



# St Peter's Newsletter



*Dear Parents and Guardians,*

*May we wish you, your children and your extended families a wonderful Christmas which is peaceful and full of joy. It has been a challenging term with so many people contracting Covid, which has meant so many people have missed exciting events and many have been poorly. I hope that we all manage to have some special times over this holiday period to make up for lost opportunities.*

*I wish to thank the PTFA for all their hard work and huge achievement of arranging fun activities during these Covid times. It has allowed people to take part in activities in as safe a way as we can manage and raise impressive amounts of money for the school's resources for your children. Please do read their newsletter which is full of information and celebration. A huge thank you is needed to every single member of the St Peter's staff team. It really has been a team this term as we cover and rearrange activities due to Covid issues. All staff are so giving and willing to help each other so the children don't miss out on what they need and deserve.*

*I wish everyone a restful holiday which allows them to recharge and spend special time with people dear to them.*

*Happy Christmas everyone.*

*Mrs Dunning*

## **Christmas decorations**

Thank you to everyone who purchased wreaths and decorations last week. The children loved creating them and raised almost £170 for our Forest School funds.

## **COVID**

We have had several staff off with Covid recently and we know that some schools have had to go back to remote learning. We are doing everything we can to ensure that children have the full end of term Christmas experience, without having to close classes. By the same token, we are trying to protect our staff so that they do not come to the end of a very busy term, having to isolate over the holidays.

May I thank everyone for their patience over the last ten days whilst the leadership team have taken on the site management in the absence of our site manager. We have had huge support from a variety of staff as they deal with deliveries, recycling, orders, gates, safety etc. It really has been a team effort but of course we don't work as smoothly as Mr Wells as they are his routines that work like clockwork. It has also meant that other aspects of the day haven't happened due to time being split in different directions.

As you can see when one member of staff is away it can have huge impact on the rest of the team. I am sure no-one wants their child to return to home learning so we will continue to support and work together with grace and patience.

May I politely remind you that it is important for all adults to wear mask to protect each other and staff from spreading Covid.

### In the event of school closures

Of course we are all hoping and praying that schools will not close again. However, you will remember that last year school closures were announced on the evening before schools were meant to return in January. In the event that this does happen, we shall be following the full school day and expecting learning to be handed in. It will be posted on Microsoft Teams. We shall not go into any detail now but please be assured that we have contingency plans and will spring into action should we be asked to work remotely again.

### Home learning for pupils off with Covid- 19

Looking ahead to next term, it is clear that we shall continue to have pupils and staff off because of positive C-19 tests. We have had pupils and staff off this term but have managed to keep everything running by being flexible and sometimes moving staff into different roles. Teachers have been sending learning to children who are off with C-19, but in many cases, have had nothing returned which does beg the question: is this a good use of teachers' time to prepare and send online learning if it is ignored? We expect all children to engage in learning if they are well.

### To be clear - going forward:

- If a child has tested positive, they need to stay at home for 10 days.
- If the child is asymptomatic and feels well, we would expect that they complete the home learning.
- If the child is feeling poorly, clearly they should not be trying to do the learning. *Please let the office know if your child is too poorly to be doing school learning.* We cannot judge whether or not to expect learning.
- If a child is ill with any other illness, and too unwell to come to school, we shall not send home learning.

In this way, we can be sure that everyone has the same expectations and no time is wasted.

### Fund raising

A group of Y5 girls have been busy making and selling their Christmas art work. We are very grateful for the £43.40 they raised which will go towards school art supplies. Well done to Lucy, Alanna, Alana, Freya, Emilia, Annabel, Sariah, Isla and Evelyn.



### Advent banner

Mrs Curry's sewing group created a beautiful Advent banner which we displayed in church. It is now on display in school and will be brought out annually. A stunning creation!



### Advent services

We have been thinking about the real meaning of Christmas each week during Advent. This was introduced during our Advent Services at the start of December. While KS1 gathered for a reflective service in the hall, KS2 led a service at St Peter's Church. As well as thinking about the waiting for Christmas and its importance for Christians around the world, we also brought in reflection moments asking children to think about the excessive use of plastic and wrapping at Christmas. Children were also asked to think about the Holy Family as refugees as they fled for safety in Egypt.





## Sports round up

The weather may have been against us at some sporting events this month, but that hasn't stopped some amazing sporting performances.



We entered a team of keen Cross Country runners into an inter-school competition at St Edmund's School in Hindhead. All the runners ran brilliantly in the rain and hail, and were rewarded with a much-deserved hot chocolate and cookie! Special mentions must go to Nathan Creamer in Y3 who won the boys' race in that age category, Sophie Jurd and Rudi Philcox who both placed second in the Y4 races, and Scarlett Hooper who placed third in the Y6 girls' race. A huge congratulations also to our Y4 girls' team of Sophie Jurd, Grace Newman and Katie Ambrose who placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively to take team gold!



In other sports, our year 6s played in a rugby festival at Farnham Rugby Club this week. The weather was horrendous but it didn't dampen their spirits or enthusiasm. A big well done to Hugo, Patrick, Sharae, Amy, Lilly and Emelia! You were all amazing.

Lots of sport to come in January!

## Girls' football



This term we have had four football clubs for girls (Y1-Y6). We are really grateful to Andrew Hall who is passionate about girls playing separately. In previous years, we would have one or two girls playing with the boys' teams but the majority would not become involved. This seems to stem from the fact that girls often start playing later than boys and then lose confidence quickly as they have not had so much experience. With the girls' clubs, football has opened up to many more pupils and Andrew has organized an inter-school league for the older pupils with matches held at Weydon School. Aside from developing skills and keeping fit, football is a great social experience, bringing together people across friendship groups. The clubs are open to all abilities, including beginners, so if your child would like to join next term, please sign up.





### Plot to plate

In October we harvested a good rhubarb crop and froze it. Last week a group of Y6 children defrosted the rhubarb and made 18 pots of delicious rhubarb and ginger jam. It will be on sale on the last day of term at £3 a pot (organic). It will make a lovely gift.



### Early morning parent readers

This term we have had 19 parents coming in first thing to read with the same child twice a week. We are so pleased to have been able to start this programme up again. The children love this time to read and discuss their books, and we can see that they have bonded very well with their regular adult reader. Many thanks. If anyone else feels they could commit to two fifteen-minute sessions a week, please contact Jane Cook and we shall certainly find you a role!

We'd also like to thank all of the parents who have given their time to help in many different ways around school over the term.

### Phyllis Tuckwell reindeer run

Thank you to all of our families for supporting their child to participate in this wonderful seasonal event for our local hospice.



All day yesterday, we had teams of elves and reindeers running laps around the field. So much laughter and excitement! We shall look forward to hearing how much has been raised for the hospice. Please talk to your child to reinforce the contribution they are making to the local community, thank you.



## GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING

### School items

Please make sure your child comes to school with all the items they need for their school day (PE kit, lunch, book bag, forest school kit etc). We aim to make children independent and responsible for their own items, as well as minimise professional time lost delivering items. Please support the school with this.

### School applications

Please note the deadline for applying for a September 2022 YR place is 15 January 2022.

Surrey strongly encourage online applications via <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>.

Parents can apply online from a smartphone or tablet as well as a laptop. If parents are unable to apply online, they will need to request a paper application form via the Surrey Schools & Childcare Service (0300 200 1004, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm). The completed paper application form must be received by Admissions (to our Quadrant Court address) by 15 January, so parents must allow time for the post to reach us. If parents need to apply on paper, we recommend that they send applications by recorded post.

Full information is available on Surrey's website at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions). The Surrey Schools & Childcare Service can also provide impartial help in completing an application.

Applications received after the closing date without an exceptional reason will be treated as late and will not be considered until all on time applications have been processed. This may jeopardise the chance of a parent being offered one of their preferred schools for their child.

### Forest school sessions

If your child's class are having a forest school session they will need to bring their forest school clothing to school, so they can change at lunchtime, as forest sessions are in the afternoon unless specifically stated otherwise in the email you receive. Winter sessions- lots of layers, jumpers, hoodies, coats, thick socks, thick trousers (**no jeans, no leggings**) if your child has waterproof trousers please send even if rain isn't forecast and boots.

### Safety

Please be aware that if you are waiting to drop-off or pick-up children from YR or nursery, there may be cars arriving or leaving the car park. We ask that you do not let your children run around as it could be dangerous. Dogs are not allowed on site and this includes the car parks. Thank you for your cooperation.

### School dinners

Please remember to book your child's school dinners one week in advance, for the beginning of next term, thank you.

### Clubs

Booking for Spring term clubs is now available via SCOPay and will remain open until the first week of January. All clubs will start the week of 10 January.

### Diary dates (also available on the school website)

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January  
inset day

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
back to school

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January  
deadline to apply for a September 2022 school place

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January  
Weydon dance show (Y5)

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February  
Y2 Florence Nightingale workshop

TBC for January  
Y5 British Museum visit

### Thank you!

On behalf of all of St Peter's Staff, thank you for the very generous gifts and kind words that we have received over this last week. We are very lucky to have such supportive families.

*Happy Holidays!*