

# ST PETER'S NEWSLETTER

January 2022



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for all your support and consideration to wear masks and keep your distance from each other as we experience a high number of Covid cases in our school.

We take as many precautions as we can within school, but like many other local schools, we are experiencing a rise in numbers. We have stopped whole school assemblies for the time being and minimise mixing in year groups. Many teachers are supporting the home learning and the classroom learning so please be patient as we deal with requests.

Also, sadly many of our staff are actually poorly with Covid which means other staff members are covering roles. We wish everyone a speedy recovery and hope that we can be through this surge very soon.

Mrs Dunning

## Say no to plastic



Our 'Say No to plastic' Campaign is well underway and we are really excited by the positive feedback we have had from the pupils in school. We have seen lots of reusable plastic pots being brought into school to replace single use packets.

We wanted to share this photo showing the huge amount of single use plastic waste we collected a few weeks ago over *just one lunchtime!*

We were shocked at how much waste a school could collect in one hour but it has spurred us on to reduce single use plastic in school. Although our message is to reduce the amount of single use plastic we buy, we understand there will be times crisps are brought in a lunch box. Fortunately, with the support of a parent, we have reintroduced the crisp packet recycling bin which can be found in the hall for use at lunchtimes.

We would also like to thank you for bringing your old Christmas cards into school. They have been collected and will be used to make gift tags and sold to raise money for the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. We are still collecting Christmas cards, and now also birthday cards.

We have lots more exciting things planned over the coming months and really appreciate all your support in making our school so eco-friendly.

## Forest school Christmas sale



At the end of last term we had a really successful forest school sale. We raised £340.64 selling wreaths, stars and other Christmas items. Pupils did a marvelous job crafting forest decorations.

## Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice reindeer run

In case you missed it, we raised over £4,000! Thank you to all our families for such enthusiastic and generous participation.

## Farnham food bank

Just a reminder that we are collecting for the Food-bank up until February 9<sup>th</sup>: tinned soup, baked beans, sponge puddings, tinned custard and tinned fish please. Many thanks.

## Gardening committee

*Do you like gardening? We need your help! Join our gardening committee to help maintain the children's school gardens.*

The committee will meet once a month with the first meeting Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February (outdoors). We will create a plan and a list of jobs so you can come to the garden at a time suitable to you and whilst not in use by the children, to carry out jobs on the to do list, either as a group or individually.

We really would like gardeners with some knowledge but will of course welcome anyone who would like join. If you are interested please email Nicola Webzell: [forest@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:forest@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk)

## Y6 production – sound support

Although the Summer production is a while away, we are keen to secure some technical help. We are looking for a parent or two to help us to set up the sound in the hall including radio mics and to soundcheck before the shows. If you are interested and able to help and would like more information please contact the office and one of the Year 6 team will be in touch with you.

## Earrings

A reminder to all parents that children are not permitted to wear earrings on school site at any time (this includes mufti days). They are not allowed to wear tape over earrings either. This is a health and safety rule and follows Local Authority guidelines. We always advise families to book piercings on the first day of the summer holidays so they can heal and return to school in September without them.

## Drop off

The drop off zone works really well from 8.30 – 8.40am and relies on parent volunteers. If you feel you can offer a morning to help we would be really grateful. Please let the office know if you are available. It works much better when we have two people on duty. Also, we ask all passengers to be ready to leave the car with their belongings as quickly as possible in order to ensure a fluid transition of cars. Adults will always ensure your child enters the gates safely.

## Drop off times

Thank you to families for wearing masks and following our one way pedestrian system. The bell goes to move into class at 08.40am. It is essential that all children are in line ready to move into class at that time because support groups and interventions begin at 08.45am, before the first lesson at 9am. Teaching assistants and other staff members need to be ready for their groups which are often focusing on filling gaps resulting from two lockdowns. If staff have to wait for children who are late to arrive, it does impact others' learning. Many thanks for your support on this.

## Masks

We are more than happy for children to wear masks in school if they so wish. However, we have a new fashion accessory which seems to have slipped in whereby children are wearing snoods and scarfs around their necks all day but not using them as a mask. Please ensure your child wears only the school uniform and a face mask if they choose.

## Farnham and district schools swimming gala

The swimming gala scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> February has now been cancelled due to high covid numbers across confederation schools. There is an outside chance it will be held in the summer - dependent upon several factors.

### January sports round up

*I apologise for the lack of photos, but we have had some amazing sporting events this month.*

Firstly, our year 6 boys football team played in the league finals at Weydon School. They fought hard in an incredibly competitive environment to finish 4<sup>th</sup> out of the 12 schools that started in the league. This is a really great achievement boys and we are very proud.

We were also lucky enough to take a mixed team of Y5 and Y6 athletes to an indoor athletics competition also at Weydon. Indoor athletics take some getting used to – its fast, frantic and very loud! Our mixed team gelled brilliantly to finish in second place out of the schools attending. The team spirit and atmosphere were amazing. Well done athletes.



And finally, a huge well done to our Y5 dancers who danced at the Weydon Dance Show last week. Girls, I was so disappointed not to attend but I have heard such wonderful things about your performance. You worked hard every session and were a delight to work with. You should be very proud and I hope you keep dancing!

More sport coming up in February!!

Miss D

### Clubs

We have many clubs running both before and after school and at lunchtime. It is great that so many of our pupils are so enthusiastic and sociable. Please could you remind your child to thank the person running the club each time. It is also important that if your child cannot attend for any reason, that you let the office know. If we don't know that a child isn't coming (and they were in school) time is wasted trying to find out whether they are lost on site or if they've gone home with the wrong person etc. This has a knock-on effect on everyone else in the club. We would ask parents that if their child wants to 'give up' a club that they have chosen to join, that you try to speak to the person running the club. It is important for the adult to know why a child wishes to stop (as it may be easy to sort) but perseverance is also a life skill. Staff sometimes hear children saying: 'I quit'. Giving up is the easiest thing in the world to do, but it doesn't develop resilience or self-confidence. With a different approach or a bit more information, most situations can be resolved or improved.

### Clubs – missed sessions

All Spring term clubs are now up and running and the children are enjoying the wide range of clubs on offer. Please note school-run clubs are scheduled to run for eight weeks this term, leaving one week for parents' consultations and one week at the end of the term to make up for any missed sessions. Reminders will be sent out for this.

Clubs run directly by external providers (tennis, art, judo, CM Sports, chess) have their own schedule.

### Young voices

Mrs Cobb has a wonderfully large choir of children from YR, Y1 and Y2.

On a Tuesday during lunchtime, she parades the playground with her sign to remind children to come to the rehearsal. The teachers also remind them before they dismiss for lunch. However, many children are not attending. As a parent, you may like to put a note in their packed lunch box or remind them before school that day. We are aware that you are paying for the club but with 58 members, Mrs Cobb is unable to go out and chase the children. We can't wait to hear them once they have learnt their songs.

### 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, musical instruments, 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.

### Judo

If your child no longer does judo at school but you still have the judo kit at home, please return it to the school office with your child's name, so Dave Johnston can update his rental list, thank you.

### New charges

With immediate effect, in line with guidance from Surrey County Council, the school will make a charge to parents in the following situations:

- Requests to provide reports for independent schools – in order to support the admissions process, St Peter's is often asked to complete forms/reports. There will now be a charge of £45 per request.
- Request to countersign passport or visa applications – A charge of £10 per request.

Further details can be found in our Charging & Remissions Policy which can be found on the school website, or speak to someone in the school office.

### Car emissions

It has been noticed that many parents are arriving very early for pick up and leaving their car engines running. Sometimes for up to 20 minutes. You may remember a while back our children ran a project to remind car drivers to cut their engines to cut emissions. An idling engine can **produce up to twice as many exhaust emissions as an engine in motion**. Whilst we appreciate you may like to get here early to park, please switch your engines off for the sake of neighbours and for the environment., thank you.

### Dates for your diary

NSPCC Number Day: 4<sup>th</sup> February

Inset day: 21<sup>st</sup> February

Fairtrade Fortnight: 21<sup>st</sup> February – 4<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Service @ Church (sans Y6): 30<sup>th</sup> March

Y6 Residential: 28<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April

No swimming gala this term

