

# ST PETER'S NEWSLETTER

February 2022



Dear Parents,

*We hope you had a lovely half term break and feel refreshed. It has been great to be back at school this week with a full complement of staff and very few children absent – we wish anyone off a speedy recovery. Please see our message on page 4 about Covid procedures this half term.*

*We offer a very warm welcome to the children and staff who have joined us this half term and we hope you feel settled very quickly.*

*If you haven't been able to catch up with the class teacher for your parents' consultation then please do get in contact. I know we had some technical issues and illness so not everyone was able to make connection with their class teacher.*

Sarah Dunning  
Head Teacher

## Governors' Column

As we embark on 2022, we felt it would be wonderful to use the School's monthly newsletter to introduce ourselves as School Governors and to connect with you, the parents and caregivers, by shedding light on our work and inviting you to get to know us, to ask us questions, share ideas and voice concerns.

We are a diverse group of individuals, who serve entirely on a voluntary basis, and who care deeply about the School, its children and dedicated staff — everyone who makes St Peter's such a wonderful home for learning and development.

We were all elected as Governors because we bring a diverse and complementary set of skills and experiences, and we contribute to the success of the School in a range of ways, from supporting the Head Teacher and Senior Team in making strategic decisions; to ensuring the highest standards in child safeguarding; and developing and communicating a clear vision for the School to all stakeholders. We embrace a distinctly Christian ethos and we celebrate the rich diversity of our students, families and colleagues.

As Governors, we aim to ensure our students strive for, and achieve, the very best learning outcomes. We are responsible for holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the children and we also help represent the School during, and following, inspections by SIAMS and OFSTED.

We invite you to contact us via email at [clerk@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk) and very much look forward to getting better acquainted with you. In upcoming editions of the School's monthly newsletter, we will be incorporating a regular Governors' column and we will also be introducing ourselves individually, so you can learn more about each one of us. Thank you in advance for your interest in our work and, together, we can all contribute to the continued success of our School.



## Musicians join St Peter's Church congregation for a time of Refreshment



Fourteen children and their families enjoyed a wonderful time at St Peter's church during the evening of the first Sunday of half term. It was perfect timing for us to gather together informally, to hear some very talented musicians, chat and enjoy refreshments both spiritually and physically. The children particularly enjoyed the toast and jam! We were so proud of all our musicians who played. It was an informal concert-style and they all rose to the occasion. We all decided that we must repeat the occasion again very soon and perhaps even more families will join us. A big thank you to Rev Jacqueline for organising it with Mrs Perkins, who was in charge of craft activities and all the volunteers of the congregation who made us tea and toast. It really was a time to recharge the batteries.



## Chinese New Year



As part of our recent learning about Chinese New Year the children in Reception made moon cakes. Then, during an RE session we learnt how Christians do charitable things for others. We talked about the Children's Society and many were quite surprised that not all children have the same family life as they do. We decided to hold a cake sale and sell the moon cakes we had made. The children made posters and then sold their cakes for a donation. We were delighted to raise over £85 which we had great pleasure in donating to The Children's Society.

## Y6 Macbeth Workshop



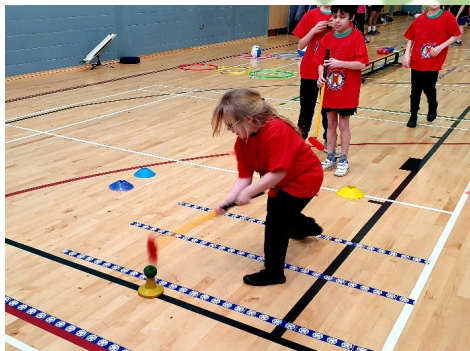
Last week, Y6 pupils enhanced their study of Shakespeare's Macbeth with a drama workshop from West End in Schools. Extracts from the play were used to act out the scenes which enabled pupils to grasp the motivations of Macbeth and McDuff. This on-hands learning really helps pupils to reflect and 'get inside' the characters. They will apply this experience to their own writing in class.



## Surrey Schools Panathlon Tournament



Last week, eight pupils from St Peter's represented the school at the Surrey Primary Panathlon held at Heath End School. In mixed age group teams of four, children rotated around several challenges. After an exciting morning, points were totalled and we were delighted to be awarded first place. As well as an attractive glass team trophy, each child received an individual medal and a special Panathlon t-shirt to take home. It was an impressive team effort.



## Farnham Food Bank



Thank you so much to all the families who donated to our emergency collection for Farnham Food Bank. Contributions totalled 144kg of food!

Thank you also to our School Council for organising the initiative in school and helping to load the car. This community initiative is so important and will no doubt continue to be a pressing needs in the near future as people struggle to manage their commitments with inflation. Another fine example of living our school values (Active Citizen and Inclusiveness).

## Emergency Closures

St Peter's does not take closing the school lightly and will only do so if completely necessary. Examples of closure could be if there was no heating, no water, no electricity, Insufficient staff (in the case of adverse weather), severe weather which makes the site and/or surrounding area unsafe.

Once the decision to close has been made by the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors, St Peter's will contact parents and notices will be published in the following ways:

- Email and/or text message via SCOpay
- Message on school website
- Message via social media - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram
- Message on school answer machine
- Message on Greatest Hits Radio
- Surrey County Council website

### SCC information for education leaders following government Living with Covid-19 announcement

As you will be aware the government has announced their plans and the DfE has emailed schools and settings with an outline of these changes.

The key messages are:

- Pupils/Students and staff should attend if they are well
- Pupils/Students and staff should stay at home if they are unwell – schools/settings should refuse entry to those that are symptomatic or unwell
- Have a PCR test if you have COVID-19 symptoms and stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you test positive for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance (tests will remain available until the end of March 2022)
- Get vaccinated
- Let fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meet outside
- Remind staff and families that they should wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces in the wider community, especially where coming into contact with people they do not usually meet and when rates of transmission are high
- Wash your hands and following advice to “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it”

Currently, the government has:

- Removed the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing.
- Removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.
- No longer asks fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and removed the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.

We will continue to encourage anyone who test positive to stay at home until they test negative on a LFT to keep our school as safe as we can and to remain open. If staff get Covid and we cannot maintain a safe environment, we may be forced to close classes which would not be in anyone's best interest.

### Dates for the diary

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb – 6<sup>th</sup> Mar: Fairtrade Fortnight

3<sup>rd</sup> March: world book day

4<sup>th</sup> March: Y6 yearbook photos

7<sup>th</sup> March: Y1 trip to Marwell Zoo

9<sup>th</sup> March: Y1 Multi-skills festival

10<sup>th</sup> March: PTFA Mad March hair day

18<sup>th</sup> March: EYFS and Y1 hedgehog rescue visit

22<sup>nd</sup> March: Spring concert

23<sup>rd</sup> March: world maths day

28<sup>th</sup> Mar – 1<sup>st</sup> Apr: Y6 residential Osmington Bay

30<sup>th</sup> March: Easter service at St Peter's church

31<sup>st</sup> March: Y4 civil war trip to Farnham museum

1<sup>st</sup> April: PTFA break the rules day

End of term break up at 1.30pm

