

Dear Parents,

29th September 2017

What a supportive and loving community you are. Thank you for all the compassion, support and help that you have given in words, actions and messages to the Harris family over the last two weeks. There is a book of condolences in the office for anyone to add to.

The learning this term so far has been so exciting. A Greek workshop for Year 6 was well received. Their costumes were amazing – thank you everyone for your efforts and possible last minute panics. Don't forget to save your costumes and pass them onto friends with younger children ready for their turn!

Over 40 children have been taking part in workshops in other schools in Farnham. Every school in our Confederation has offered an exciting opportunity for children from neighbouring schools to come together, meet new people and learn new skills. It has really helped children's independence and given them lots to talk about. We have been able to offer Forest School to children who aren't fortunate to have a forest area in their grounds.

The whole school have been reminded about the benefits of walking to school in assembly this week and were visited by Strider!

Finally, we are so proud of our EYFS children who have settled so well into their routine and are making good friends and enjoying their learning.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the PTFA (Parents, Teachers, Friends Association) AGM. The school is so grateful for all the hard work you all do to raise valuable funds for the children and for giving the community such fun events. If you weren't able to join us but want to join in the planning, organisation, promoting or running a stall etc please find Jo Michaelides (PTFA chair)

Pupil Premium Funding

Additional funding is given to us by the government for some children depending on their family financial circumstances or whether they are a looked-after children or service children. This is called Pupil Premium funding and as a school we deploy to support individual or groups of children. Further details can be found on the school website. Many of the extra activities we provide using this funding, are designed to help children with their confidence, motivation and self-esteem, as well as with their academic progress. Staff monitor all children closely and extra opportunities and support are offered where and when appropriate.

If your child qualifies for Pupil Premium Funding, they can also receive free school meals and free school milk. In some instances they may also receive help towards the cost of trips, including residential trips. If you are in receipt of certain benefits or **if you are in any doubt whether your child will qualify**, please ask for a form from the school office, which allows us to check your eligibility.

School Development Planning (SDP) Evening












You may have been perceptive that we did not tie in the SDP annual event with the PTFA AGM this year. The reason for this is that we have decided to move the planning evening to the Spring term. The SDP is the main document held by the governors, senior team and staff which shows the points we need to develop as a school. It focuses on the areas of learning and teaching that we need to improve. Whilst there is a small area of buildings and resources, the focus is on the children. Although we focus on one

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academic year at a time, the plan is actually for 3 years, time bonded and budget driven. We feel that there will be greater impact involving the parents during the process rather than, in the past, at the end of the process. Previously the SDP would have been written by the different teams and then parents would be asked to 'chip in' with the things they feel are important. From now on we want parents to be an integral part of the process. We are a Good school with an Outstanding SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican, Methodist and ecumenical Schools) and we now need to move forward to make our standards even higher. Look out for the date and join us for joined up thinking and ownership of your school.

Best regards
Sarah Dunning

Attendance chart for 97%

EYFS: Tadpoles	98%	
EYFS: Caterpillars	94.7%	
1JW	97.6%	
1AP	98.7%	
2SD	98.6%	
2RH	96.3%	
3AB	97.2%	
3CA	97.9%	
4JE	97.2%	
4WM	98.7%	
5ED	98.7%	
5TS	97.8%	
6BT	97.3%	
6PG	98.2%	

Absence

If you have received a letter regarding the attendance of your child from the Head Teacher you may be asked to provide details of any appointment within school opening times for eg a letter/appointment card. Whilst we appreciate that it can be difficult to get an appointment, please try to get one out of school hours.



Sports Leaders

On Tuesday 26th September 10 year 6 children spent a morning training to be Sports Leaders at All Hallows School. They took part in a number of team building events, got a chance to lead a new group, and learnt how to run an intra school X country event.

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We are looking forward to putting all these ideas into practice at St Peters soon!



Yr 4 Forest School

On Friday, 4M went to forest school. We were Anglo – Saxons for a day. We had amazing fun being Anglo-Saxons. Activities included, weaving with two sticks and natural coloured string. We also whittled hazel tree branches until there was a sharp point on the end. These were then used to make fences. Year 4 made patterns in the ground with natural materials they found around the area. Finally, we all learnt to light a fire, which the Anglo Saxons would have needed to cook food on and to keep warm. It was the best day EVER.

By Hannah Parnell and Koekie Campbell

African Dance Workshop

Earlier this week three children from Y4 had the opportunity to join an African Dance Workshop at Highfield South Farnham School. We worked together with five different schools to put together an African dance. Our teacher was Mr T. He introduced us to three African Songs: The Mango Tree, Homeless and La's Song. It was exhausting as we were dancing and singing almost all day but we had great fun learning the new rhythms and meeting different children.

Lacey Cobb, Charlotte Green & Sophie Skinner Y4

School Office

Please don't queue up to hand envelopes in, there are post boxes for the Office and the PTFA at the front of the building, these are secure and money will be safe in them as long as it is in a marked envelope.

There are a number of children who are being picked up late on a regular basis. Whilst we appreciate that there can be traffic and other unexpected instance, if you know in advance that you will be late on a regular basis please make other arrangements.

If you need to speak to your child's teacher please pick up an Appointment with member of staff form from outside of the Office, complete and return. Please do not enter the teaching buildings or classrooms before or after school as these are busy times for staff.



A good start to season for Netballers and Footballers!

This week our netballers won 8-2 and our footballers won 5-2 against Walsh School, Ash.

Both teams played brilliantly, demonstrating excellent team work. Hopefully we can build on this to achieve a good overall performance over the season.

Clubs

We have a superb range of clubs available at St Peter's. Some charge a fee but others are free, with staff giving up their time to extend children's experiences. Some children are doing as many as five clubs – which is fantastic but there are children who have not joined any clubs. As well as learning new skills, these extra-curricular opportunities are a great way to meet and socialise with children from other classes

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and year groups. If your child has not joined any clubs, please do try to encourage them to have a go. There are still a few places left in some clubs – please ask at the office.

Non-attendance at clubs

We have explained to children that if you join a club, it is a commitment to continue. Unfortunately, we have had children asking 'to quit' after only one session. This is very disappointing because not only does it mean that another child has missed out on the place, it also develops the wrong kind of attitude. As we all know, it's very easy to give up on things, but a lot more rewarding to have another go and come out the other end.

On that note, the school is subsidising Multi Sports (Y3/Y4) on Friday mornings at 7.45 am and Floorball (Y4/Y6) on Wednesday at 3.15. **Both of these clubs are free to children but come at a cost to the school.** These are great sessions run by professionals. There are still places available in both because children who signed up have not attended. We chose to subsidise these clubs so there are sporting opportunities for a wider group of children. If they are not supported we shall have to withdraw this funding. Both clubs are ideal for boys and girls, even if they have not played any extra curriculum sports before. Please encourage your child and ask at the office for further information.



Fairtrade News

You may remember that some of our KS2 children met with Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP at the end of last term. He promised to refer our questions to Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, Secretary of State for International Development. Well... yesterday we received a letter from her which began: *I am delighted to hear about your visit to St Peter's Primary School.* We now have the task for following up the research she has quoted and taking our message further into the community. It is wonderful for children to see how their voice can reach high places and hopefully make things happen.

GROWTH MINDSET

We hope it is useful to add reminders of expectations so that you can support your child with their learning. We are trying to build up greater resilience and independence throughout the school and really hope that you will support us by encouraging your child to take risks in their learning. Do make time to pop into the hall and look at the display which explains the messages that staff are using in school.



Developing a Growth Mindset

- I'm either good at it or I'm notI can learn anything I want to.
- When I can't do it, I give up!When I'm frustrated I persevere.
- I don't like things that are hard..... I like to challenge myself.
- If my classmates succeed, I feel threatened. If my classmates succeed, I'm inspired!
- When I fail, I'm rubbish..... When I fail, I learn.
- I like being told I'm smart..... I like being praised for the effort I put in.

Reminders for expectations in Primary School

Maths

- Times tables (up to 10x10) by the end of Y4
- Number bonds up to 10, 20 (infants), 100 and beyond (juniors)
- Familiarity with units of measure (g, kg, mm, cm, m, km, miles). You can discuss these in daily life in the kitchen, at the shops, in the car etc

Reading

Please remember to question your child about what they are reading. Children will not be moved up to the next level simply because they can decode (read the words). Before moving up a book band, the teacher will assess a child's comprehension. You may want to develop these skills by asking questions:

- Why do you think the character acted in that way?
- What do you think might happen next?
- How could the ending have been different?
- Why do you think the author/poet used that particular word or phrase?

Social skills

- We have been reminding children (of all ages) that when they address an adult or require assistance in any way, it is expected that they begin with: "Excuse me, please... could I "
Staff have experienced too many children using a statement when they need a question: "I need you to ring my mum about..." or, "I need a drink." We do of course remind children but hope that you will support us with this learning.
- We are also working on increasing 'purposeful talk' in the classroom by ensuring that we have a high quality '*oral curriculum*' - more to come on this one.



TEACHER TRAINING OPEN EVENING

Thursday 12 October 6pm-7pm

**New Teaching Hall, St Polycarp's Catholic Primary School,
Farnham, Surrey GU9 8BQ**

Do you have aspirations to become a teacher?

You may be a recent graduate looking for a step into teaching, or a mid-life career changer searching for a more rewarding role.

Whatever your background come along to our informal event and find out more about our one year School Direct training programme which runs in conjunction with St Mary's University

If you are curious about teaching, we would love to see you and answer any questions you may have. This is a great opportunity to get a glimpse into your future as a teacher - training at one of our excellent alliance schools.

A year to train. A lifetime of rewards. Get into teaching.

Contact us now – teachingschool@stpolycarps.surrey.sch.uk