

ST PETER'S NEWSLETTER

December 2023



Dear Families,

We hope you have all enjoyed the special events that we have taken part in during the lead up to Christmas. Yesterday, it was a privilege to take 30 Y5 children to sing at Ashton Manor. The residents loved hearing the carols and many joined in. Our children were a joy to be with.

May the staff wish you all a very peaceful and happy Christmas.

SJ Dunning

Sarah Dunning
Head Teacher



Mrs Usher



We say a huge *thank you* and sad farewell to Mrs Usher as she leaves us for pastures new. She has been a teaching assistant at St Peter's for 24 years and has been an integral part of the sporting life at our school. We will miss her experience and passion for the job. We wish her all the very best as she starts a new job in a new sector.

Cross Country



We had a fantastic afternoon of Cross Country running at St Edmunds school last week. This prestigious event attracts over 1,300 runners and is run on a challenging multi terrain course. All of our runners were brilliant, and we had some amazing top ten finishers. A special mention to Theo and Loic in Y3 who came 2nd and 3rd overall – amazing! Mia in Y3 came 7th, Rudi in Y6 also 7th, and Grace in Y6 came 10th. Well done to all runners – you were a pleasure to take and a credit to our school.

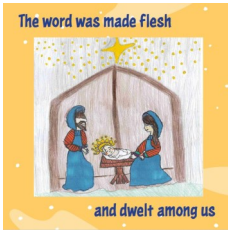


The library



Miss Buckland and the Librarians wanted to thank all the children who made decorations for the library, which has made it feel very festive and cosy in here this month! Merry Christmas from the library.

Christmas card



Congratulations to Victoria in 6M for her card being chosen by Bishop Andrew of Guildford and Bishop Paul of Dorking for their Christmas Card this year. Victoria met Bishop Andrew in our collective worship on Monday 11th Dec.

Hedgehog visit



Graham from Hedgehog Rescue very much enjoyed his visit to our school with hedgehogs Henry and Harry. Our donation of £75.45 will help to ensure all the hedgehogs have the food and warmth they need throughout the winter months.

Forest school at the Christmas fair



Keep an eye out for Mrs Webzell's forest school stall at the Christmas fair in the playground. She'll be selling beautiful and unique Christmas items, including hessian hamper bags, orange potpourri, mini cork reindeer, swags, wreaths, hazel stars, hazel hanging trees, table decorations, log snowmen, log reindeer, lavender bags, seed bombs, knitted hats, mittens, and headbands.

PTFA cake sale

Thank you for supporting the PTFA Christmas Cake Sale run by Y2, Y3 and PTFA Star Bakers! All the Y2 children enjoyed making Christmas aliens and reindeer at the cupcake decorating workshop run by the PTFA. Thank you to parents, children and staff for all the generous baked and bought donations - together we raised over **£400!**



Christmas Zoom with Mary Raptou School, Larissa, Greece



Y5 classes met up with pupils in Greece last week. Both schools presented Christmas in their country. We learnt that while some traditions such as a Christmas tree and special food, are similar, other traditions are very different. With so many islands, boats feature as Christmas decorations in Greece. Model boats are lit up and used as decorations in public places and in people's homes. We also found out that on Epiphany, a priest throws a cross into the sea and people then dive into cold water to retrieve it. The one who brings it to the surface is blessed with luck for the rest of the year. Both schools have a similar ethos with a focus on community and charity at Christmas. We look forward to more collaborative learning next year.

Art at Guildford Cathedral



Each year, church schools are invited to contribute a piece of artwork to be displayed in the cathedral over the Christmas/New Year period. This year the theme is: God's Gift.

Our Arts Committee worked on our contribution which is a candle featuring different names for 'Jesus' - God's Gift. If you need a *distraction during the holidays*, why not take a

trip to the Cathedral and take a look at all the contributions around the cathedral. Take friends and family too!

Advent Service and Carols at St Peter's Church



Both of these services help to prepare our school community for Christmas. We try to focus on the real meaning of Christmas and include moments of reflection in contrast to the commercial side.

Thank you to those who accompanied us to church and to everyone who joined us at the church on Monday evening.

We hope you found it special.

Staff car park

Please can all parents respect the staff car park is solely for members of our school team. There are 85 staff members and to have the spaces taken up before school with parents dropping off is a real inconvenience to us starting our day smoothly. Also, parents are walking through the carpark with their children whilst cars are pulling in – please use the pedestrians gates.

Earrings

Please do not get your child's earrings pierced during the Christmas holidays. Earrings are strictly banned at school and any newly pierced ears will be told to remove them. It is only fair that every child follows this rule. It is expensive to get them done so we don't want you all disappointed when they are asked to be removed. Please wait until the six weeks summer holiday.

School uniform

Reminder that only school shoes are to be worn – no boots – unless there is a medical condition then please can we have a letter to explain. The school will be reviewing its footwear policy in the new year to take into account that some 'girl' shoes are rather flimsy and not fit for winter weather. More info ration to follow.

Tissues

If your child has a cold, please send them to school with their own supply of tissues, thank you.

Netball Club - do you have any netball contacts?

With Mrs Usher leaving us, we are now without an adult to lead the netball club. If anyone knows someone who plays who would also like to take on the club, please could you let the office know in the first instance. The team has done really well and is through to the League semi- finals next term, but at the moment there is no coach. The club would need to run from 3:15 to 4:15. Day may be flexible. Thank you

Dates for your diary

- 2nd January – inset day
- 3rd January – start of Spring term
- 8th January – school-run clubs start
- 10th January – Rock Steady concert
- 15th January – Y2 Florence Nightingale workshop
- 17th January – whole-school anti-bullying theatre and workshop
- 24th January – EYFS and KS1 Perform drama workshop

Christmas present ideas – books to read:

- <https://www.booksfortopics.com/>
- <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/>

School applications



Please note the deadline for applying for a September 2024 YR place is 15 January 2024.

Surrey strongly encourage online applications via <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>.

Parents can apply online from a smartphone or tablet as well as a lap-top. If parents are unable to apply online, they will need to request a paper

application form via the Surrey Schools & Childcare Service (0300 200 1004, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm). The completed paper application form must be received by Ad-missions (to our Quadrant Court address) by 15 January, so parents must allow time for the post to reach us. If parents need to apply on paper, we recommend that they send applications by recorded post.

Full information is available on Surrey's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions. The Surrey Schools & Childcare Service can also provide impartial help in completing an application. Applications received after the closing date without an exceptional reason will be treated as late and will not be considered until all on time applications have been processed. This may jeopardise the chance of a parent being offered one of their preferred schools for their child.



01252 714 115

www.stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk

@stpetersfarnham

