

ST PETER'S NEWSLETTER

May 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

The children in Year 6 and Year 2 have made me really proud as they have tackled their tests over the recent weeks with courage and a real sense of purpose and calm. The staff have supported them all to avoid unnecessary worries and to help children that spoke of a concern. Tests are an inevitable part of a child's education but it is important that they are encouraged to merely do their best and to be given a supportive environment in order for them to give their best.

We now look forward to continuing the exciting curriculum until the end of the Summer term, the sporting and musical events ahead and time outside at last.

A huge thank you must be given to the PTFA team who organised a fantastic quiz night which was enjoyed by everyone who went and raised tremendous funds for the school. Thank you for your energy, time and commitment to our community. We are all very much looking forward to our Summer Fair. I do hope everyone will want to get involved and support the PTFA team.

SJDunning

Sarah Dunning
Head Teacher

governors' column

Hello, I'm Paddy Goodlet and I have been an elected parent governor since 2020. Our family moved to Farnham from London five years ago and we have three children attending St Peter's (Y3 and Y1). I was born overseas but moved to the UK at the age of seven and I have spent the last 20 years working in the financial services sector.

I sit on the Resources Committee which is responsible for monitoring the financial resources of the school, including both day-to-day operations and future investment. The Resources Committee fulfils an important role against a challenging public funding backdrop and we are focused on ensuring that St Peter's is able to continue building on its successes and to provide excellent educational outcomes and pastoral support to all pupils.

It has been wonderful to build so many new friendships since moving to Farnham and getting involved in the St Peter's community. Outside of work, I coach minis at Farnham Rugby Club, I'm an aspiring photographer (check out google!), self-confessed movie geek and enjoy sharing new outdoor adventures with my family. I feel very privileged to serve as a governor and I've really enjoyed working closely with the senior leadership team and all the amazing, passionate and dedicated people at St Peter's.

Do you know of any reasonably priced property to rent locally?

A couple of our Ukrainian families are seeking rental accommodation in this area. Their children are settled at St Peter's and they are really trying to avoid a further unsettling move to a new area. In both cases, the families are mother and two children, while fathers have to remain in Ukraine. Alternatively, does anyone know of anyone in the area who would be able to host? This would come with the payment that goes with the scheme. If you know of anyone who may be able to help, please could you contact the ladies in the office who will put you in touch.

Three of our Ukrainian pupils have now returned to home to Kharkiv and Odessa to reunite with family and pick up their former lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with these families as it has been a very difficult decision for them.



Y4 residential trip



Y4 went to Marchant's Hill for their residential trip. The two days were packed with exciting activities full of opportunities for the children to challenge themselves. The children enjoyed archery, tested their fear of heights with the climbing wall and abseiling, encouraged each other on Jacob's Ladder, loved taking the leap of faith on the Trapeze, worked as a team following a sensory trail but the overall favourite was the giant swing. There was plenty of healthy food to keep them going and we were lucky with the weather.

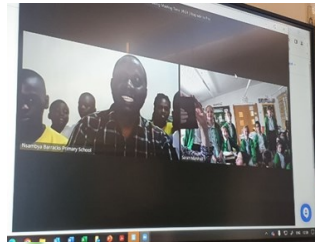
une merveilleuse journée française



Hopefully your child will have told you about the fantastic day they had on Thursday. Aside from ordering their croissant/jus de pomme/jus d'orange/glace à vanille, the day was an immersive experience of French art, culture and language. Thank you to families for supporting the day which adds such value to our curriculum.



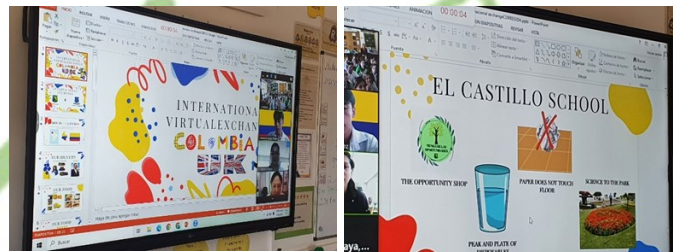
global links - Uganda



Just after half term, we were eventually able to link up with the Ugandan School. We had a fascinating zoom session with some of the KS2 pupils. The Ugandan pupils had an excellent command of English and reminded us that when we

answer a question, we need to explain rather than give a one-word answer! There was an excitable exchange about the similarities and differences of school life in the UK and Uganda. We are looking forward to the next meeting and their teachers would really like to make this possible for the younger children

global links - Colombia



Through one of our governors we have been able to connect with a school in Colombia. One of our Y5 classes met with the Colombian pupils who were older than them but had prepared a very interesting and animated presentation about their country. We learnt about the culture, the wildlife, the religion, the climate and of course, school life. The Colombian pupils communicated very confidently in perfect English, telling us about the eco measures they take in their school to fight climate change. It is now our task to prepare a presentation for them (sadly, not in Spanish).

These opportunities really help our pupils to see the connections with the wider world and to find out about life in other countries. They take quite a bit of planning, particularly around time zones but they really add value to the curriculum.

eco - using our voice

The Eco Committee has a reply from Jeremy Hunt MP in response to their concerns about the pollution in the River Wey and our local environment. They want to know what the Government is (or isn't) doing on this agenda. Mr Hunt is going to bring the environment minister, Therese Coffey to Farnham to take a look for herself. Let's see what that delivers! Well done to the pupils for being so proactive in engaging the local MP and now Finance Minister. We teach in school that we can use our voices to instigate change. It was very exciting to see The House of Commons stamp on the envelope.



Farnham and District Cross Country Event @ Farnham Park - Saturday 13th May

May sports roundup

Hurray for some beautiful weather and some fantastic sporting opportunities for St Peter's! We have had a busy and successful few weeks. Of course, one of the highlights was the Farnham Park Cross Country but we have also competed in smaller events.

Our Y3 footballers played out at St Polycarp's last week in a friendly two team competition. We had a great time and all the boys played some excellent football. An extra well done to the three Y2 boys who played up a year in the match. You were a credit to the school.



We have also had a wonderful afternoon with our mixed Y5 cricket team in a friendly event held at Alton School. For the children, I think the highlight might have been the match tea, but for me it was seeing them work so well as a team and having the courage to take on more experienced sides. Everyone had to bat and bowl, some children for the first time.

It was a pleasure to see you enjoying cricket so much Y5.



We also attended two tennis events at Brightwells in Farnham this week, which has involved children from years



3, 4, 5 & 6. All the children attending threw themselves into the games organised and had a wonderful time. I was very proud of how enthusiastic and friendly you all were with all the other players.

Thank you to all the staff and parents who have supported this month.



As always, St Peter's hosted an impressive cross-country meet with 469 pupils from 12 district schools represented. Most of St Peter's staff were up at Farnham Park to help organise and run the event. This inclusive mile run is open to all pupils in KS2. It takes place twice a year and pupils have an opportunity to improve on their personal best time. All of our pupils gave their best and really contributed to the team and the general feelgood factor. You will see from the table below that St Peter's features quite prominently!

PLA CE	OVERALL BELL CUP	GIRLS' TEAM TROPHY	BOYS' TEAM TROPHY	INDIVID- UAL GIRLS	INDIVID- UAL BOYS
1 st	South Farnham	South Farnham	South Farnham	South Farnham	South Farnham
2 nd	St Peter's	St Peter's	Waverley Abbey	South Farnham	South Farnham
3 rd	St Polycarps	St Polycarps	St Peter's	St Peter's Grace Newman	South Farnham

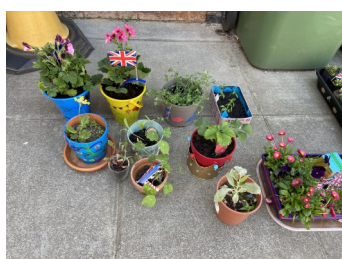


Special mention goes to Grace in Y5 who came in as the third fastest girl and to our fastest six boys and girls who were both placed.

Thank you also to the magnificent staff teams from St Peter's and Green Shoots. There was a lot of organisation before the event co-ordinating with St John's Ambulance, police and local council and during the event from 7am on Saturday morning. Families also deserve a big thank you for such energising support!



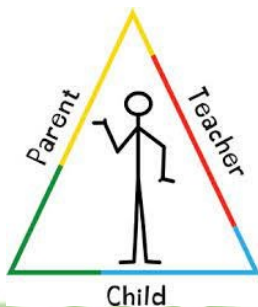
coronation planters





trick box monitors

Some of the Y5 Trick Box monitors took it upon themselves to come up with a rather catchy Trick Box song, which they performed to the school last week. It really captures what Trick Box is about! Also look out for new Trick Box posters around our outside areas which the monitors will be putting up over the coming days.



Trick Box is great to use, it helps you with your daily blues.

Trick box is easy to use, it helps you when you're feeling confused.

The red card represents calm – it helps you when you're feeling alarmed.

The blue card is communicate – it helps you share with your classmates.

The green card is to create – it helps you try something great.

The yellow card is confident – it helps you be more resilient.

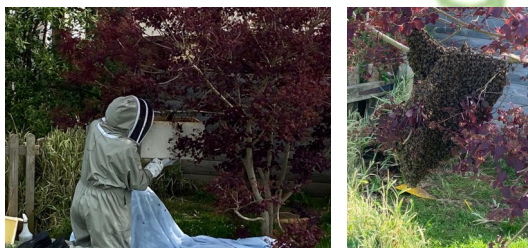
You should try Trick Box – it is really fab.

Just look around the playground for a Trick Box badge!

honey

A new use for honey that we felt worth bringing to your attention. A button battery can burn through a child's oesophagus if swallowed. Giving the child honey every 10 minutes can delay and even prevent this from happening, which could help to save a child's life. This is because honey is slightly acidic which helps to neutralise the tissue surrounding the battery and protects it from more damage (not for children under 12 months). Of course the battery must still be removed as soon as possible.

exciting eco visitors



Three days after World Bee Day, we arrived at school to see a huge swarm of bees who'd made a nest right next to the playground. Luckily local apiarists were on the scene in minutes to handle the situation. At dusk they were safely transported to a local hive.

yoga in school

Natalie Perry started up yoga in school back in 2018. She was delivering whole class sessions from Reception to Y6 and also supported other pupils in smaller groups. It has been a really positive experience for the children. We were so grateful to Natalie during lockdown when she recorded several sessions for families to follow together in their homes. We are currently seeking someone to fill that position which because of tight timetabling, takes place on a Wednesday afternoon for two hours. If you know of anyone who wouldn't be fazed by classes of 32+. Please contact Mrs Marshall to find out more.

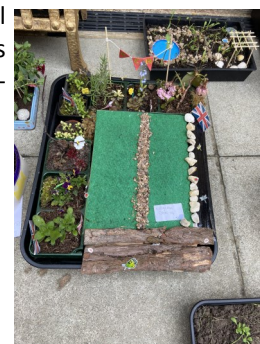
a message from Natalie Perry - yoga teacher

I would like to say a huge thank you to staff and children for their support, interest and engagement with our yoga sessions over the last 5 years. I am moving on, to work with Eikon, a charity supporting mental health across schools in Surrey. I'll be training children to become Wellbeing Ambassadors and offering parent webinars on all kinds of topics. St Peter's is one of very few Surrey schools to adopt yoga into the curriculum in a very specific, classroom-based way. This allows children to see that yoga can be available to them whenever they need it - yes, it's nice to have a mat and a big space with plenty of time to dedicate to it, but that's not really how the world works. We have to fit these tools into our everyday, busy lives. What we nurture in our daily lives will grow. A couple of breaths, a little stretch and a moment to reflect can go a long way. The children are pretty much experts at that now, so I'm hopeful for the future!

coronation planters



Thank you everyone for your coronation planter entries and supporting the competition. Well done to our competition winners and all the planters looked amazing around the school.





dogs

We are aware that a number of parents tie their dogs to the school fence at drop-off and pick-up times. It would be very helpful if parents and carers could speak to their children about asking the dog owner for permission, before they approach the dog. Whilst we haven't had any incidents recently, this is a good opportunity to remind children.

carpark etiquette

Please could we remind parents that they should not be parking in the staff carpark (unless using the disabled bay). This applies at both ends of the day. There have been a few scary moments when a small child appears from nowhere as a member of staff is reversing. We are not expecting children to be walking around the carpark at those times.

We would also ask that small children do not weave in and out of the cars at pick up. Obviously again, safety is the main concern but also, a child was seen running a stick down a car door!

Thank you for your understanding.

zig zags

Please do not park on the yellow zig zags. We get calls which we then have to respond to. It all takes time out of what we need to be doing and it's unnecessary. Thank you.

lunchboxes

Many lunchboxes are not being collected at the end of the day and are just being left on the trolleys. This is hygiene hazard as they often contain rotting food and then sit alongside fresh lunchboxes. They are also an eyesore when we show visitors around the school. We have no option but to dispose of the lunchboxes and endless plastic carrier bags. But this shouldn't be the job of someone in school. There are also a couple of children who bring in their food in a plastic takeaway container which they leave behind each day, only to bring in a new one the following day! Please can we ask parents to be on top of this. It does not fit with our eco efforts.

In the same light, lunchboxes left on outside trolleys are regularly pulled down by foxes at night and found with all the wrappers, strewn all over the field. Even the foxes don't take the rotten food - that is for our staff to clear up before the rats move in.

(Since drafting this last week, we have cleared up a putrid black liquid from the carpet. It had oozed out of a lunchbox, down the trolley and on to the floor! Who knows what solid food substance it once was?)

dates for your diary

5th June – inset day

6th June – children back to school

6th – 9th June – Y6 Bikeability group 2

7th June – Y1 trip to Farnham Castle

9th June – Y4 trip to Alice Holt

12th June – Y5-6 Heart Start training

14th June – Y5 trip to Gilbert White Studies

15th June – Y6 leavers' service at Guildford Cathedral

16th June – power off / eco day (sandwich lunch)

20th June – science day

23rd June – Y2 singing spree festival Farnham

24th June – Farnham Carnival

26th June – Y3 trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace

27th – 28th June – Y6 Weydon induction

28th June – Y1-5 church service for St Peter's Day

30th June – creation pause day

sun hats & sun screen

Can we please remind parents to send their child to school with a sun hat and sun screen, **every day**. Please apply sunscreen before you come to school in the mornings and teach your child how to apply sunscreen themselves at lunchtime. Be assured that children are encouraged to stay in the shade, particularly at lunchtimes, and if we have a very hot heatwave indoor areas are open providing cool, calm spaces. Don't forget your water bottle too!

guitar lessons

Would your child like to learn the guitar? Are they interested in electric or acoustic? The guitar teacher has spaces for children in Y3-6 starting in September. Please make your enquiry to the school office who will give you the teacher's contact details