



St Peter's Newsletter

Tuesday 4th May 2021

Dear Families,

We hope you had a lovely bank holiday weekend. I think everyone was ready for that one extra day to pause after a hectic return to school. It is great to see so many children taking part in the sports clubs on offer and the Year 6 rehearsals for The Lion King have got off to a wonderful start. There is a lovely buzz around the school.

We are almost full for EYFS in September. This is the best news we could have wished for given the problems we are facing with our neighbouring school opening an extra class unnecessarily. St Peter's is certainly on the map for being one of the most popular schools in this area. We are so proud of our children and our school.

Sarah Dunning
Head Teacher

Relationships Health and Sex Education

You may remember that we conducted a consultation about the new RSHE curriculum which is statutory now. Part of the process was to develop a booklet to share with parents about relationships and sex education. The plan is to support you answer some of those tricky questions should you need it. This resource has now been published by the diocese. You can find the booklet, a short leaflet version and some slides

[https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/docs/default-source/making-disciples/nurturing-](https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/docs/default-source/making-disciples/nurturing-education/education/relationships-and-sex-education/permission-to-discuss-talking-to-your-child-about-relationships-and-sex-a-guide-for-parents-2021.pdf?sfvrsn=f1b0c32_0)

[education/education/relationships-and-sex-education/permission-to-discuss-talking-to-your-child-about-relationships-and-sex-a-guide-for-parents-2021.pdf?sfvrsn=f1b0c32_0](https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/docs/default-source/making-disciples/nurturing-education/education/relationships-and-sex-education/permission-to-discuss-talking-to-your-child-about-relationships-and-sex-a-guide-for-parents-2021.pdf?sfvrsn=f1b0c32_0)

Maths Passports

Please continue to support your child with the maths passports. It's such a great way to ensure your child knows the age-related maths facts and strategies. It will help you as parents become familiar with the maths as your child progresses through the school. We have found such success with the children who regularly take part in the activities and the areas of maths featured in their passport.

Staff Car Park

Apologies for sounding like a broken record but parents are not to park in the staff car parks. Recently, we have had a few occasions whereby staff are entering the carpark whilst parents are trying to leave and we are seeing children walking across the carpark outside of school hours. Whilst I appreciate it is convenient for you and you may feel safer, the staff working pattern must be the priority. If you need to park when dropping off or picking up children, please do so with care and consideration for our neighbours, other road users and pedestrians. Please remember our voluntary one-way system in Little Green Lane, going **down** the hill past the school. If everyone can follow this system, traffic will flow better and allows the drop-off zone to operate more smoothly in the mornings.

Can we also add that nursery children need to be carefully supervised as cars leave at 12 and 3pm. Thank you.

Summer uniform

Pupils are now able to wear summer uniform, If wearing a white shirt they must still wear a tie otherwise school polo shirts. Quite a number of boys seem to be wearing the shirts done up with no tie.



NUMBER DAY - MAY 7th

NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

On 7th May we shall be fundraising for the NSPCC by celebrating NUMBER DAY. Children are asked to come to school dressed as a number. This can be as creative or conservative as they like. Some may choose to wear an item of clothing with a number on it, others may design a number that they can actually wear! It can be any number (or numbers). Some children may want to choose a number which is special to them in some way. They will have an opportunity to tell the class about their number.

Children will be asked to bring in a donation which will help the NSPCC support the huge increase in calls they have received from distressed children over this past year. Usually we have a sponsored physical challenge to raise money for the NSPCC but because of the way school is structured right now, we have decided to ask for a donation.

On Number Day, children will be engaged with activities around number, some of which will link

into other subject areas. They will also learn about the NSPCC's work and why we are supporting this charity. We hope you will feel able to support your child to come to school dressed as a number and that you will be able to give what you can afford to support vulnerable children across the country.

CLUBS

The clubs running at the moment have been very popular. We had 89 children (in year group bubbles) on the field for the football last Friday! Some of our external clubs are planning to set up from 17th May, so please keep an eye out. A few people have asked about swimming. It does seem as though this won't be able to start again until September as it involves many adults inside at the same time. At that point we are hoping that the full range of clubs will be up and running. Do encourage your child to sign up for clubs as they are great way to make new friends. If your child is reluctant, do let us know and we shall support them to join the club which is right for them.

A request for support to reinstate our links with schools in Europe.

Some of you may be aware that with the withdrawal from the European Union, UK schools were cut out of the eTwinning programme overnight.

What is eTwinning?

It is an online platform which puts schools in touch with like-minded schools across Europe. At St Peter's we have used the platform many times to link up and work collaboratively with schools from around 15 countries. You may remember the Christmas decoration exchange or the 'Trees in our School environment' project. These projects are open to groups of pupils aged 3-19 and they provided a lot of the experiences which enabled us to obtain the British Council's International Award. We were also shortlisted two years ago for the TES schools award on the back of the collaborative work with European schools.

In the Autumn term, we joined a project and then returned after Christmas to find we could no longer access the platform and could not continue. The teachers from the other schools have kept in touch and are doing their best to include us, but without being able to communicate with the pupils in other schools, directly, this is pretty well impossible. eTwinning also provides a secure communication channel for the individual

schools. We had also hoped to join a project reflecting on C-19 across the continent.

The Government appears to have no plans to replace these wonderful opportunities which is disappointing for a whole generation of young people. **The only hope for the future would be for the UK to be able to join as a non-EU 'guest'. Switzerland, Norway, Turkey and Tunisia all have 'guest' status. Please would you consider signing the petition asking for this status. It would be a perfect solution.**

Please think beyond the politics. This is not about trade or sovereignty. It's about being able to share ideas on important issues such as sustainability and the future of the world that we share. You just need to put the link below into your browser. It will take you a minute to complete. If you are able to share more widely, that would be great.

https://www.europeanmovement.co.uk/save_etw_inning

CM Half Term Holiday Club

Following the success of the Easter clubs, CM will once again be running a holiday club at St Peter's during half term. It runs from 08:30- 4.30 each day and is good value for money as well as being great fun for the children. They are with coaches they know and on a familiar site. This is an excellent resource both for working parents and everyone who would like their child to be socialising and enjoying the outdoor environment with other children. Details to come soon and bookings made directly with CM Sports.

Farnham Sustainability Festival

St Peter's will be in attending the Farnham Sustainability Festival that takes place on Sunday 23rd May in Gostrey Meadows. We can be found at stall number 23 and also in the event tent where we will be giving 2 talks throughout the day on sustainability in schools.

Please support us by booking your tickets and sharing on social media. Links to it can be found here:

www.facebook.com/events/3746926445363303

Ticket registration is free with timed entry. Please point people to this link:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/farnham-sustainability-festival-tickets-l48891964875

Covid-19 - please support the community

In school, children are in bubbles, staff wear masks in communal areas and meetings are conducted virtually. We are doing everything we can to ensure that we do not have another lockdown. However, staff are reporting that some pupils are saying that they are having sleepovers at friends' or relatives' houses - this is certainly not in compliance with current regulations. Please remember that although children might be in the same bubble at school, they are not in the same bubble as another family. We would ask families to respect the covid-19 rules for everyone's safety. Albeit from a low starting point, *positive cases have gone up in Waverly in the past week* - whereas neighbouring councils have fallen. We are hoping that we shall soon be able to pick up some of the normal school routines such as having lunch in the hall but this will only happen if everyone holds out until the rules are relaxed. Thank you for your support.

Countersigning passport applications and photos

Please contact the school office if you wish a member of staff to countersign a passport application. Be aware that:

- Staff must have known your family for at least 2 years
- The school charges a £10 administration fee

Pets at St Peter's



Before the holidays, the School Council pupils did a survey of the number of pets owned by St Peter's families. This was prompted by what seemed to be a huge increase in the number of dogs dropping off in the mornings! Here are the results:

- **Dogs:** 143 (54 dogs acquired since the first lockdown)
- **Cats:** 134 (36 cats acquired since the first lockdown)
- **Guinea pigs:** 53 (11 acquired since the first lockdown)
- **Hamsters:** 38 (6 acquired since the first lockdown)
- **Rabbits:** 29 (10 acquired since the first lockdown)
- **Fish:** 253 (not sure here if people have counted up every single fish)

Other pets which our families own are:

- Chickens (including cockerels)
- Tortoises
- Lizards
- Gerbils
- Worms
- Turtles
- Horse
- Tarantulas
- Stick insects
- Snakes
- Rats
- Budgie

So, there we go! We are certainly an animal loving community! 54 dogs and 36 cats acquired over the last year. We are an animal loving community at St Peter's. Imagine what might happen if we held a 'Bring your pet to school day'! The most popular breed of dog surely has to be one of the doodle/spaniel crossbreeds.