



Dear Parents,

September 2015

Our children are working very hard this term and on my learning walks I have seen a very high standard of learning and presentation. Our teachers have high expectations and the children are rising to them and enjoying doing so.

Attendance is at an all-time high of 98.1%. I realise we haven't been back at school long but let's keep our attendance at this level – above our target of 97%. Holidays and family events will not be authorised during term time except for exceptional circumstances.

We are so incredibly proud of last year's Year 6 and the exam results that they achieved. At our school we will provide the best education we can to get the best out of every child. We aim to achieve this in an enjoyable atmosphere. Here are the test results from 2015 SATS. They have increased from the year before considerably. All the staff work extremely hard throughout the whole school to prepare children for the end of the Juniors and beyond. The national data will be available soon and a comparison of our data against it will be found on the website.

	Level 4c+	Level 4b+	Level 5c+	Level 6
English (SPAG)	97%	94%	84%	19%
Reading	94%	88%	59%	0%
Maths	94%	94%	72%	16%

It is so incredibly disappointing that this term has begun with a parent complaining about a school issue on Facebook. Please come and talk to staff about any issues or concerns you have. It is all too easy to rant on social media but all it does is fuel unnecessary anxiety when issues can be dealt with at source. The school and its governors create school policies after a great deal of thought and discussion so to complain about a school rule on Facebook is unnecessary and inappropriate.

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our School Development Plan meeting and for the PTFA AGM which followed. We always feel incredibly supported and these evenings help us to work together to move the school forward. A summary of what we discussed is included later in this newsletter. We totally appreciate that it isn't easy for many parents to get out in an evening due to working commitments and child care. If you ever have any thoughts or suggestions you are welcome to mail us on [info@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk)

Kind regards  
Sarah Dunning

Believe Achieve Succeed

### **Requests for leave of absence**

If a parent wishes to request a period of leave for their child, they are required to write to the head teacher using the form obtained from the office. Leave of absence will not be offered to pupils for family holidays except under special / exceptional circumstances.

### **Scooters**

Please do not allow your children to ride their scooters in any part of the school grounds, especially not in the buildings. This is for everyone's safety.

### **Dogs**

No dogs, except assistance dogs, are allowed on school grounds. Please do not wait in the staff car park with your dog. We have seen children run across the car park to greet you and this is not safe. Please tie them up at the front of the school building away from the main gates.

### **School Development Plan (SDP)**

The SDP is an action plan for all staff members and governors showing targets and milestones which allow the school to become even better. A summary of this SDP can be found on our website. We set targets from our monitoring and evaluations which highlight key areas within the school to develop. We also receive support from the Local Authority and the Diocese through inspections and drop-ins.

Below is a summary of the strengths and areas to develop which the parents present at our meeting this week contributed. I am sure there were more but weren't necessarily captured. The strengths were from recent improvements last year.

#### **Strengths:**

New exciting curriculum map  
Website  
BASE  
Clubs – wide offer  
Buddy system for EYFS pupils  
Music  
Outdoor learning  
Forest school (and holiday club)  
Communication has improved

#### **Developments:**

Library – use it more and possibly after school opening hours  
Homework – ensuring all classes have the same timetable  
Contacting teachers for quick comments  
Arrival and collection of children is hectic – consider marked out areas on the playground to avoid confusion  
Copy of timetable sent home (we will put this on the website asap)  
Forest school holiday club all day for KS1  
Information for parents about who the cover teachers are (all teachers have 10% of their time each week, out of the classroom, preparation and marking (PPA) and this is usually covered by employed members of staff. Occasionally we book a supply teacher but we try to use staff who are familiar to the children and our school.  
Changing of reading books – more frequent and supervised (even for the lower Juniors)

### **Calling All Gardeners! (or people just happy to weed!)**

We are so fortunate to have raised beds for all the year groups and they have done a fabulous job during term time to grow and nurture their plants and veg. However, they are now very over grown and we are looking for some volunteers to help us weed and sort out the patches. Come along at any time of the school day that suits you and stay as long or as short as you can. We will be so grateful for any help. Please contact the school office if you have the green fingers we need!

### **Music Lessons**

Would you like your child to learn an instrument at school? We have fabulous music teachers on site who can enthuse and develop your child's love of music. We have currently: drums, guitar, flute, violin, piano and clarinet. If you are looking for an instrument we don't currently offer please come and see us so we can try to source a teacher. Please go to the office to receive the contact details for the teacher you require. Currently 20% of our children learn a musical instrument!

### **School Library**

We are currently considering whether or not it would be possible to open the library for a short period after school, giving children greater access to borrowing a book. It may be that parents may like to help their child with selecting a book.

This does depend on whether we are able to put together a small team of volunteers to co-ordinate. We would like to run a trial period for two days a week, running from 3.15pm and closing promptly at 3.40pm. It would involve ensuring that books are taken out and returned correctly and that the library is kept in order. If there is anyone who feels that they might be able to help with this initiative please contact Mrs S Marshall and we can talk about how to take it further. Many thanks.

**Parent Forum**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 9.00-9.45am**

Come and have your say.

We haven't had a hot topic to discuss in a parent forum for a while, but now I would like to invite parents to come and join an open discussion about school life. Come and have a nag, get things of your chest or pay us a compliment! We are transparent at St Peter's and wish to listen and reflect on feedback that we receive. If you would like to attend please fill in the slip below and return to the office.

If you are unable to attend but wish to make a comment please do so and return to the office. Please meet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October in the school office to sign in and then we will move to the designated room together.

---

---

**Parent Forum Reply Slip**  
**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 9.00-9.45am.**

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year groups representing: \_\_\_\_\_

I can attend  (please tick)

I cannot attend but wish to make the following comment/s:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---