



# St Peter's Newsletter

26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents

It was wonderful to welcome everyone back on March 8<sup>th</sup>. I hope you all have found your new routine again and that the children have settled well. We have managed to fit so much into the time we have back together. Do keep an eye on our web page and twitter feed for regular updates. Activities have included: Census counting, Fairtrade Fortnight and various outdoor learning experiences such as: Y3 Celts Day which included baking bread on an open fire and dyeing fabric with natural vegetable dyes, Y6 assault course challenge and Y1 looking for signs of Spring. Y2, meanwhile have been preparing the gardens. It has been great to see children so active together and enjoying the Daily Mile and the many outdoor opportunities.

Our attendance is fantastic at the moment at 97% - well done everyone!

We are almost full and have a waiting list in many year groups as our school is becoming a very popular choice for families moving into the area. This is great and we hope that these numbers will be sustained as we meet the challenges of local expansions.

I received a letter from Jeremy Hunt last week, following my phone call with him at the end of last term. He had written to Nick Gibb and the reply I received was that Academies can expand after due consultation. There was no response to the fact that despite there being no need for

additional places in the area and a strong objection to the local consultation, the expansion was allowed to go ahead. We continue to promote our wonderful values and ethos driven school in the knowledge that the families that choose us for this reason.

## **Social distancing at drop off and pick up**

It is becoming increasingly congested at morning drop off. Please can we remind parents to maintain a social distance where possible during this busy time. This is also to support the children going into school safely. Please can we ask dog owners not to congregate immediately outside the main gates or on the pavement opposite as it makes the area congested and difficult for people to walk around. If you have a child at Weydon who picks up, please can you also tell them not to sit on the curbs and verges as it is dangerous, and they are not adhering to social distancing. After school, may we ask that only one person comes on site to pick up. Anyone coming on to the school site, whether at normal pick up or after clubs, must wear a face covering.

## **Thank you to the drop off volunteers**

If you are able to join the team of volunteers please let the office know. It is such a vital part of our morning which ensures a smooth start to the

school day. If you are using the drop off please do not wait until you see your child enter the gate – all adults with high viz have your child's safety as their priority and will ensure they get to their correct gate safely. We need to keep a steady flow of traffic – thank you. **Sarah Dunning**

### **Covid 19 update from Dfe:**

On advice from Public Health England (PHE), pupils in primary schools and children in nursery settings are not included in the rapid asymptomatic testing programme. PHE has advised that there are currently limited public health benefits to testing primary-aged pupils with lateral flow devices (LFD). In addition, primary-aged pupils, particularly younger children, may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab. We are advising that primary-aged pupils should only be tested if they are symptomatic, in which case their families should follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and book a PCR test for the child.

### **Feedback on Home Learning**

We have had some fantastic feedback about the Home Learning provision, and we are proud to say that we had 95% engagement from home learners. Undoubtedly, it was hard work for everyone at home and in school. The transfer to Microsoft Teams went relatively smoothly and enabled us to keep a very close check on each pupil. We really hope that we won't need to record lessons again – but never say never! Next week we shall be sending out a survey to give us a clear idea of what went well and what might need adjusting. If you have more than one child in school, please complete the survey for each child as an individual. You will receive a survey for each. Thank you

### **Clubs**

There has been an impressive take up on the clubs that have started to run at the earliest possible opportunity. We have Football for Y5/Y6 boys and a separate club for Y5/Y6 girls. Netball for Y6 has also proved to be very popular. Next term

(starting first week back) we are starting football on Fridays after school for Y3/Y4 boys and also for Y1/Y2 boys and girls. A separate Y3/Y4 football club will start on Thursdays after school. If you have not signed up, please do so via the school office. We do not have a limit on numbers. These clubs are suitable for beginners and experienced players. Year groups will be kept separate. There is some space also available in the clubs run by CM Sports.

At the moment we cannot say which other clubs may be able to run next term. Most of the external clubs will be guided by their representative body so they are still waiting for confirmation. However, please appreciate that if a club is allowed to run and we feel that the Covid-19 measures can be supported, we shall support it. Some clubs will not have the resources to keep year groups socially distanced.

### **CM Easter holiday clubs**

CM sports are running their club at school over the two weeks of the Easter holidays. The children will know the coaches from their PE lessons and there will be an exciting schedule of activities throughout the day from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. This is a great opportunity for children to socialise with peers, make new friends and keep active after the lockdown. Prices are very reasonable. Please book directly with CM sports.

### **Signposts**

Next week all pupils will be watching the Farnham Signposts Easter workshop. Through drama and song, they prepare separate presentations for each key stage to focus on the real meaning of Easter. The Signposts team are volunteers from different churches around Farnham. The children love the in-school workshops, so we are so grateful to them for spending many hours creating a quality performance for children in Farnham schools.

### **Pets in lockdown**

The School Council is collating how many pets are owned by families at St Peter's – and also how many have been acquired during the last

year. Judging by the numbers of dogs on the gate, quite a few!

### **Forest School**

As you will know, we have taken full advantage of the grounds this term to be outside as much as possible. As well as Forest School sessions, your child will have a curriculum- based session in the forest area – linked to one of the curriculum areas studied in class. As well as the hands-on learning, these are great opportunities to develop social skills and teamwork.

### **Wellbeing**

The children have been very excited to be back at school and we have very impressive attendance. However, as always, we are mindful that a few children may be feeling anxious about the many changes to routines this year – in the same way that adults cope in different ways. At St Peter's we have a team which includes Rosemary Pointon, our Home School Link Worker and Jane Cook, our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. Both have a wealth of experience and strategies to support children's emotional needs. In class, we are using our Trick Box personal development programme to give children strategies for managing their own feelings and for helping them to build confidence, both with relationships and in their own ability to succeed. We continued the Trick Box programme throughout lockdown and the children enjoy being able to choose the card they need in any given situation.

The Forest School and outdoor learning activities give many opportunities to bond with others and explore the natural environment. Learning outside the classroom naturally brings a new dimension of calm and positivity. Likewise, our Learning for Life lessons, support children to develop as individuals and tackle many of the issues which will help them to succeed within the immediate community and beyond. During Home Learning, many of our families followed Mrs Perry's yoga sessions which were designed to help children relax and manage their feelings. If you haven't watched them, they are still posted on the school website. Next term, Mrs Perry will be back in school delivering these sessions face to face.

Overall, our holistic provision is designed to hit the right balance between a solid academic curriculum that challenges each child to achieve their best, and hands- on learning which enables children to develop in many other ways. St Peter's has always been noted for its strong SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision. We know that many families choose the school because of this focus and we hope that through this, we are helping your child to come out of the past year and look towards the future with enthusiasm and positivity.

### **Outdoor Learning**





**Making Easter cards for our penpals in France.**

