



St. Peter's C of E Primary School










Dear Parents,

20th October 2017

As you read this the Year 6 children and I will be having an amazing time on the residential trip. No doubt they will come home full of stories of their adventures and a suitcase of clean clothes! Time away from home with the team of staff and children does wonders for their independence and they create new friendships with children they might not usually play with. Their learning will be enhanced when they return by using the experiences in their writing. May I thank the staff team for giving up a week with their own families to be with the children as they encourage, praise and support them in activities which challenge their comfort zones.

Happy Half Term everyone!

Attendance chart for 97%

EYFS: Caterpillars	96.4%	
EYFS: Tadpoles	98.1%	
IJW	97.4%	
IAP	95.8%	
2SD	96.9%	
2JW	96.8%	
3AB	97.2%	
3CA	98.5%	
4JE	99.8%	
4WM	97.1%	
5ED	98.5%	
5TS	99.4%	
6BT	96.3%	
6PG	98.3%	

Best regards
Sarah Dunning

New system

Leave of Absence

If you require special leave of absence then in addition to filling in the form you will need to make an appointment to speak to Mrs Dunning. We are having too many families taking holiday in term time and it is vital this is discussed with the Head Teacher in order for you to present sound reasons why you want your child to miss their education.

Penalty Notices – an extract from our Attendance Policy

The Education Welfare Service, acting on behalf of Surrey County Council may issue a Penalty Notice as an alternative to the prosecution of a parent/carer for their child's unauthorised absence from school and requires the recipient to pay a fixed amount.

The amount payable on issue of a Penalty Notice is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days.

If the Penalty Notice is not paid within 28 days, the Local Authority must consider prosecuting the parent/carer for failing to ensure regular school attendance under Section 444 Education Act 1996.

Circumstances when Penalty Notices may be issued

- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, which became law on 1st September 2013 state that Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Head teacher is required to determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.
- Where a child is taken out of school for 5 days or more and the 'leave of absence' is without the authority of the Head Teacher, each parent may be liable to receive a penalty notice for each child who is absent. In these circumstances, a warning will not be given where it can be shown that parents had previously been warned that such absences would not be authorised and that they may be liable to receive a Penalty Notice if the leave of absence is taken.
- The issue of a Penalty Notice will also be considered where a pupil has incurred 7 or more unauthorised sessions during the preceding 6 school weeks. The parents' failure to engage with supportive measures proposed by the school or Education Welfare will be a factor when considering the issue of a Penalty Notice. Unauthorised absence will include late arrival after the close of registration without good reason.
- With the exception of unauthorised leave of absence taken in term time, parents will be sent a formal warning of their liability to receive such a notice before it is issued.

Pen Licence

Children are always proud of themselves when their handwriting is neat enough to use a pen. The school provides your child with an ink pen which has been specially designed for handwriting. They do not need to bring their own pen in.

Planning Ahead for School Residential Trips

The children absolutely love the residentials and gain so much from them. We suggest that you start to plan ahead for the financing of the trips and maybe put money aside in good time to make it less of an issue nearer the deadlines. If you ever have any worries about financing a residential please make an appointment to speak to Mrs Dunning.

School pick up is 3.15pm

We are having increasing numbers of children being picked up late after 3.15pm. Please ensure you are here on time to collect your child. Staff need to get on to meetings and continue their work. There are parents turning up late on a regular basis meaning that staff are spending increasing time waiting in the playground with certain children. If a staff member is waiting for 10 minutes each day, that equates to almost an hour of their time (which should be spent on marking or planning for the children)

Zigzags

Please do not park or pull up on the zigzags during drop off and pick-ups. Let us work together to keep our children safe.

Equally please do not park near to or on junctions as this is very dangerous and restricts drivers' views.

BASE

Our extended care provision is really successful and popular. We are able to cater for up to 40 children. If your name is on the waiting list but you make alternative provision please can you let the BASE staff know so they can adjust their lists. Thank you.

St Peter's Church

St Peter's Church would be delighted to see you at any of their services. During November, there are two services which are particularly suitable for children – Remembrance Sunday, 12th November at 10am, when Junior Church will be meeting, and on Sunday 19th November at 10am we have our monthly 'All Age' service. There is also a toy corner in the church and service relay to the hall to cater for pre-school children and parents. See the church website for more information or to contact us.

Cross Country at Farnham Park

St Peter's had an incredible team of 80 runners out last Saturday morning at Farnham Park for the Farnham and Ash Inter Schools Cross Country. There was a super team spirit between all the children and we had some brilliant results including 2 individual podium finishes! Ollie Russell came a brilliant 2nd in the boys' race, and Jemima Henderson 3rd in the girls' - both ran so well.

St Peters was the only school to place in the girls' (3rd) boys' (3rd) and the overall (3rd). The children showed real determination with some year 3 and 4 children showing great potential for the coming years! We are so proud of everyone who ran. Please encourage your child to participate as it is an opportunity to represent their school. The next meet is in March 2018



Yr2 Brooklands Museum

Last week Year 2 visited Brooklands Museum. We spent the day looking at a large variety of cars, planes, bikes and buses. They all sat in a racing car, took a 'ride' on the top of a bus and even 'took a flight' in Concorde! They had a great day out.

I liked going in the race car. It felt really low. Scarlett
Concorde was the best. I thought the nose was really pointy. Zane
I enjoyed going upstairs in the bus. Matilda
I liked sitting in the royal plane. It was cosy. It had a TV, sofas and a bedroom inside. Isaac

School Lunches

Here at St Peter's, school lunches are provided by Surrey Commercial Services and our school chef has been Sarah Phillips. Unfortunately, Sarah leaves St Peter's today to explore new pastures. We have four kitchen staff who work very hard to produce meals of the highest standard – you may have noticed that some of the ingredients are now organic!

Surrey Commercial Services have been awarded a GOLD, Food for Life Served Here award by the Soil Association. The award recognises our dedication to providing meals that not only meet the national School Food Standards, but that are fresh, local and honest. You can find out more about the award here: www.foodforlife.org.uk/servedhere and win educational food prizes for our school by searching the online school food map. Please do take a look and learn more about the quality of meals on offer at lunchtime and help us win these fantastic prizes.

If you have any questions about school lunches please speak to someone in the school office.

If your child is not needing a hot dinner please ensure you cancel your order with the school office to avoid food wastage.

Early Years Pirate Party



As a finale to their topic work Early Years held a Pirate Party to celebrate their learning.

Forest School – please equip your child with appropriate clothing!

If your child is in Y4-Y6 please could you ensure that they bring suitable clothing on their Forest School days. Please look at the forecast weather so that they are well-prepared. As well as the elements and the possibility of making a fire, we have nettles and brambles in the forest area so clothing needs to be fit for purpose. We have had some children turning up with t-shirts and shorts meaning that they cannot participate fully in the activities. Thank you

Uniform

Just a reminder that after half term the summer uniform should not be worn. Please remind your child to bring a coat as it is getting colder. Names in everything and finally to keep the nits at bay, all pupils' hair if shoulder length must be tied back securely (boys and girls).

International collaborative learning

We are starting to make some links with children in other European countries by linking up some learning in a couple of year groups. Y6 recently looked at posts about life in schools in other countries such as Lithuania, Poland and Spain. Children's responses to this were very positive:

"I think we can improve the things we do by seeing how other schools do things."

"It's interesting to see that children in different countries learn the same things as us. They even do Forest School and a Daily Run"

We also looked at the topic: *Home Sweet Home* and thought about what 'home' really means. As you would expect, most of the discussion focused on family, friends and familiar places – a sense of belonging. This was then put into the context of how it must feel for those who have lost their home which prompted some deep discussion but was also a good exercise in empathy for others.

Music Enrichment at St Polycarp's

Last week, three friends and I went to St Polycarp's for a music day. There were about 20 children from different school. We played instruments all day. I played two xylophones and some chime bells. We played a tune about a lion. It was a great day! Now I'm thinking I'd like a guitar and a drum set for Christmas!

Finley Doherty (Y3)

Swimming

This term we have introduced curriculum swimming for children in Y5/Y6 who cannot swim 25m.

It is a national expectation for all children to be able to swim by the time they finish primary school. But more importantly, swimming is a life skill affording additional confidence when travelling on boats or on holiday. If children don't learn to swim in primary school, they will have very limited opportunities to learn later in life.

If your child is still not able to swim please support them to join us on a Friday morning. Lessons are seriously subsidised and small groups guaranteed.

Please contact the office for details.

Year 1 Visit

Year 1 enjoyed visiting Queen Elizabeth Country Park again as part of their learning about woodland habitats. The weather was very kind to us with warm autumnal sunshine for much of the day. The day was led by park rangers who had organised lots of exciting learning activities. The children made hedgehog homes in the woods; went on a blindfold trail pretending to be centipedes that live in the dark; hid nuts (not real ones) as squirrels would for the winter; hunted for worms as if they were badgers; went on a wildlife orienteering trail around the park and finally made beautiful autumnal bookmarks with leaves. We are very grateful to all the parents who so generously gave up their time to support and help the children through the day. It was a great day and afterwards many children said they loved everything!

Y6 Residential Trip to PGL Osmington Bay – Dorset

The Y6 children have had an amazing (albeit wet) week down on the Dorset Coast. Everyone participated fully in the exciting and challenging activities available, including climbing, fencing, archery and dragon boating in Portland Bay Harbour! All the children benefitted from working in groups, challenging themselves as individuals, developing their independence and increasing their confidence. Both children and staff look forward to a well-deserved half term break! We shall be uploading photos onto the school website but this may not be complete until after half term.



Job Vacancy – School Kitchen

Surrey Commercial Services provide staff who run our school, providing around 250 hot meals every day. They now have a vacancy for a caterer working 25 hours per week, during term time, based here at St Peter's. If you are interested in applying or just want further information, please contact Barbara Marshall on 07968861588 or Sue Hattley 07968834420.