



St Peter's Newsletter

18th December 2019

Dear Parents,

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and Happy Christmas. The staff and children have worked incredibly hard this half term and all deserve a rest. Thank you for your continued support to a smooth running of our school and for making your child's experience at St Peter's as enjoyable and purposeful as possible. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Carol service this week – a very special evening to help us prepare for Christmas.

Please can I draw your attention to the proposed expansion of Highfield South Farnham – an email was sent to you last week. There is currently a reduced birth rate and this is not set to rise in our area. If you have an objection to their proposal, please send your response to their Chair of Governor's at Highfield by Friday 17th January – details are in the email.

Notices

No Dogs on site (even puppies being held)

Dogs must be left outside the school and be on a lead at all times.

Also, at drop off times please can you keep the dogs away from the entrance as you say goodbye to your child – thank you.

This is for the safety and comfort of all our community.

Photales arrives at St Peter's

Photales is a brilliant little App that runs on iPads and iPhones. It allows users to add voice recordings to their photo collection. You can then create compilations that join photos together, thus creating an audio/visual suite similar to a slideshow. The App produces very small mp4 video files that can then be played, shared and enjoyed by friends and family. The Photales App is really easy to use, it simply involves touching buttons and talking.

Taking photos and adding audio later is far less time consuming and less intrusive than taking video. It allows you to enjoy the moment more on holidays, trips, birthdays and special occasions and go back later and add your audio recordings.

It has many uses in school to include:-

Descriptive Writing

Report Writing

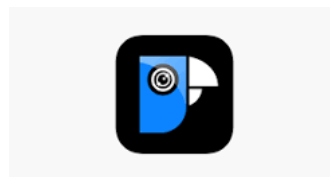
School Trips

Early Learning

Talking to French Pen Pals

Project Work

Clubs, Sports, Competitions - the list goes on!



It has already been used for the latest ROAR Project !

For more information about the App and its benefits, please visit the website at www.photales.com

Save your bottles

In the new year, in collaboration with 'Girls in the Garage' will be selling eco-friendly products such as compostable bin bags, wax wraps and shampoo and body wash refills. Please start saving your shampoo and shower gel bottles so you can refill at little cost to you and no cost to the earth. Dates of the sale and costs will follow.

Does your child know their home address in case of emergency?

We encourage you to teach your child's home address and even a phone number in case of emergency. If for example, the only adult in the house is injured and the child calls 999 it would be great for them to be able to give their home details with confidence.

Star of Wonder Light Installation at Guildford Cathedral 15th – 18th January

A stunning immersive light and sound show that takes you on a journey of the Magi where you will walk through stunning starry skies and be enveloped with beautiful light and sound.

45 minute showings from 6.30pm -10.15pm

£5 adults

£2.50 for 3-15 year olds if bought in advance

Taster video and link to box office can be found at www.guildford-cathedral.org/events/star-of-wonder

School Report Requests for Independent Schools

From January the school will be charging £10 to parents who request the teacher to complete a report or reference for a child transferring to an independent school. As you can appreciate this adds to the teachers' workload and is in addition to our statutory transfer of documents.

Carols on the green

Saturday 21st at 4pm - Greenfield Road Park followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the community centre - a social gathering to sing carols and be together as a community before Christmas.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR VOLUNTARY ONE-WAY SYSTEM COMING DOWN THE HILL

Skype Session with French School in Cannes

Year Five pupils were able to put some of their French conversation skills into practice recently in a Skype session with one of link schools, Ecole Lochabaire in Cannes. It was a fantastic opportunity for children to meet the person they've been writing to and to find out about life in France, both in school and at home. It is exciting for the children to be able to communicate directly and in spite of elementary language skills, it is surprising how well they can communicate, particularly when it comes to sport and entertainment!



Deadline for School Admissions

If you have a child starting school in September 2020, please be aware of the closing date for admissions is midnight Wednesday 15th January 2020. The reality is that there are currently too many primary school places in Farnham for the number of children. If you know anyone who is looking for a primary school place or is moving into the area, please direct them to our website and encourage them to visit.

Academic Achievement

The government statistics for KS2 SATS have just been published. This means that parents can see how the school compares with others locally and also how much progress children are making.

In summary, among local schools we had the second highest figure for Greater Depth achievement – this is awarded to children who have scored at a high level jointly across Reading, Writing and Maths. Our progress figures against prior attainment and a national benchmark, was above average in Reading and Maths and average in Writing (independent composition- not handwriting). We are constantly evaluating and developing our curriculum to ensure that all pupils make good progress.

Twitter @StPetersFarnham

We tweet several times most weeks - do follow us to keep up to date with some of the wonderful learning opportunities in school.

Trick Box

The majority of our families now have Trick Box cards at home. Please contact the office if you would like to purchase cards. They cost £5 but we can make them available if a family is not able to manage this. We are keen for every family to be able to engage with this programme aimed at resilience, wellbeing and problem solving.

Christmas Charities

First, thank you so much for attending the performances and concerts. We hope you enjoyed watching your children and that you came away feeling full of the joys of Christmas. Thank you also for your generosity to both local and national charities. As we know, Christmas can be a very lonely and sad time for some due to the circumstances they find themselves in. We have so many charities asking for our support and it is always difficult to make these decisions. We shall give you the total sums in the next newsletter. Please look out for photos of the Phyllis Tuckwell Reindeer Run on Twitter in the next couple of days.

Educational visits

Signposts

Last week we enjoyed a Christmas visit from Signposts. We read Hebrew, heard from Simeon the prophet who foretold the coming of the Light to the World and sang in thanks and praise to the King of Kings.



Clubs

Skype Session with German School

A further opportunity came up this week when the Etwinning Club were able to contact a school in Germany as part of an Eco project which they are involved in with several schools across Europe. The pupils were joined by the Global Committee and a couple of children from the KSI Geography Club. We lost the link a few times but we were able to introduce ourselves and share what we are doing in school to help the environment. The school is just inside Germany on the border with Strasbourg and our children were amazed to learn that the school is totally dual language- some pupils spoke in German, others in French (teacher translating into English) and that some pupils live in France and go into Germany daily for school! We recorded Jingle Bells for the school and they have sent us a German carol recording that they've made. We plan to organise more of these sessions which are a perfect way to connect with the world using the power of technology.



Sports Round-up

St Edmunds Cross Country

On 29th November a team of year three, fours, fives and sixes went to St Edmunds school to take part in a cross-country event. Everyone ran amazingly well with the year three's running for the school for the first time.

At the end we all received a well-earned hot chocolate and muffin. A big thank you to Miss Dawson and Mrs Potter for supporting us the whole way.

Report by Matthew Lill



Barrow Hills Cross Country Event

On 2nd December, a team of St Peter's year 5 and 6 runners were lucky enough to take part in a cross-country event at Barrow Hills School. Every runner gave a great performance and pushed through to the very end as well as having a well-deserved hot dog. A big thankyou to all parents and teachers who supported us all the way through. Report by Jessica Ingham

