



St. Peter's C of E Primary School

Dear Parents,

29th January 2016








It was great to see so many of you at our new open afternoon held this week. We had 134 parents/grandparents visit us. We hope you enjoyed this opportunity to see the school in action. We received lots of positive feedback and parents especially liked seeing the Forest School in action. For many of you it will be the first time since taking a tour to choose our school. We will continue this open afternoon on an annual basis at this time of the year as it bridges the gap between the two parents' evenings. We will continue to have our summer, open afternoon too where you get to meet the new teacher and see the new classroom.

The maths evening held this week was well received and parents feedback to say they found it very useful. The Progression of Skills in maths document was emailed to you all and hopefully gives you an insight into the order in which children learn mathematical concepts. I am grateful to all the staff who gave their time to the evening as it was a great opportunity for parents to 'pick the teachers' brains'.

This term our assembly themes are courage and inclusiveness. We will be also be celebrating Candlemas and reminding ourselves about the significance of Lent.

Our school attendance target is 97%. The attendance for last half term was 97.2% which is fantastic and above our target. If a child's attendance drops below 90% it can have a significant impact on their education. The school routinely sends out letters to families whose children's attendance has dropped below the national average of 95%. Please can we also encourage you to give a reason for your child's absence when you call the office. If no reason is received then your child will have an unauthorised absence. If 10 unauthorised absences are recorded in a year then the Educational Welfare Team will make contact with you.

Attendance chart for 97%

1W	97.4%	
2VB	97.5%	
3AB	97.3%	
3CH	97.3%	
4EA	98%	
4JE	98.1%	
5PG	97%	

Believe Achieve Succeed

6VB

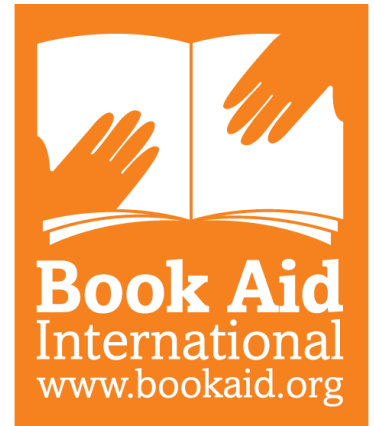
97.4



Best regards
Sarah Dunning

Thursday 3rd March is World Book Day

The children will be receiving a money off voucher to spend on books. We will be asking children to bring in a donation of a minimum of 50p to donate to Book Aid International (the chosen charity this year for national book day) There will be buckets in the playground before and after school. In many countries children have no access to books. Without books to read your future cannot be as bright as it could be. For every £2 our school raises, Book Aid International will send a new book to Africa.



Take Healthy Selfie!!

At St Peter's we all like to stay healthy. We had such a successful update on our Shelfie project (selfies in front of our bookshelves) we are launching a Healthy Selfie challenge. All you need to do is take a picture of yourself doing something healthy eg going for a walk, at a sports' class, eating some fruit or vegetables. You can either print them off or email them to us at info@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk. Thank you to the many children who have already brought in a picture after we mentioned it in assembly last week. We are also encouraging staff and parents to join in!! When we have a good amount we will create a display of all the healthy people at our school!! It will also help us as we work towards our Healthy School's Status.

Drop off Zone

We are so pleased the difference this has made to the traffic congestion outside school. May I just remind people that they still need to use mirrors, signal, manoeuvre before pulling away, as not everyone on the road is a parent using the drop zone.

PARKING

Our local police have received a number of complaints from neighbours about inconsiderate parking by parents. They have asked us to pass on the following:

Please remember to park carefully and with proper consideration to residents and other road users.

Please consider that if you:

- Obstruct the footpath, such that a double buggy, wheelchair or mobility scooter cannot pass
- Park too close to a junction (within 10 metres)
- Block people's driveways

You could be committing an offence and may be dealt with accordingly.

Chris Locke's visit to UCC Future Leaders Charity School, Accra, Ghana

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, Chris Locke (father of Tilde and Alice) was able to pay a visit to our link school while on a business in Ghana earlier this month. Thank you to everyone who wrote a letter or sent in resources. Chris left with a case full of learning resources and met Billa, the man who started the school and runs it today. This is what Chris said about his visit:

"It's an amazing job Billa is doing there - Teshie is a very poor area and the fact that he's been able to raise the school together from scratch is inspirational. They're moving to a new site soon next to the current site, where they will be able to build new buildings and a better ICT centre. I'm going to stay in touch with Billa and see if we can help get an internet connection to the school and equipment when he moves to the new site.

Thanks for helping me get in touch with Billa, and hopefully I'll be able to help with more regular contact between the school and St Peter's. I've worked in Africa & SE Asia for years, running projects in the poorest areas of the world, and it never stops being an emotional experience to see how desperate people's situations are, and at the same time inspirational to meet people determined to help their communities. Billa's quite a guy."



The school sent us some beautiful handmade aprons made by the older children who are not able to graduate to secondary school. In fact they're too beautiful to use! We shall put them on display in the reception area.



Mathletics

Mathletics is going really well and children are telling us how much they enjoy doing it. As a parent you can sign up and receive a weekly email about how much your child is completing and how well they are doing. This weekly maths homework is compulsory. The majority of the tasks can be completed on a tablet computer. If you have a problem with access at home please remind your child they can attend Mathletics club on Tuesday lunchtime. This is a fun and supportive club. It is not a detention. There will be some children who cannot access the internet at home or that week experienced a temporary problem. Come along to the Year 3 and 4 area and use our equipment. We also have older children there to help the younger ones.

Forest School Update

Following a very successful past year with Forest School, we have now included it in more curriculum areas so that all children will have an opportunity to experience learning in the woodland area. Every year group has been timetabled to spend two sessions learning in the outdoor environment. Teachers work closely with our training Forest School leaders to ensure that all learning activities support the curriculum. This may be across a variety of subjects. As an example, Y5 investigated reversible and irreversible reactions to bring their Science alive. Y4 will be looking at the formation of mountains by creating structures from what they find naturally in the environment, fitting in with their Geography study of The Alps. In Y1, the children will be looking at seasonal changes. You will receive a note advising you of the curriculum link in your child's class.

The Forest School activities take place in some form five afternoons a week. As well as the curriculum focus, there are two separate mixed key stage groups, an Early Years session and an intervention group. Mrs Webzell and Miss Sinden are both qualified Forest School instructors and have been trained to lead

groups in a variety of risk-taking activities. At the open afternoon this week, some parents were surprised to learn that the children learn to make and cook on a fire. They also learn to use knives and other tools to enable them to make the most of natural resources. At the moment some of the children are making a bench. One of the main objectives of Forest School is to come out of your comfort zone and learn to take risks. Team work is also a necessary skill if the projects are to be successful. Forest School is designed to challenge and give children new experiences.



We are also welcoming the head teacher from The Abbey School to observe one of our Forest School Sessions as this is an area they are hoping to develop.

Nail Varnish

Please ensure children remove nail varnish for school.

Earrings

From September children will not be permitted to wear earrings to school.

Parent Handbook

Don't forget that we have a parent handbook on our school website which has been written in conjunction with parents and hopefully contains all the information you need. This is especially helpful for new parents.

Prayer Group

The prayer group continues to meet monthly to pray for the school. Anyone is welcome to join us. Forthcoming meetings are Thursday 11th February and 10th March 8.50-9.30 in the small room adjoining the music room. For more information contact Kathryn Beesley on 724366.

Forest School

We are looking for some saucepans for forest school. The pans we would like are the old style pans with steel handle (not plastic), we will be using them to cook on an open fire. If you have any that you would be able to donate please see Mrs Webzell or Miss Sinden.

Temporary BASE Play Worker Vacancy

Start Date: To be confirmed (likely to be from end of March)

Pay Scale: Surrey Pay SP3

Hours: 3pm to 6pm: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Contract: Temporary contract to cover staff absence (for approx. 6 weeks)

Are you a reliable, energetic play worker? We are looking for someone to work in our highly successful 'Before and After School Experience' club (known as BASE). This is to cover temporary staff absence, therefore if you are interested, please come and speak to Mrs Hopkins or Mrs Wilson or email for further details: info@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk

Our club provides high quality child care for our children aged 4 to 11 years. The ideal candidate will be passionate about creating a safe and nurturing environment, providing healthy food and activities for pupils. They will maintain a safe and stimulating play setting and encourage child centred play. At St Peter's we have high expectations where everyone achieves and succeeds within a safe, inclusive Christian community. We promote independence, respect and empathy in our pupils.

St Peter's C of E Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to Enhanced Disclosure Procedures therefore all appointments are made subject to criminal records and references checks.