

ST PETER'S NEWSLETTER

November 2022



Dear Parents / Carers,

As we enter this period of Advent, we hope that you can find time to pause and recharge during such a frantic time of the year. Over the last few weeks of this term we will be encouraging our children to remember what Christians value in this time of waiting.

We are pleased that so many of our events and activities are public again and that parents and family can join us celebrate Christmas through nativities and our Carol Service. We are especially looking forward to hearing our family orchestra play at the KS2 Carol Service on 13th December 6pm in St Peter's church.

I hope you can join us on Friday 16th Dec in the playground from 1.30pm for a festive drink, listen to the children sing carols and buy a raffle ticket or two. The children will also be selling homemade Christmas crafts. See you there.

Kind regards,

Mrs Dunning
Head Teacher

Advent service



On Wednesday Y1- Y6 went down to St Peter's Church for the Advent Service. This was the first time for three years that we have been together for a whole school church service! Since covid we have tended to keep to key stage services. It was a very uplifting service led by the children. We were reminded not only of the meaning of Advent and Christmas for Christians, but we also had time to reflect on some of the big world issues around climate crisis and conflict. Further reflections asked us to think about those in our local community who are struggling either financially or with their health. We also appreciated Mr Smith's music which helped us to raise the roof. Thank you to the parents who walked with us.

visiting author - Mini Grey - November 23rd



All pupils enjoyed a fantastic learning experience led by well-known children's author, Mini Grey. They learnt how Mini creates her stories and illustrations and were then able to take some of these skills back into class. Mini is a very engaging presenter and it was fascinating for the children to see how a book comes together.

Christmas lights switch-on



Our Young Voices Choir sang their hearts out at Gostrey Meadow in Farnham on a crisp, but sunny Saturday afternoon at a special ceremony to turn on the Christmas Lights. They sang three Christmas songs, Wise men came from Afar, A Great Big Star and Christmas Counts, on a special stage in front of the Mayor of Farnham and lots of family and friends. Thank you to all who came to support us and made it a lovely (if early) start to our Christmas festivities.

floorball



Surrey cross country development squad

On Monday 24th October I went to train at ACS Egham for a Surrey cross country development squad for Years 5- 13. It was great fun and I made friends along the way. I had the chance to improve my cross country both physically and mentally. We did lots of different types of stretches and we learnt lots of tactics that we can do during a race. The coaches there were very skilled athletes including Mara Yamauchi (who holds the second fastest time by a British woman for the marathon.) The last instructor, Julian Goater, was very hard on us, and we were all lying on the floor by the end. It was a great experience, and it boosted my confidence a lot because I knew I was being taught by successful cross country runners. I can't wait to use these skills on my next cross country race.

Jude Hall (Y6)

Christmas prep in Japanese club



At Japanese Club we have been busy making Christmas cards to send to our partner school Keio Elementary in Yokohama.



We have been practising *Shodo* (Japanese calligraphy) and we are looking forward to making sushi at our Christmas party.

invitation

We have an open invitation from some of our parents who belong to The Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association, Farnham. All ladies and children (boys under 11) are invited to come along and celebrate 100 years of Lajna Ima'illah on Saturday 10th December at Weydon School. There will exhibition stands, a short presentation and a lunch (served at 1pm).

Ugandan School

Just an update. As we were about to launch into some collaborative learning with a school in Kampala, Uganda, the head teacher contacted us last week to advise that all Ugandan schools have now been closed until February 2023. The Ugandan government has taken this decision due to a dangerous outbreak of Ebola in several regions. We feel for these children who had no online learning during lockdowns (no technology). They now have another three months with no schooling. Our Global Committee will be communicating the impact of this to the school in an assembly next term.

Remembrance



On November 11th, two Y6 pupils accompanied Mrs Dunning to Gostrey Meadows for the town's annual Remembrance Ceremony. It is a poignant occasion where schools across the Farnham confederation come together to remember. At the same time, all Y4 pupils joined Rev'd Jacqueline for Remembrance at St Peter's. We are privileged to be involved in these community events. (photos coming)

rhubarb rhubarb rhubarb!



We picked the rhubarb from the school garden. We froze it. We chopped it and made jam. You lucky people will have the opportunity to buy some delicious rhubarb and ginger jam on December 16th!

metal collection

Thank you to Miss Tyrrell and Mrs Webzell for organising a metal collection. We were able to reduce our footprint by recycling and got £110 in return.

ARTS MARK GOLD JOURNEY

We are currently working towards being recognised as an Arts Mark Gold school. To achieve this, we need to show that we have or are developing, an exciting and comprehensive ARTS provision/curriculum. In addition to Art and Design, the ARTS cover a wide spectrum including: drama, song, dance, discussion, debate, poetry, language exchange etc. In fact, anything which adds to children's cultural capital. If any parent is involved in the arts and may be able to offer us an experience or contacts, we would be glad to hear from you. Community links are also another area we'd be keen to develop. One or two parents have approached us in the past, but with covid, this award was put on hold. We are now in a position to take up your offers! Thank you.

Charities

We are very mindful of the current financial situation and completely understand that many families do not have any spare cash right now. However, we feel that we should still do as much as we can as a school community to support local charities at Christmas. There is absolutely no obligation and as always, any donations are anonymous.

Phyllis Tuckwell

This year our annual Reindeer Run for the local hospice will be on December 12th. The children will have an assembly next week to learn about the hospice and what their efforts will go towards.

Step - by- Step #OPEN DOORS



This Aldershot based charity works with young homeless people in the local area. Sadly, there are young people (16-25) in our area who are no longer welcome in their own families. These youngsters usually end up in very difficult situations and are very vulnerable to exploitation. As you might imagine, there are often mental health issues at some point in the chain of family breakdown. Step- by- Step supports these young people to find suitable shelter and get their lives back on track. We have supported this charity before and our school council at the time had the privilege of visiting their headquarters and meeting some of the young people. We shall be having an assembly, and after that families will be invited to write a message on an #OPENDOORS tag and tie it onto the school Christmas tree (in exchange for a small donation). The message should be intended for a young person this Christmas and will be collected by Step by Step.

general housekeeping

kindness

All staff at St Peter's enjoy working within a supportive and inclusive body of parents. However, sometimes staff are spoken to inappropriately and this will not be tolerated. We also ask for parents to be patient with their requests as we have recently experienced a greater number of parents becoming inappropriately demanding on office time.

parking

As ever, please be considerate to our neighbours when parking near the school. Equally, the school has no power to do anything about illegal parking in public roads. If you find yourself inconvenienced or blocked in, please contact the council or file a complaint with the police, thank you.

Clubs

We shall be sending out the clubs lists before the end of term and you will have the holiday period to discuss possible options with your child. On Wednesday 3rd January we shall run through the clubs with the children so that they can have some idea of what goes on in each club. Remember all clubs are suitable for beginners so please encourage your child to participate. Booking will then open on Scopay. It will close the following week. Exciting news about two new clubs.

* DRAMA CLUB (Y3 - 4), led by an experienced drama teacher (details will be out soon)

* JUNIOR CHOIR (Y3 - 6), led by an experienced teacher who supports the Farnham Youth Choir

KS2 morning clubs

A friendly reminder that, if your children attend a morning school club (or indeed an after-school club), you must contact school to inform us of any absences.

charge for passport/citizen authorisation documents

The school charge £10 per child/adult application that is authorised. The money covers staff time and goes into the School's fund account.

trick box workshops for parents

We are coming to the end of our first six week workshop. We are planning to repeat this next term - more details to follow (when we have feedback from the current cohort)!

revised SATs dates

Due to the additional Coronation Bank Holiday on 8 May, the Y6 SATs will now take place from Tuesday 9 to Friday 12 May.

dates for your diary

2nd December, 3.15 pm: Christmas wreaths, Swags & Stars stall in the playground

7th & 8th December: A King is Born, Y1 & 2 nativity play

8th December: PTFA cake sale

9th December: mufti day in exchange for a bottle (governors' tombola)

12th December: Phyllis Tuckwell Reindeer Run

13th December, 6pm: KS2 carol service at St Peter's church

14th December: Green Shoots nursery and YR nativity

14th December: Christmas lunch (book via SCOPAY)

16th December: Christmas jumper day (£1 donation)

16th December, 1.30 pm: end of term & festive fun in the playground (carol singing, refreshments, governors' tombola, handmade gifts, decorations, plants)

3rd January: start spring term

SURREY ARTS

SOUTH WEST SURREY COME & TRY

Come & try the instruments in a free hands on session and watch our ensembles rehearse and perform.

Wednesday 7 December
Tillingbourne School
Chilworth, Guildford
4.45 - 5.15pm

Double Bass | Cello | Clarinet | French Horn
Flute | Percussion | Saxophone | Trumpet
Trombone | Viola | Violin

For more information contact Surrey Arts:
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