



# St. Peter's C of E Primary School

Dear Parents,




27<sup>th</sup> January 2017

I can't quite believe that we are at the end of January! Have you noticed how so many of the staff are more mobile this half term? We are meeting whilst walking (around the running track/block); we are upping our steps in the evenings and recording our daily steps. We are highly competitive and working in teams as we have taken on the Lands' End to John O'Groats challenge by Surrey. The main reason is to increase the staff well-being by keeping active and helping to alleviate stress through exercise. We hope to continue after the competition has ended.

For this term only I am supporting the leadership team of another church school. I shall be in school on most days but whenever I am not, the school will be led by Sarah Marshall with Wendy McCann deputising. It is an important outreach project which was brokered by both the local authority and the diocese.

Best regards  
Sarah Dunning

### Attendance chart for 97%

<b>IAP</b>	<b>77.4%</b>	
<b>3AB</b>	<b>78.2%</b>	
<b>5ED</b>	<b>78.2%</b>	

### Mathletics

For ease of use, there is now a direct link to Mathletics on the School website Home>Parents>Mathletics, to enable pupils to access their home learning.

### Children's independence and resilience – how much can your child do for themselves?

In school, staff are trying to build up pupils' independence, perseverance and resilience. Across the curriculum we are encouraging children to problem solve and come up with solutions to setbacks that they may encounter both in the classroom and in social or play situations. We ask you to support us with these life skills which will give children a good solid foundation for the transition to secondary school and beyond. This can start at an early age and we would ask again that parents do not escort their child into the building in the mornings and certainly do not sort out their locker for them. If children become used to an adult doing everything for them, they can quickly become anxious if the support isn't there. Please support us in our efforts to develop confidence and independence in children. Let's work as a team!

Believe Achieve Succeed

## **E-safety Talk**

Hopefully parents who attended Wednesday's E-safety Talk found it both informative and thought provoking.

Key points were:

- Parents should check that safety filters are operating on all devices/computers used by children.
- Children should not be on social media under the age of 13. In reality anyone (including an older sibling) can open an account for them.
- Parents should not let children believe they understand the technology better than their parents. If this happens they may be reluctant to ask for help if they encounter something which concerns them.
- Games have an age limit for a good reason. Children can be very vulnerable if they are playing outside a closed group.
- Most young children tend to believe everything they read on the internet – which means they may well be duped by someone pretending to be someone else.
- Children are much more vulnerable to unwanted contact with adults if they are alone in their bedroom – children are safer if they are using technology in a family room with others around.
- Be very careful with children using YouTube.

We were reminded that technology is a wonderful tool in so many ways but parents do need to make sure they know what their child is doing on a computer or device. The most important thing is to keep a dialogue going and to make sure children know who they can speak to if they are worried about something that has happened online. We need to avoid a situation where a child feels their responsible adult will be angry and confiscate the device; this can result in children deciding not to say anything about what concerns them.



## **Year 2 Florence Nightingale Workshop**

Florence Nightingale visited us. She told us about her life. We found out how long it took her to get to Scutari - Ollie

She had a sister called Parthenope and a pet owl. - Rebecca and Isobel.

Florence Nightingale was known as the Lady with the Lamp because she held up a light at night. - Mya

We acted out parts of Florence's life. I was a wounded soldier. Florence looked after me. - Riley

## **St Peter's Worship Committee**

Can you help us?

The team are putting together some Bible story boxes. These are exciting boxes which contain objects which help us to tell a story from the Bible. If you have any objects which you think could support these stories please bring them to the office and place in the labelled box. Items need to be able to fit into a shoe box. We are after: plastic figures, sheep, small pieces of fabric in blue or green, a whale, pairs of animals, a nativity set, a lion, Easter.

The stories we are trying to resource are: The nativity, lost sheep, Good Samaritan, feeding of the 5,000, the prodigal son, Daniel and the lions' den, Adam and Eve and finally Noah's ark.

### **New Reading Books – please support your child with this essential life skill**

You may have noticed that your child has been bringing home a new reading book. We have invested in a new range of books which are both engaging and suited to an individual child's progression in reading. This new reading scheme includes fiction and non-fiction, poetry, plays and many simplified versions of children's classics. We shall be continuing to expand the choices, to include contemporary prize winning children's fiction. We have included books to support less able pupils, as well as books to expand and stretch the more confident readers.

Reading is an essential skill for all children, and as parents you have a very important role to play. As children progress through the school, reading becomes less about decoding words and much more about comprehension, vocabulary extension and understanding. We aim for all children to develop a love of reading and to be able to read for enjoyment, interest and meaning. As well as hearing your child read, you can support them by discussing what they have read and asking your child to predict and retell plots and discuss the motives and actions of characters. It is important to check that children understand the meaning of more sophisticated words and phrases. Research suggests that children need to read a broad range of books, at each phase, in order to acquire an advanced range of vocabulary and to read for meaning.

St Peter's children are encouraged to choose books from a band matched to their ability and all children now have a colour banded book. Children are expected to read at home every night.

Library - please borrow a book!

As well as your child's colour banded book, all children can borrow two library books. We encourage children to choose one fiction and one non-fiction book. The library is open after school on Monday, Thursday and Friday.

### **Living Streets**

Last week the Eco Reps and School Councillors from Years 4, 5 and 6 accompanied Janey, a representative from Living Streets on a School Route Audit. You may have spotted us in our high-vis jackets as we walked a circular route from St Peter's School. Our brief was to identify what was good and bad about our pedestrian routes into school. The children were praised on the quality of their observations which included;

- ❖ the narrow path and large puddles on the pavement along Little Green Lane
- ❖ cars parked on grass verges or the pavement made it difficult for pedestrians, particularly those with buggies.
- ❖ lack of signs warning drivers they were near a school.
- ❖ difficulty in finding safe places to cross busy roads.
- ❖ litter, overgrown bushes and dogs' mess!

Janey will use our comments to write a report to submit to the council. Let's hope it helps encourage a few more of us to walk to school when we can!

Thank you to the children who represented our school so well.

### **UCC Charity School Ghana - sad news**

We received some very sad news on the evening of December 20th – Billa, the head teacher of our Ghanaian link school died suddenly in his sleep at only 41 years of age.

This is devastating not only for his wife and toddler but also for the school as he set it up 17 years ago and spent virtually 24 hours a day there supporting the children and the volunteers. The school is for Accra's poorest - those who cannot get into a free government school (because they are so poor).

We messaged Billa a couple of days before he died. He seemed well and was so excited about the children being able to Skype our children (Mrs Curry's club). We're in the same time zone so it was all going to work brilliantly. We're sure that once everything has settled, we shall be able to resurrect this plan with another adult at the school.

We shall continue to support the school as Mr Locke (parent) confirmed from his visit last year, there is so much good work being done. He met Billa personally and remarked that he was a very special person with so much positivity.

Billa did much more than run the school though: He ran a micro- finance scheme in the community enabling people to borrow tiny amounts of money to run small businesses, he managed football teams in his community (and was particularly proud of his successful girls' team), he organised training for young adults with little education enabling them to make a living through cooking or sewing (we received some beautiful aprons from them last year) and he had also just secured a plot of land to be able to build a concrete structure to extend the school. The fundraising for this was launched a couple of months back. He had so much planned for the future. *Meanwhile, to tie in with World Book Day on 2nd March we shall be raising funds for the school by asking every child to dress up in the colours of the Ghanaian flag – more details to follow.*

### **Sports**

We were delighted to hear that both our football and netball teams (coached by Core Sports) have qualified for the league semi- finals in March. Our footballers came second in their group and our netballers won theirs! There are several sporting fixtures this term including the District Cross Country (where we hope to retain our title) and the Farnham and District schools Swimming Gala. There are various tournaments which also include activities for KS1. So far this year, we have had an amazingly successful sporting season. Many thanks to the staff who volunteer to attend all these events which give our children opportunities to compete.

### **Rev'd Anne Gell**

For those parents who haven't heard, congratulations are in order for Rev'd Anne Gell who is leaving Farnham to take on the challenge of Archdeacon of Wells and Residentiary of Wells Cathedral. This is a very senior appointment in the Church and the fact that she has been chosen for this important role, shows just how lucky we have been to have had Anne's support, guidance and wisdom over the past 12 years. As you know, Anne has been on our Governing Body during that time, including a period as chair. She has been a huge support to the staff both spiritually and with guidance on many other decisions that need to be taken in the pattern of school life. Many families in our community know Anne well and she will be missed by so many in Wrecclisham and the local area.

Read more about Anne's appointment on: [www.bathandwells.org.uk](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk)

### **Muddy Shoes**

Yes – children are coming home with muddy shoes. Children enjoy football and games at lunch time and they all benefit hugely from using the running track. But inevitably these activities cannot be carried out in mid-winter without some expectation of dirty footwear. We have also had to manage the problem in school. We have considered options for alleviating this but have decided that none comes without introducing another problem. Hopefully as the weather improves....

### **Prayer Group**

The prayer group continues to meet monthly to pray for the school and anyone is welcome to come along. In February, we will be meeting in the evening on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm. If you would like details of the venue then please contact Kathryn Beesley on 724366 or [kathryn@abeehive.co.uk](mailto:kathryn@abeehive.co.uk)