



St Peter's Newsletter

September 2021

Dear Families,

Feeling Good Week 2021

is taking place between 4th and 8th October. The theme this year is 'Together we are stronger'.

According to The Children's Society 1 in 6 children aged 5-16 are likely to have a mental health problem, and 50% of all mental health problems start by the age of 14. Good mental health helps children and young people to develop resilience, which can help them to cope with experiences they may encounter – it is just as important as their physical health. Through our planned Learning for Life sessions and our work with Trick Box we teach and support children with strategies to promote a good mental wellbeing.

Feeling valued, accepting others, eating a balanced diet, taking part in physical activity and being able to cope in challenging situations, are just a few factors that can positively impact on emotional wellbeing. Feeling Good Week aims to help children and young people explore and better understand these areas. All classes across the school will be involved in some additional sessions, linked to this year's theme.

Travelling to and from school

We encourage all our families to walk, scooter or cycle to school. If this is not possible and you feel you have to drive, please park with care and consideration for our neighbours - do not block their driveways or use them as turning points.

We encourage anyone who drives to school to follow our voluntary one-way system in Little Green Lane, going *down* the hill. If you are able to change your route to accommodate this, it will really help alleviate the unnecessary need for cars to pass each other by mounting the curb, putting pedestrians at risk.

The drop-off zone at the front of the school is also available, removing the need to park. Be assured your child will be supervised until they are in the playground. If you are able to volunteer to help, please speak to someone in the school office.

Lastly, we would like to appeal to parents of children in Green Shoots and in Year R. We are aware that you and your children arrive and leave school each day via the staff car park. Often there are vehicles moving at drop-off and pick-up time, so for safety reasons, please do not allow your child to run around.

Thank you for working together to keep our community safe.

Morning Drop Off

The children are generally showing great independence at the drop off. There are still a few parents who are remaining in the playground after the bell has rung and many talking to their child or holding them when they need to be lining up. Please can you leave just before the 8.40am bell to allow the children to line up independently with their class. This also allows for the member of staff to have clear sight of their class. Thank you

Snack at break time:

EYFS and KS1 children are provided with fruit and vegetables free of charge at break times

KS2 are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack to consume at break time only. These snacks must only be fresh fruit, vegetables, cheese or bread sticks. Please avoid any processed 'fruit' snack – they are full of sugar. Also; no breakfast bar type products as they may contain nuts.

Library Books

Please can you all have a look at home for school library books. After our audit, we can see we have lots of missing books. It is very easy for them to be put on your bookshelves or under the bed so have a good look please. Books to be left in the return box in the library.

Collins E-Books

We still have time on our subscription for this wonderful resource. Please click the link

<https://ebooks.collinsopenpage.com/>

user name is: ukstpete followed by your child's name eg ukstpeteTomJones

password: Reading 1

in order to access a huge variety of books on line. This is especially useful when you are away or on a long car journey. It was a great resource during lockdown and whilst we are still paying for it, it would be good to know it is being used.

Orchestra

Orchestra will take place every Thursday lunch time – this will need to be signed up for and paid on line in the same way as other clubs. It is fantastic that currently 11 children wish to participate as it is now in the lunch hour. We will meet for the whole hour and eat our lunch together too. Hot dinners will be accommodated.

Collecting children after school hours

We are experiencing increasing numbers of parents parking in the staff car park after school has closed. Whilst you may presume the car park looks free of spaces, our staff are constantly using the car park as are other users of our school site. Many staff have experienced children running in the car park whilst they are doing a manoeuvre.

Also, please can you avoid parking right up to the car park entrance as vision is very poor when we exit the car park.

Music resources

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Music Resources request. We have had some lovely items which the children will benefit from and really enhance their learning in Music lessons - Claire Cobb

Sports

Please can we ask that you trust our selection for any teams that we put out for the league matches this year. It is unmanageable for our Sports leader to respond to every email following selection to enquire why their child hasn't been selected. As well as the leagues, there will be festivals and tournaments across the year where children will have opportunities to play. In order for a child to play in one of our teams they must attend our club.

Harvest Festival Church Service - Wednesday 13th October

We are now able to attend St Peter's Church for the first time in almost two years. Following tradition, there will be two services where children will lead the celebration and come together to give thanks for the food and privileges that we have. We are asking for a small number of adults to walk to church with the children. One group to accompany EYFS/Y1 and Y3 to the 09:15am service and one group to accompany Y4-Y6 to the 10:30 service. Adults will be asked to sit at the back as socially distanced as possible. If you are able to help, please contact the office directly. We shall be asking for donations for specific items nearer the time once we have heard what is needed.

Clubs

We now have 34 clubs up and running, covering a broad range of interests. There are still places in a few clubs so if your child has not signed up please make enquiries at the office.

Swimming Club

We have had a good response to our proposals to run Swimming Club from after half term on a Friday morning before school. We have the pool reserved and over the next two or three weeks, we shall let families have further details, including payment and times. We are however, holding back until we can find a qualified swim instructor for the children in the small teaching pool. These will be mainly KS1 children. This is proving difficult to find an insutuctor. It's two half hour slots running between 7.30 and 8.30am on a Friday morning.

If you know anyone who may be interested please could you let Mrs S Marshall know.

Trick Box

We are almost ready to launch our mentoring team of Trick Box monitors on the playground. The Y6 pupils will be there to support children across the school during their playtimes and lunch breaks. They will use some of Trick Box cards and strategies to help others with a range of situations on the playground (arguments around games/feeling lonely etc). New families who have not yet purchased a set of cards are urged to do so - £5 from the office. A recorded presentation will be sent to all new families to explain the rationale behind Trick Box - a programme designed to develop resilience and personal development. It will be used across all age groups in school.

Book Fair

Our Book Fair will now be held in March next year. More details nearer the date.

Cross Country - Farnham and District Schools Meet - Saturday 16th October@ Farnham Park

The Farnham and District Cross Country event takes place in Farnham Park on Saturday 16th October. It is open to all children in KS2 -Y3-Y6. All children are encouraged to participate as the aim is to work for a personal time and then improve it next time around, in the Spring. The more children we enter, the better our chances of being placed. Everyone gets a position and it a great way to track progress in running as your child moves up through the school. Everyone is a winner, there's great team spirit and it is a wonderful opportunity to represent St Peter's. St Peter's organises the event so every member of teaching, support and admin staff will be there on the day.

Basingstoke Voluntary Action Campaign for Afghan Refugees

Many thanks to the families who donated items for mothers/babies. The Charity was very grateful to receive your generous donations which will go directly to where there is most need.



The Big Draw

On Tuesday 28th September I took 16 pupils from Years 5 and 6 to Alton School for a morning of art, eco discussions and drawing for focus and relaxation. 'The Big Draw' is all about making links around the world to help us see a bigger picture. We were asked to consider and draw how we can make the world a better, safer, cleaner, greener place.

Pupils behaved and responded very positively as they represented our school at this event and it was great to catch up with these pupils and see them sharing their ideas with others.

Mrs Smith



School Matches

It felt amazing to be putting out our football and netball teams again. It's been a long time coming and it didn't disappoint! We started the league with two fantastic games against Waverley Abbey. Our footballers fought hard to secure a draw, and our netballers a win. Well done to everyone involved - we are so excited to be able to take up sporting opportunities again.



4B Saxon forest school

Excerpts of some reports

It was awesome we got to make stew and eat it...we used a sharp knife to make a clothes peg...I liked weaving because I could choose colourful wool...we got to light a fire...we got to learn a lot about Anglo Saxons and what it was like back then...



Saplings (Forest School for toddlers)

are now taking bookings for November

Full course sessions

Wednesday

3/11, 10/11, 17/11, 24/11, 1/12, 8/12

Thursday

4/11, 11/11, 18/11, 25/11, 2/12, 9/11

Booking essential - places are limited

£78 to book a block

Places are for 1 adult & 1 child

Second child £54

(aged 18months—4 years)

9.30—11.00am

Refreshments and campfire snacks provided

Forest School Appeal

If anyone has any pond plants or perennials for around the pond that they can donate to an exciting new project, please contact Nicola Webzell at forest@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk