



# St. Peter's C of E Primary School

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2015

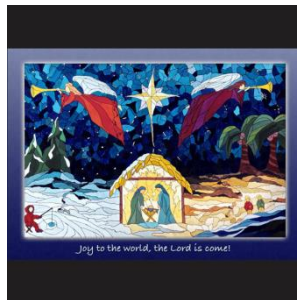


Dear Parents,

The staff and Governors of St Peter's wish you all a very restful, peaceful and Happy Christmas. May you find quality family time together this holiday. The term has been a very busy one with much to celebrate – not least our outstanding inspection outcome. The staff are so dedicated to giving your children the very best experience they can and I wish them too, a well-deserved rest and time with their families.

I am sure you thoroughly enjoyed the nativity, the KS1 production and the KS2 Carol Service to help you all focus on the true meaning of Christmas. The children really rose to the high expectations of the staff and made us all proud.

The Junior Choir, directed by Mrs Goddin, sang carols to the residents of Ashton Manor yesterday. It is always a special time for the elderly community to enjoy the young singers and many joined in.



**We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

Best regards  
Sarah Dunning

### **St Peter's Church Services (in the school hall)**

As many of you know, St Peter's Church is meeting in the school hall while the building is refurbished. You are warmly invited to our Christmas services:

- Carols at 6pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, suitable for families with older children.
- A crib service on Christmas Eve at 4pm, to which children are invited to come dressed as angels, shepherds, crib animals, wise men etc.
- Midnight communion at 11pm on Christmas Eve.
- Family celebration communion at 10am on Christmas Day.

### **Parent Forum**

Thank you to the parents and governors who attended our recent forum. 11 parents were represented at the Parents' Forum. Three more emails were received. Below is a summary of what was discussed and actions for the new year which will result from these discussions. If you have any feedback from reading this summary please do not hesitate to email those into the [info@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk) address.

**Believe Achieve Succeed**

## **Communication:**

- **Parents would like to meet the new teacher in the first week of the Autumn Term** – Action: this will be arranged for September 2016 for an afternoon starting at 2.45pm where the year group teachers will introduce themselves to you and a summary of the year's learning will be shared. Top tips to help your child and organisational matters will be shared.
- **Parents suggested a message book is held in the office to avoid having to catch the teacher in the morning regarding that daily message** – parents currently give messages to the office & passed on to teachers so we will look to see if a book helps this process. Parents are welcome to use the school's email address and all messages are then passed on to staff.
- **Class reps are willing to be used more** – Action staff to give messages to their class rep which will help support the organisation of the year group e.g. reminders about costumes, events, trips etc. School will consider 'message boards' for each year group (or each building).
- **Parents asked if more letters could be uploaded onto the website** – we all agreed that we should be reducing paper and ink. Action: staff will look into this.
- **Parents were concerned that they didn't see their teacher regularly out on the playground.** Senior staff responded by saying that this likely due to the staff meeting/s, the planning meeting and the club that they run in a week and often a personal conversation is happening in the classroom with a parent at that time. **We will be having an open afternoon for all parents on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January from 1.15pm – 3.45pm with more details to follow next term.**
- **Some parents asked if teachers could give a weekly email regarding all the learning that the children are embracing that week in order for parents to engage in conversations around the learning.** This is unmanageable and would impact hugely on an already long and busy teaching day. Information given on the curriculum newsletter, in the Curriculum Map and in the termly Diary Dates List can help initiate conversations. In addition to this parents could:

## **Reading**

Please read with your child regularly. This is vital and the single most important thing you can do to support your child's education. Reading opens up the rest of the curriculum.

- Discuss the story and themes within in it, make predictions, understand new vocabulary and most of all enjoy this time together.
- Encourage your child to pretend to 'read' a book before he or she can read words.
- Visit the library as often as possible - take out CDs and DVDs as well as books.
- Schedule a regular time for reading - perhaps when you get home from school or just before bed.
- Buy dual-language books if English isn't your family's first language - you can talk about books and stories, and develop a love for them, in any language.
- Look for books on topics that you know your child is interested in - maybe dragons, insects, cookery or a certain sport. Try to cover a range of fiction and information texts.
- Make sure that children's books are easily accessible in different rooms around your house.

## **Maths**

- Learn the times tables and division facts when they are ready is vital.
- Talk about the seasons, time, past and present.
- Point out the different shapes to be found around your home.
- Take your child shopping and talk about the quantities of anything you buy.
- Let your child handle money and work out how much things cost.

- Look together for numbers on street signs and car registration plates.

If you do nothing else, please talk to your child. Involve them in conversations when you are out and about. Extend their vocabulary because if children lack vocabulary, reading and writing will become more challenging. Try to model good language and questioning. Focus on the why, how, what if... type questions. Encourage children to think for themselves and problem solve. It is these rich experiences which will feed their natural curiosity and eagerness to find out for themselves.

#### Other discussion points:

- **Parents standing in the playground at pick up will be asked to stand on the playground pitch and not congregate by the doors.** We may look at putting some markings down if it doesn't work informally.
- **Library books are being borrowed under the wrong names.** Action – teachers will address this issue with their class.
- **New parents (especially those that join mid-year) don't always know the routines and systems.** Action – staff to direct new parents to the handbook on the website and to alert the class rep that a new family is joining their group. Also we will be more careful with the terminology that we use and provide explanations.
- **School uniform – why no shorts?** The new uniform list was published for this academic year and many parents have asked why their children cannot wear shorts. The decision was made to address consistency/smartness but quite honestly the school are happy for the uniform list to be changed and shorts to be allowed if that's what parents prefer with immediate effect.
- **Earrings will be banned from September 2016 –** This is an advanced warning. This is an issue that takes up far too much valuable teaching time. This was positively received by the parent forum.
- **A parent said the school should be giving healthy food and drink at the school disco –** The issue will be passed to the PTFA and discussed.
- **Class photos this year – there was a divide in opinion about the new style of group photo.** Action: ask the photography company if they can do a formal rows style as well – if time allows.
- **Houses – parents requested that their children were all in the same house for sports day and throughout their time at St Peter's.** Action – the school agree and will try to address this.
- **Drinking water – are the children encouraged to drink?** Yes they are.
- **BASE expansion –** this was not discussed but Governors are aware that there is a long waiting list for places and the situation is being looked at.

#### Positives from this term:

- Forest school is an excellent opportunity for children with enthusiastic teachers
- SEN management and admin is strong and the transition from Mrs Marshall to Mr Ward has been very tight. A request was made for another SEN Forum so parents can meet Mrs Ward informally.
- PTFA Christmas Fair and disco were excellent.
- Online signing up system for parents evening was a real success.

#### Prayer Group

The school prayer group will be meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan and 11<sup>th</sup> Feb from 8.50 – 9.30. Please meet in the school office.



## **Step By Step**

Thank you to all of the families who contributed to our Christmas charity, Step by Step. We have a wonderful collection of boxes full of gifts for homeless young people in our area. You can be sure that these gifts will go to those most in need.

Emma, Bethany and Beny delivered 54 boxes to the Step by Step offices in

Aldershot. The children were greeted by a client and given a tour of the facilities and opportunities available to the young, homeless people. The children presented to the whole school today about what they learned about the charity.

## **Head Teacher for the day!**

Emma made a fantastic Head Teacher as she worked very hard shadowing Mrs Dunning. Emma had to sign invoices, check emails, represent the school at Step by Step, accompany the choir to Ashton Manor and most importantly check on all the learning that was taking part across the school. She gave out many house points. Now, in Emma's words her day consisted of "No work, wearing her own clothes, fudge and cookies, opening Mrs Dunning's mail, going into the staff room." 😊 She has also told me that she would like to be a person in charge when she grows up! I know she had a great day and she was a pleasure to be with.



## **UCC Future Leaders – Ghana**

As you know, one of our parents, Mr Locke is going to be visiting the Ghanaian charity school in January. The school is desperate for resources. If you have anything that you think may be useful please do send it in during the first week back (pens/learning CDs etc). We know that football gear is always very much appreciated as well - shirts, shorts, socks. *Also please do encourage your child to write a letter to a child in the school. It can be addressed: Dear Friend...*

## **Waiting on zigzags**

The drop off zone is a huge success and we are so grateful to the parents who give their time to run it. Please can you ensure that you always pull up to the furthest volunteer (in their hi-viz jacket) in order for more cars to fit on the unmarked part of the road. Please avoid waiting on the zigzag lines as this prevents pedestrians crossing the road safely. Thank you all for your cooperation in making the drop off zone safe and effective.

## **Morning Reading Program**

If any parent/grandparent can spare 15 minutes twice a week (08:45-09:00am) please could you contact either Mrs Cook or Mrs Sarah Marshall. We really appreciate the volunteers who already support children with their reading. The impact of this programme has been huge. We are currently looking for three more volunteers. Many thanks.

**Old aprons/shirts** If you have a spare apron or shirt we could use for art/messy work please can you send in with your child next term? Many thanks

5/1	INSET 2. School closed for staff training
6/1	Children back at school for the Spring term
6/1	Golf Club starts. 3.15 – 4.15pm
8/1	SCL Football starts for Yrs 1 – 6. 3.15 – 4.15pm
8/1	School Clubs Fair. Children collect information and forms for school clubs they wish to attend
11/1	School clubs forms to be returned to the office. Parents will be notified if children have places
12/1	Tuesday Judo Club starts.
12/1	Yrs 5 & 6 Sports Hall Athletics at Weydon School. 3.45 – 5.30pm
<b>13/1</b>	<b>Premier Sports Floorball starts. 3.15 – 4.15</b>
14/1	Thursday Judo Club starts
15/1	Yr 3H Class Assembly. Yr 3H parents welcome. In the hall at 9.00am
15/1	Deadline for September 2016 Reception Intake
18/1	School Clubs start
18/1	Tennis Club starts
20/1	Yr 2 Florence Nightingale Workshop. £4.00
21/1	Yrs 3 & 4 Mini Tennis Tournament at The Bourne Club. 4.00 – 5.30pm
22/1	Swim Squad starts at Farnham Leisure Centre
26/1	Yr 2 Basketball Festival at Weydon School. 3.45 – 5.00pm
27/1	Parents' Maths Information Evening. In the hall at 6.00pm
28/1	Yr 5 & 6 Mini Tennis Tournament at The Bourne Club. 4.00 – 5.30pm
29/1	Yr 3B Class Assembly. Yr 3B parents welcome. In the hall at 9.00am