

Jesus said "Love one another as I have loved you" John 13v34

# ST PETER'S NEWSLETTER

September 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

*It has been a really smooth start to the new academic year and we hope that new families are starting to feel settled. If you ever have a query or a worry, please find someone on the staff team to speak to. We are here to help and solve anything as best we can.*

*There is a lot to celebrate this term already so please enjoy this newsletter.*

*SJ Dunning*

Sarah Dunning

Head Teacher

## football



Well done to our Football team of 6 and one 5 pupil. They played brilliantly against Hale and won 12-2.

## produce sale



Thank you so much to families who purchased some of our school grown produce. So far we raised over £60 to go towards outdoor learning resources. If you didn't buy our polytunnel grapes, you don't know what you missed! A few people who didn't have cash on the day were going to drop the money in at the office. Please if you've forgotten, it's not too late and every penny goes back into our garden or Forest School provision. Thank you.

## Forest school

Children are already enjoying sessions in the woodland. Planting wildflower seeds, exploring our pond life, learning about what lives in the woodland.



Suggested forest school kit: hats, fingerless gloves, jumper/sweater, (old) trousers/joggers (not jeans) waterproof trousers (if you are buying these go for rubber) and waterproof coat (lined for winter). Layers are really important as they can be removed if too warm. Boots (if Wellingtons thick socks).

## British Council's International Award 2024-2027



We are delighted to report that our International Award was reaccredited over the summer. In order to achieve this award, we need to provide evidence to show that in the past academic year, we have participated in a minimum of seven activities which have an international focus. At least three of these must be in collaboration with a school overseas. There also has to be evidence of an international focus across the school – not just in one or two year groups. This is lifted from our feedback from the British Council.

The engaging and cross-curricular, curriculum-based international activities that you have presented are: 'Written and online exchange on at least three occasions with French pupils',

## Our new reception classes



The Reception children have settled into our school beautifully. They have enjoyed meeting their buddies, playing and learning in the Reception environment and visiting Forest School. We are thrilled to welcome them and their families to St Peters. Keep an eye out for the Farnham Herald supplement on the 10th of October, to see our children in newsprint.



## ATTENDANCE

We take attendance very seriously at St Peter's and the Head Teacher monitors it every 2 weeks. Parents are contacted if their child falls into one of these categories:

### Persistent Absenteeism (PA) and Severe Absenteeism (SA)

A pupil is defined by the Government as a 'persistent absentee' when they miss 10% or more schooling across the school year for any reason; this can be authorised or unauthorised absence. Absence at this level will cause considerable damage to any pupil's education and we need the full support and cooperation of parents to resolve this. All pupils who have attendance levels of 90% or below are considered to be a persistent absentee.

A pupil who has missed 50% or more schooling is defined by the Government as 'severely absent'. Pupils within this cohort may find it more difficult to be in school or face bigger barriers to their regular attendance and, as such, are likely to need more intensive support.

### The law has changed

#### National Penalty Notices for persistent absence

A Penalty Notice will be issued to each parent liable for the offence.

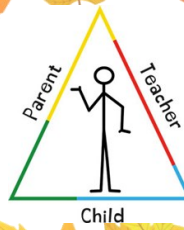
Where there are 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 weeks a penalty notice will be issued. The period of 10 school weeks can span different terms or school years.

*Arriving late, after the register closes is classified as an unauthorised absence.*

A penalty notice is an out of court settlement which is intended to change behaviour without the need for criminal prosecution. The charge is £160 per pupil if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. The payment must be made directly to the local authority. There is no right of appeal by parents against a penalty notice. Revenue collected through this system is ringfenced by the local authority for attendance.

Children have a right to an education and pupils at St Peter's are fortunate to have a vibrant and varied curriculum and to be part of an inclusive community with so many opportunities. By taking your child on holiday during term time, you are significantly reducing their learning opportunities. Children have 13 weeks in the year to take a holiday. Teachers plan extensively for all the needs of the children in their class and the learning is progressive. Therefore, when a child misses a week of school their wider learning is disrupted. Teachers do not have the time to recap the missed learning for these children. Equally, teachers will not set work for a child who is going on holiday. This is both an unacceptable use of the teacher's time and futile as you have chosen to have a holiday, not to do schoolwork.

**TRICK BOX** - Session for parents to understand what the programme is and how it works - **Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 pm**



Please come along to find out how this personal development plan works in school and how you can use the tricks to support your child at home. It will be suitable for parents of children of all ages as the programme runs across the school. Please let the office know if you plan to attend.

### Discriminatory Language and Behaviour

At St Peter's we aim for our school community to live our school values: Courage, Inclusiveness and Active Citizen. Pupils are taught to show respect to everyone they meet and to make everyone feel welcomed. As a staff, we have had input on EDI (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) and try to make sure that all areas of our curriculum and the language we use, avoids 'stereotyping' or 'othering'. We teach these values in school but of course, we cannot influence what children are exposed to beyond the school gates, whether that's online or directly through people they meet. We are sure that our families will have been shocked at the summer's riots so close to our homes (Aldershot) and to learn that Farnham residents were among those charged. We want to be clear that any language or behaviour which is categorised as derogatory towards an individual or group of people, will be dealt with appropriately. All schools are obliged to report such incidents to Surrey County Council.

### Drop off in the mornings

We are aware that some children are arriving at school long before 08:30. Please do not leave children on the playground early as they are not supervised and the school will not be held responsible for any accident that happens during this time.

### Parents in school after school hours

We are having a regular number of parents coming into the school building at 5.45pm after BASE top collect belongings. Please can you refrain from entering the building at this time because staff are having meetings and need to be able to speak freely and this is compromised by the presence of parents around the lockers and at times coming into the classrooms. Please wait until the morning to collect what is missing. Thank you.

### Getting to school and parking arrangements

We encouraged all our families to walk to school whenever possible. There is also a bike and scooter rack at the entrance to the school. Anything left in these racks is done so at the owner's risk.

We have a successful drop-off zone from 08:30 to 08:45 which is operated by a group of parent volunteers. This is located between the zig-zag markings at the front of the school. Your child will be helped out of your car and escorted through the school gates. If you are able to volunteer to help, please contact the school office.

Clearly at school drop-off and pick-up times the roads outside school can be very busy. For reasons of safety, as well as respect for our neighbours, please park sensibly by ensuring that driveways, grass verges and the yellow zig-zag lines are kept clear at all times. We also ask parents to adhere to our informal one-way system when driving along Little Green Lane i.e. **driving down-hill** from Shortheath Road towards Greenfield Road.

We also ask that when children arrive in the morning, parents & carers should leave the children promptly and not gather in the playground. Children will line up when the bell rings and focus on coming into school in a calm manner. If parents & carers are still in the playground, it causes a distraction and upsets some children.

### Green Shoots Nursery

Unfortunately, we have no option but to ask nursery parents & carers to access Green Shoots via the lower car park. Please supervise your children closely and do not allow them to play around the staff cars. Please teach your children that car parks are not a play area, and they need to be aware of any moving vehicles.

### BASE & Clubs

Lastly, anyone picking-up or dropping-off for BASE or from school clubs, must not use the staff car parks.

Thank you for your co-operation.

### Dates for your diary

2<sup>nd</sup> October: Y2 trip to Rural Life Centre

3<sup>rd</sup> October: Harvest menu

4<sup>th</sup> October: PTFA football fundraiser

W/C 7<sup>th</sup> October: book fair week

9<sup>th</sup> October: Y5 trip to Winchester Science Centre

Trick Box parents' meeting (14.30)

16<sup>th</sup> October: Harvest Festival Service @ St Peter's Church

18<sup>th</sup> October: Just One Tree fundraiser

19<sup>th</sup> October: Farnham Cross Country

21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October: Y6 residential

23<sup>rd</sup> October: whole school flu immunisations

28<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November: half term