



# St Peter's Newsletter



2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Families,

Thank you to everyone who has been patient with all our changing routines as we returned to school this term. Your children have been fantastic and slipped back into learning and school life so well. It has been great to welcome so many new families to our school and to the area, we hope you are starting to feel settled. The nursery is working well, and the children are enjoying their hot dinners which are served, family style, every day.

**Cold or Coronavirus?** This is a difficult time for parents to decide whether their child is suffering from the usual 'back to school' cold or if they have Covid symptoms. The two links below are very useful to help you decide. Of course, if your child is not well and couldn't cope with a day at school then the answer is to give them rest but whether you then choose to take a Covid test will depend on the symptoms.

## **Common cold**

You can often treat a cold without seeing a GP. You should begin to feel better in about a week or 2.

## **Check if you have a cold**

Cold symptoms come on gradually and can include:

- a blocked or runny nose
- a sore throat
- headaches
- muscle aches
- coughs
- sneezing
- a raised temperature
- pressure in your ears and face
- loss of taste and smell

The symptoms are the same in adults and children. Sometimes symptoms last longer in children.

## **Could it be coronavirus?**

If you have a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, it could be coronavirus (COVID-19).

Get advice about coronavirus symptoms and what to do

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/common-cold/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu/>

## **Excusing children from PE**

We are receiving a few letters from parents that have asked that their child sits out of PE as they haven't been feeling very well. We expect all children who attend school to be well enough to take part in the full curriculum (unless they have a physical injury of course). Can we ask you to trust us to keep an eye on your child and if they seem fatigued we will ask them to rest a while?

## **Weekly Tours**

Please tell your friends and neighbours that the weekly school tours are still happening, to allow prospective parents to see St Peter's in action. We meet in groups of 4 maximum and tour outside. It is so important for families to feel the ethos of the school and hear first-hand what we do at St Peter's. Also remind them to watch our promotional video on our website.

### **Extra Layers**

Do feel free to give your child extra layers to wear: vest, base layer, fleece because we are having to keep the school well ventilated and it is starting to get chilly. Please name any additional clothing.

### **BASE Drop Off - parking**

Parents must not park in the school car park.

Please enter the school grounds via the scooter gate and not walk across the car park. Staff pull into the car park all morning and recently there was a toddler running ahead.

### **Toddlers in the staff carpark at pick up**

Please ensure young children are supervised at all times around the cars.

### **Morning Car Drop Off**

We operate a one-way system down the hill, so children can exit the car on the pavement. Please do not pull into the car drop off zone from the opposite direction. Thank you for your cooperation to make this system work really smoothly.

### **Water Bottles**

All water bottles must have a sports lid – we have had this situation a few times over the years – the screw lids are taken off and being tall bottles, are being knocked over.

### **Christmas Cards – PTFA Project**

Your children are busy designing Christmas Cards – please return the forms by Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October to the class teacher. Payment is online as directed.

### **Year 4 Residential 2020/2021**

Sadly, we are not making any further bookings until we have a clearer Covid plan, as it is not fair to ask parents for a financial commitment in uncertain times. We will keep you updated.

### **Year 6 Residential 2020/2021**

Parents will be aware that the date for our trip to Osmington Bay has been moved to 22 – 26 March 2021.

### **Year 6 Residential 2021/2022 (current Year 5 pupils)**

This trip is planned for March 2022 and we will keep you updated.

### **School Uniform**

Please ensure your polo shirt is branded with our logo for both KS1 and KS2. After half term we will move to the winter school uniform for KS2 which is a shirt and tie.

### **School Fund**

This is a sensitive request as we appreciate that some families are finding themselves in tricky financial situations.

Each term we normally ask families for a contribution of £15 per pupil towards our School Fund and £5 per pupil towards our Governor's Fund. The last time we asked families to contribute was back in January. Since then, in order to keep our children, staff and families as safe as possible during these times, the school has spent more money than planned on cleaning resources, safety measures and extra staffing. We are now asking if anyone feels able to contribute £20 this term, we would be so grateful.

All contributions to the Governor's Fund help to pay for building improvements. We have two building projects starting at Easter 2021 and will cost approximately £76,000. For the projects to go ahead, governors need to raise £7,600 as they have to pay 10% of all costs.

Payments can be made via SCOPay. Thank you for considering supporting us.

## **We have our Fairtrade Achiever Award! Hurrah!**



After three years of fun (and hard work) developing our Fairtrade learning further, we have been recredited with the Fairtrade Achiever Award! There are three levels awarded by the Fairtrade Foundation and this is the highest. We have global issues and equality embedded into our curriculum across various subjects and this was highly commended in our feedback:

*"This is an excellent application..."*

*"It is abundantly clear that Fairtrade is an integral part of life at St Peter's – and securely embedded in the curriculum"*

*"We extend a special thank you for the high quality of evidence you provided – it was a real pleasure to read your application"*

*"It is clear from your evidence that your students are passionate about Fairtrade, which reflects really well on the commitment and hard work of the staff at your school"*

*"It's very encouraging to see that you are so active in your support for Fairtrade, through assemblies, fundraising, providing Fairtrade refreshments, and taking part in Fairtrade Fortnight. We are delighted that you promote it through your website and Twitter – reaching a wider audience."*

*"The learning activities that you devised for your pupils were exciting, creative and stimulating – you even managed to include Fairtrade in your French lessons!"*

Covid- 19 cut short our plans to invite members of the community in for tea to hear our pupils telling the stories of Fairtrade farmers. We are committed to doing this as soon as regulations allow. Thanks must go to Mrs Williams who leads on Fairtrade in the school.

## **Sports**

As you know, inter school sports have been curtailed for the time being, but we are in communication with the local Sports confederation to see how we can participate virtually – against other schools. Our sports leaders will be trained and one of their main tasks is to organise inter- house sports challenges. This will be done within bubbles with scores totalled for each house. More to come on that one!



## **Trick Box**

We are finding that Trick Box provides a fantastic way of supporting children returning to school. It aims to help become independent in their decision making and gives them strategies for overcoming emotional wobbles. We have devoted a slot each week to Trick Box input so your child should be able to tell you what they are learning about and the skills they have acquired. If you haven't purchased a set of Trick Box cards they are available from the office. We plan to give an online presentation of how the programme works for those who are unsure or who missed the presentations last year. Clearly we didn't complete the year with Trick Box so we are now revisiting and hope to be able to complete the full year this time around!

## **Home Learning**

Families have received information about learning from home during Covid-19. If a child is symptom free, learning will be sent home. We have a system in place where we can deliver early afternoon if a parent has informed the office that their child is well enough for home learning. As the information stated, if a full class is out learning will be posted on the school website.

## **Emergency Contact Details**

Please ensure that your emergency contact details are up to date with the office and you provide us with two different phone numbers.

## Committees

Committees have been appointed for School Council, Fairtrade, Worship, Global, Eco, Healthy Schools and Arts. We are just working out how we can organise for children to meet across bubbles, but this will be possible as we are blessed with so much space. Photos of the committees will go up on the website soon.



## Harvest

We are collecting specific products for Farnham Food Bank (see earlier communication). This will be co-ordinated by the School Council. Donations should come in 12/13<sup>th</sup> October please.

## Unauthorised Attendance:

Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In accordance with the above Regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. The policy of the Government to which this school has agreed, states that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Headteacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty Notices will be issued by the Local Authority.

The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28-day period, the Local Authority must prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under section 444 Education Act 1996.

Please be aware that **each** parent is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for **each** child who incurs unauthorised absences, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one Penalty Notice.

If there are two parents and two children incurring unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two Penalty Notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21 days.

## In the event of a further lockdown

With the ever-changing Covid-19 situation, if there is a further lockdown and you find your circumstances have changed and your child/children have no access to online learning, please contact the office as soon as possible.

## Celebration Assembly

The children are really enjoying our Friday celebration assemblies. Each week, a child in each class is selected to receive the Head Teacher Certificate. We also spend that time as a class reflecting on the theme for the week and celebrating additional achievements. The assembly is then emailed to the parents who have children mentioned. Due to this being a large file you are sent a condensed version of the assembly. We hope you enjoy it – feel free to share with family but not on social media.