

ST PETER'S NEWSLETTER

March 2022



Dear Parents

As I write a conclusion to our Spring Term, Year 6 are having an adventure in Osmington Bay. It was wonderful to share in their excitement and anticipation as they got ready for their trip. We know that they will be living out our school values in their activities and relationships with each other and we are looking forward to hearing all about it on their return.

The Spring term may have been short in number of weeks, but we have packed in a great deal of learning and also we have battled through increasing Covid cases. Once again, thank you for your patience and understanding as your classes have had a mixture of cover teachers but we always strive to ensure they have the best experience we can give them in the absence of their class teacher.

May I wish you all a restful and healthy Easter break and feel a blessing at this special time in the Christian calendar.

SJ Dunning

Mrs Sarah Dunning
Head Teacher

Governors column



Hi, I am Neil Ambrose, a Foundation (Diocesan) Governor appointed in October 2016. I am the Co-Chair alongside Bart Caines, a role that we both took on in 2021. When I first joined the Governing Body, I became a member of the Resources Committee as it has links to my profession as a Finance Business Partner at a local university. I

continue to serve on this committee, meeting every half term to review and discuss many items such as budgets, the policies that fall to the committee, capital projects e.g. new windows, roofs, boilers etc, Health & Safety, spend on Pupil & Sports Premium funding and other topics.

I am also the Chair of the Admissions Committee. One of the main functions of the committee is to annually review and update, where necessary, the Admissions Policy. In recent years we updated the policy to reduce the number of Over-subscription Criteria, simplify the list and thereby making it clearer for future applications to our school. The committee also reviews the applications each year and deals with any appeals or applications for out of year entry.

When I was first approached by the St Peter's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) to ask if I would be interested in becoming a Governor, I hadn't previously considered doing the role. My wife was a Deputy Head teacher at a primary school and along with talking to others and carrying out some research I was able to get some insight into what the role might involve. The first 6 months to a year was quite a steep learning curve but with the support of others on the Governing Body as well as attending various training courses it became easier. It can be a challenging role but it has been very rewarding and really interesting to see what goes into running a school. It has been a wonderful opportunity to be able to support Mrs Dunning, all the teachers and staff at St Peter's, especially during the last 2, challenging years.

I have two daughters at St Peter's and am regularly at the school for drop off and pick-up so if you have any questions, comments or would like a general chat about the school, being a governor or running (my main hobby) please do come and say hello.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Easter Holiday, from all of the St Peter's Governors.



March sports round up!

Wow – what a month! St Peter's have participated in so many sports events this month and a huge well done to every child that has represented the school so brilliantly. I hope I've remembered you all!



Firstly, our Y5 girls took part in a netball tournament at South Farnham School. After just one training session, we were thrilled that the team played so well together eventually finishing as runners up from the twelve schools competing. A great result girls. We are looking forward to having you as our Y6 team.



Again our Y5 were the focus of a football tournament at Waverley Abbey this month. The boys played so well, their first time representing the school as a team. We didn't quite make the playoffs but had some close matches with lots of potential for next year. Well done boys – you were a great team.



We were also proud to have seven children representing St Peters at country level in Cross Country this month at Reigate Park. This was a very high level event and a huge congratulations to Jude, Scarlett, Sammy, Tom, Lucas, Rose and Matilda for taking on the challenge with such passion and determination. Jude and Scarlett qualified for county level training which is amazing!

A mixed team of Y5 & 6 netballers also played at Hale school this week, winning both matches convincingly.



And on to Y6. Our netball team has had two fantastic results. Firstly, we played a tournament at South Farnham where we qualified for the final. It was a very closely fought game where we eventually finished as runners up. We also qualified for the league finals at Weydon this week, where again we finished as runners up out of all the schools in the confederation. Netballers you have made so much progress and we are so proud of you.



Our Y6 footballers had a wonderful day out at Waverley Abbey for the Borelli Cup – the sun shone and the standard of play was unbelievable. The boys sailed through the first rounds and into the playoffs, eventually finishing third in a nail-biting penalty shootout! Great work from our team in a tense situation.



And finally, our gymnastics team participated in a nerve-wracking competition at St Polycarp's School. Each member had to perform individually on floor and on vault. You were amazing and such a great team. We were very happy with a fifth place finish. Well done.

Multi-skills festival



On the 9th of March, we hosted a Y1 multi-skills event for over 80 children from local schools. The event was supported by our Sports Crew and Young Leaders, who welcomed the children and their families, led the warm, up and then demonstrated the eight different activities. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to complete the sports activities alongside their friends and children from visiting schools. Thank you to our Young Leaders who were so welcoming and great role models for the younger children, encouraging them all to participate and have fun.

BASE



The BASE staff and children would like to thank everyone who supported their Christmas sales last year. We have used the money to extend the MINI BASE garden and buy a lovely new slide and hexagon climbing dome.

Spring concert



A huge congratulations to all the children who performed in our Spring Concert. It was wonderful to hear and perform live music again in front of an audience. The children did themselves proud and showed real confidence. The standard of music making was so high and we found the time very uplifting. The plan is for the rest of the school to hear the performances too during some assemblies – so listen out for messages to bring your instruments and music in children.

We have an amazing pond!



before and after

Over the past few months, groups of children from Y4 have been regenerating the school pond, under the careful guidance of Mrs Webzell. This fitted well with their Science habitat study. The pond had been stagnant and unloved for around 12 years - priorities were the development of Forest School. However, with the support of Redfields Garden Design, we have been given human expertise and material resources enabling us to create a wonderful water area. This will be used all the time, not only for Science and Geography but Maths (think volume and measure), English (think poetry), Art (sketching, painting) RE (think reflection) and endless other learning opportunities! We've already noticed that tadpoles have made it their home so we'll look out for froglets after Easter. We are particularly grateful to Mrs Webzell for her enthusiasm in driving and co-ordinating the project.



Unusual visitors for EYFS & Y1



Both year groups had an exciting visit from two hedgehogs last week. How many people have ever seen a hedgehog so close up before? We learnt what they like to eat and how we can encourage them to visit our gardens. We are so grateful to Hedgehog Rescue (St Francis Animal Care) for spending the afternoon in school and answering the children's questions. Do you know how many hoglets a female can have in one litter?

World Book Day



Thank you for supporting your child both with a costume and sponsoring the readathon. Pupils love this day which is total immersion in books and reading. A fascinating and fun packed assembly was led by the Y6 librarians who hopefully inspired younger children to look out for the older children's favourite authors.

Therapy dog - Mabel



At last! We are so excited to have found a suitable match for a therapy dog. We haven't had one in since pre-covid. Mabel came in to meet the Y1 children this week and will be starting her sessions after Easter. She is definitely going to be a big hit!

Farnham Churches Together (Signposts) Easter Assembly

It was wonderful to have the team back in face to face after two years of virtual assemblies. Separate assemblies were held for KS1 and KS2 which focused on the joy of the Easter Story through slapstick entertainment, with a serious message. Pupils laugh all the way through until the final summing up where it is clear that they have taken the deeper meaning of Easter on board.

Ukraine fundraiser



At very short notice we were prompted to join in a national multi fundraiser to support families in Ukraine. This came through First News - a children's newspaper which we use in class. Over £700 was raised and has been sent to DEC via First News. Many thanks to all our families for digging so deeply. We are of course, covering the situation in Ukraine in our worship sessions at an age appropriate level. We are aware that some families are discussing it a lot as children are eager to start discussions, while other children are not familiar with the situation at all. We need to be aware of this in our interactions with pupils.

Fairtrade Fortnight



All year groups had a really successful Fairtrade Fortnight. The learning about justice and trade came into many subject areas (including French). Each year, the English curriculum across the school focuses on Fairtrade over the two weeks and teachers never fail to be impressed with the high quality of writing that results. Pupils enjoy learning about something 'real' in today's world, with each year group learning about a different product, ranging from brazil nuts to cotton.

We held two whole school Fairtrade assemblies, there was an outdoor quiz and of course the joy of the Fairtrade Gingerbread sale which raised nearly **£400**. Thank you once again to our families for supporting your children. Hopefully they have been telling something about the Fairtrade mission. Sales of Fairtrade produce were up 20% in the UK in 2020. This year, the message was also around the global climate crisis. We learnt that in the UK, each person consumes 24x the amount of energy as people in some of the countries blighted by floods, droughts and extreme weather. We learnt about how our choices impact others.

Nutrition Talk

We are grateful to Mrs Gold who delivered engaging assemblies on healthy food for both KS1 and KS2. Pupils learnt about different food groups and how to make healthy choices. We hope you are supporting your child with the healthy food challenge that they brought home. This was a fantastic tool to support our Learning for Life curriculum and our recent *Healthy Schools* recognition.

In light of this, we would ask that parents do not bring food for their child at the end of the school day. We have noticed an increasing number of children who are given sweet snacks as soon as they are picked up and before they have a chance to speak. Aside from being unnecessary, it can upset others who are not allowed to have sweets and biscuits at that time. Please could we ask families to keep the treats in the car or to wait until they've arrived home. We do of course have occasional cake sales at school. These are special events which are also fully inclusive.

Car park etiquette



As you know access into school/nursery for some children is via a car park. We ask that you discuss and make your children aware that extra care should be taken when walking or queuing in the car parks. Vehicles could be moving around at any time and children should be taught that road safety applies within the car parking areas. They are not playgrounds and should not be used for running about or scootering. Thank you for your co-operation.

Hair and earrings

Please remember that all hair beyond shoulder length must be tied back. This does not mean a hair band - it should be tied up properly in a simple style. This applies to all children. Earrings and nail varnish are not allowed. Thank you for respecting our dress code.

Friday 18th March 7.55am – roller hockey club



This car was parked on the zigzags in the bus stop. The bus had to wait in the road for the students to get on. It is unlikely to be a resident so that would suggest it is a parent parking illegally. Please can we all continue to park considerably for our community.

Diary dates

19th April: children back for Summer term

25th April: start of school lead clubs (for external clubs, please check term dates directly with the provider)

25th – 29th April: book fair week

2nd May: Bank holiday, school closed

A message from the Farnham Schools Confederation

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of the 18 schools within The Farnham Schools Confederation, we felt the need to represent a united front against the current atrocities that are happening in the Ukraine and the long-term effects this will have on the lives of the families staying and those that are now refugees.

We are aware that the families of this local community have already shown great generosity in many forms; that our schools have been fundraising independently to support the immediate need but we envisage that long-term aid will be vital for all Ukrainians. Therefore, we have set up our own JustGiving page for donations to be directed to the Red Cross.

If you are able, and wish to donate, all monies would be gratefully received.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/farnhamschoolsconfederationukraine>

With thanks,

Hannah Odell

Confederation Manager