrew Hall, our coach for girls' football was awarded 'Highly Commended' in 'Coach of the year' category at the recent Farnham Sports Awards presentation. Andrew is really keen for more girls to take up the game – beginners welcome from Y1 up.





Sports Round-up

Our youngest football team (year 4) had a fantastic tournament at Weydon School last week. They won their group stage and progressed to the play offs where many matches had to be settled on penalties... it was extremely close! Eventually, they finished in 4th position out of the 9 schools attending. The boys were incredible and showed such brilliant team spirit. Well done boys.



On Friday 22nd St Peter's floorball teams played in a tournament at Farnham Sports Centre against Rowledge, South Farnham, Waverley Abbey and Potters Gate. Both of our teams reached the group stages and played incredibly well. In fact, every other player at the event were Yr 6, whereas we had 2 Yr 6's, 7 Yr 5's and 3 Yr 4's and only two of us had played in a tournament before. A big thank you to Mrs Usher and Mrs Potter for supporting us.