



St. Peter's C of E Primary School









Dear Parents,

I am sure you and your children are looking forward to half-term and will enjoy a well-deserved rest. Thank you for your continued support in everything you do at our school whether it is volunteering, supporting charity work, supporting your child's learning or attending events. We appreciate your commitment and look forward to embracing the second half of term with a busy but fun lead up to Christmas.

Year 6 left on Monday morning full of excitement and anticipation of the week ahead. I am sure they will return exhausted but full of stories and personal successes. I wish to thank all the staff who have joined the Year 6 children this week – some at short notice as they will have given a great deal of energy to the week's activities and responsibilities.

I do apologise that we often use abbreviations in the newsletter which for many parents, especially new parents, can be unhelpful and confusing. We will endeavour to give explanations for abbreviations and check our newsletters careful so as not to assume you know what we are talking about!

Attendance chart for 97%

EYFS: Tadpoles	98.6%	
IW	97.4%	
3B	97.2%	
3H	99.4%	
4A	98.7%	
4E	97.1%	
5PG	98.6%	
5KT	97.4%	

I am sure that you agree there is a wonderful offer of before, lunch and after school clubs. As a school we try to offer as wide a range as possible. Many of the clubs are run by teachers and these are for free. They do this as part of their working day and therefore postpone other work until after the club. We are doing the very best job we can, given the high demands of the teaching profession. Please be patient if clubs run by teachers have to be cancelled due to training or meetings. We will endeavour never

Believe Achieve Succeed

to cancel but sometimes we have no option. Also, whilst we encourage first come first served we appreciate that some half terms are longer than others so on some occasions some children will have more session than others. That's just the nature of the beast. I do hope children are continuing to enjoy this wonderful opportunity.



Welcome to our new team member – Mel and her dog Herman. They visit us once a week and spend time in the school library listening to children read. Herman loves being read to and also enjoys lots of fuss. Herman also takes part in group work where children read and chat. He really is a gentle giant and a great addition to our team.

Best regards
Sarah Dunning

Parents' Evenings

These will be taking place on Tuesday 10th November 3.30pm – 6.00pm and Wednesday 11th November 3.30pm – 7.00pm. If for any reason these times are not convenient for you please contact the school office.

NEW BOOKING SYSTEM.

This year we are taking bookings **online** through our usual Scopay system which you should already be registered with for making online payments. If however you are **not**, please do so using the online access link code which has been emailed to you again this week.

This year we will be conducting the meetings without the children. We believe this is important to be able to have adult communication which is honest and frank. Conversations with the children happen daily and this is an important time for parents to ask questions and discuss their child. In the Spring term Year 6 children will be invited to join the conversation to help them prepare for life at Secondary School.

Winter Uniform

When we return after Half-Term please ensure children are dressed in our winter uniform. This is trousers (no shorts), shirt and tie for junior children, tights when needed for girls. Please ensure your child has a coat in school every day.

School Website

Do use our school website as the first port of call as this has a wealth of information on it including items such as: diary dates, class timetables, clubs etc.

Attendance

We have recently had our half termly visit from our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) which was very successful because our attendance is above Surrey average. We have continued to set our target at 97%. Persistence Absence (PA) is now recorded for children who have 90% or less at any time of checking. Sometimes the absence is genuine but parents have forgotten to give the office a reason. Please ensure you ring in when your child is absent and give a reason so we can apply a code to their register record. The office will ask once. If no reason is given the child will be marked as unauthorised. Please avoid routine appointments in school time. However, we understand that specialist appointments often have to be taken when they are offered and we will support you on this.

Gold!

Our school has been awarded the Gold School Games Mark for all our efforts in sport at St Peter's. It is a testament to all of our children who give time and energy in the sports arena and those involved in sports leadership roles. The latter is the area that has moved us to Gold this year and sets us apart from other primary schools. It is with great pride that we thank Caroline Hyland for her passion and dedication to the sport and the young leaders in our school which has allowed us to win this award. Thanks must also go to the staff and parents who support sports clubs and events throughout the year, over and above your teaching role.

(The gold logo is on the bottom of the new letterhead emailed out recently)

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Medicines at school

A reminder that school staff will only administer prescription medicines to your child once they have spoken with you and you have signed the consent form.

Our school is too big now for the office to administer over the counter medicines. In some cases a dose of Calpol or Nurofen before school give them a little boost to get through the day but we will not be able to 'top up' whilst they are at school. If your child is not well of course we understand that you will need to keep them at home and equally if they become ill at school we will send them home.

Clubs

Please could you remind your child that clubs are a commitment for a specified period of time. If they are not attending for any reason, it is important that they go in person to speak to the adult running the club. We have had a few cases of children giving the message to a friend to relay, which of course takes the responsibility away from the child concerned. While we make this message clear at school, we would appreciate the same message coming from home. It's all about responsibilities, independence and respect. Thank you for your support in this.

No Hair Gel

Please can we remind you that no hair gel should be used in school. Hair should always be conservative (and tied back for girls).

Stud earrings only

Please ensure all earrings are small, discrete studs. We have seen lots of bright colours and shapes appearing.

Reading with your children

What a joy it can be to share a good book with your child. Thank you to all the parents who attended our reading evening – we hope it inspired you and helped you to understand how the school teaches children to read. Once a child can read we focus at school on the comprehension of the text. This is something you can do at home to check their understanding of what they have read. This can include fact retrieval, prediction of the story, understanding characters' motives or maybe in non-fiction looking at how the text is organised.

School Library - open afternoons

As mentioned last month, we are hoping to trial an opening of the school library on three afternoons a week. This would be from 3.15 - 3.40, giving children an opportunity to browse and select a book to enjoy at home.

We have had one parent offering to support this initiative. If anyone else is able to offer one afternoon we would be very grateful. Please contact Mrs S Marshall in the first instance.

Prayer Group

All are welcome to join with us to pray for the school. A small group of parents and friends of the school will be meeting from 8.50 – 9.30am on Thursday November 12th and Thursday December 3rd in the little room adjoining the music room. For more information contact Kathryn Beesley on 724366.

St Peter's Church Message:

The building work at St Peter's Church is due to commence shortly. As part of the work pews are being removed from the building. If you would be interested in purchasing one please contact Liz Ambrose at lizzy@bowyer.org.uk by the 1st November to find out more information.