



St Peter's Newsletter

31st January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

A belated Happy New Year and let's hope that 2020 brings joy and peace for everyone! May we also take this opportunity to thank families for the many kind gifts and expressions of gratitude over the Christmas period – it is not always possible to thank everyone individually.

It's hard to believe that we are almost at half term. As always, the school curriculum has been extended with Forest School days, visitors and school trips. We were delighted to read the full page spread in The Farnham Herald last week- highlighting the curriculum opportunities at St Peter's.

After only a term, we are pleased with the early impact of the Trick Box programme on the children's attitudes to both learning and self-confidence and would urge all families to come on board by acquiring a box of tricks.

After half term, we shall be moving into the period of Lent and will be encouraging our school community to 'show kindness and generosity' towards others, rather than giving something up. We will also be recognising Fairtrade Fortnight with strands of learning about equality and justice woven into different subject areas.

We look forward to meeting you face to face at the upcoming Parents' Consultation Evenings.

The Senior Leadership Team

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR CHOSEN CHARITIES!

We now have the total amounts for the charity collections from last term.

Phyllis Tuckwell Reindeer Run (which became circuit training due to inclement weather): £ 2028

Just One Tree: £303

Crisis at Christmas: £577 (Service and Nativity collections & Christmas lunch)

Save The Children (red jumper): £250

As always, we try to support charities in our local area and further afield. We always receive letters of thanks explaining how the money will be spent to support the cause. Pupils love being involved in raising funds and it is the perfect opportunity for them to understand others' needs and to appreciate the privileges and comforts that they have.

Walking to and from school alone or with peers (a reminder about safeguarding our children)

We encourage our children to be independent and support your choices as parents when you decide to allow your child to start walking to or from school on their own. Please ensure they have Hi-Vis aspects about their clothes/school bag. Please also talk to your children about what they should do if they suspect they are being followed.

We take safeguarding at our school very seriously and talk to children about age appropriate actions. We have a culture of children's voice being listened to. We always tell our children to talk to someone who they feel comfortable with, if they have a worry. If our Designated Safeguarding Leaders suspect abuse or neglect, then referrals will be made and those difficult conversations with families will be had. We all have a duty to safeguard all of our children.

SCOpay

Please note, you cannot reply directly to SCOpay emails and texts. Anything to do with school activities, events, absences etc please contact office@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk

Trick Box

We feel that as a school we are really getting to grips with the Trick Box programme which is designed to develop resilience and life skills. The majority of our families now have a box of tricks at home. The programme is designed to be used both in school and at home.



TRICK BOX

Trick Box is an emotional management and personal development programme for all our children. It's simple, fun and effective. It is based on developing 4 key areas Confidence, Communication, Creativity and Calmness.

If you haven't bought a trick box set yet, they are available from the office at £5 a set (only one set needed per family. We shall also be selling boxes on both parents' evenings. We have a small number of boxes available if you are not in a position to purchase a box.

New SENDCo

We are pleased to announce that we have recruited Mrs J Mesney to the post of SENDCo. She will begin her contract on Monday 3rd Feb. Mrs Mesney will be present at the Parents' Evening on Tuesday 11th February for a meet and greet. If your child is on the register, please come and say hello to her and introduce yourself.

READING WITH YOUR CHILD - please try to find time



Our new Reading Reward scheme has been a great success. Children are enthusiastic about reaching the next step and are really involved in their learning. However, there are still a few pupils who are not making as much progress as they could, because they are not reading regularly at home. We cannot stress enough how important it is to read at least five times a week. This time should not only be hearing a child read aloud but should also include a chat about the book – to ensure that they actually understand the meaning of the words, the characters and the plot. Reading at school is assessed on comprehension – not purely on decoding of words. We understand that families' lives are busy, and that time is often scarce, but in order for a child to succeed in primary school and beyond, it is essential that they become a fluent reader. The reading session should not become a chore but should be a positive experience for adult and child. If you are having problems reading with your child, please do bring this up at Parents' evening and their teacher will be able to suggest ways to make this an enjoyable experience for everyone.

Line up in the mornings – a polite request

Overall, everything is working well, but it can sometimes take longer than it should for classes to come inside in the mornings. We would appreciate it if parents and carers did not try to continue conversations and interactions with their child while the class is trying to come inside. It can delay the class and can also unsettle other children. We also have a few parents crossing through the line, which again, upsets the routine and causes delays. You will appreciate that learning starts before register. All classes have early morning learning activities and there are also many support intervention groups which start promptly at 08:45am. Once your child is on the playground and certainly once they are in their line, it is the right time to leave. We thank you for your support on this matter.

Uniform

For all items, please refer to the parent handbook on the school website.

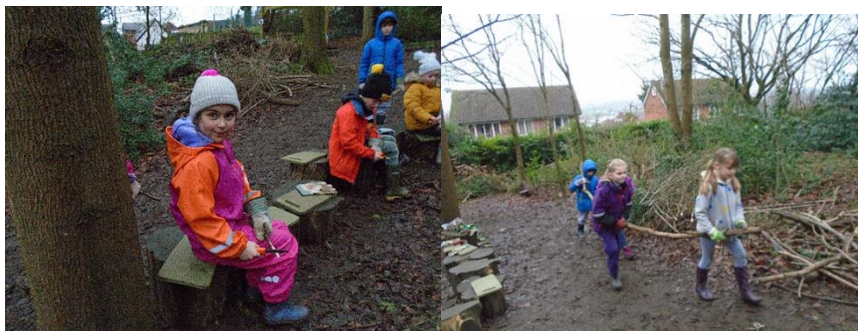
Hair - hair is to be tied back at all times, including clubs, with school colour hair bands

Earrings - earring are not permitted at any time

PE kits - if your child wears tights, please ensure they have socks for PE and everyone should have a FULL PE kit left in school at all times

Forest School

Last week on Friday 24 January 3G had Forest School. It was very exciting as we got to use knives. We had to be careful. Before we used the knives, we had to wear gloves on our left hands. We had to put our legs to the left side and held the sticks to our right. We used our right hands to carve the sticks. This was called whittling. If anyone was left-handed they had to sit the opposite way and put the glove on their right hands. We also had great fun moving the branches. By Niels Boos



On Friday 17th January, Year 6 had a forest school session based on a book called 'The Princess' Blankets'. We were all going to create our own mini blanket which we'd sew together to make a whole class blanket of our own. First, we went up to the playground to collect many natural plants. Next, we returned to the forest to collect any more equipment needed. After we sat down and created a design for our own blanket. After this, we gathered all our resources and took a piece of hessian. The final step was to sew all of pieces of hessian together to make our class blanket. We all enjoyed this session very much and we hope next year enjoys it as much as we did. By Scarlett Glover and Eva Gillman from 6D.



Educational visits

Year 2 had a visit from Florence Nightingale. She was born 200 years ago and we still remember her today. We listened to an account of her life and learnt how she improved nursing. It was fun pretending to be soldiers and nurses in the Crimean War.



Clubs

Gardening club have purchased a new habitat for children to learn from out of the money raised at the Christmas sale.



Presenting our wormery

Sports Round-up

Sportshall Athletics

We had a fantastic time at the Sportshall Athletics at Weydon last week competing against 8 other teams. The atmosphere was incredible and the team spirit amazing! Our year 6 team came a very strong 3rd place and our year 5 team 5th overall. Thank you to everyone who competed.

