

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

# ST PETER'S NEWSLETTER

October 2024



Dear Families,

*It's been a very long and busy half-term packed with school trips (including the Y6 residential) sports events, harvest celebrations and a full-on curriculum. We've been awarded our International Award, our Eco Award with Distinction and just this week, our Artsmark Gold. It all happens because we have a dedicated and committed staff, supportive families and enthusiastic learners.*

*Everyone's ready for a break and we hope that all families have some time to be together and have fun over the next 10 days.*

*St Peter's Leadership Team*

## Farnham and District Cross Country Meet



Thank you to all the families who turned up to support their child and the school last Saturday morning. As always, St Peter's staff organised the event which hosted 14 schools. There is so much organisation behind the scenes and we are grateful to the commitment of our staff. For the children, it's all about competing and hopefully all of them will go on to compete in May 2025 and attempt to move up the rankings. Every single child gave their best and it was great to see the determination and enjoyment as they supported each other. **St Peter's came in second in both the girls' and boys' team events and also second overall (which is a fantastic result)!** The school which won, South Farnham, is obviously a much bigger school. But it was also good to see some of the very small schools competing for the first time, some with only six runners in their school team.



## Y5 trip to Winchester Science Centre



On 9<sup>th</sup> October, Year 5 went to the Winchester Science Centre as part of their science learning about Earth and Space. They watched a Planetarium show about our Solar System, took part in a rocket building workshop and explored a variety of hands-on science activities. The children enjoyed every minute, learnt a lot of science and were a credit to St Peter's.

## Y2 trip to Rural Life Living museum



As part of our History topic, Year 2 enjoyed a visit to the Rural Life Living Museum. We found out what it was like to be a child growing up in this area

in the Victorian period. The school room was very different to school now. Children had to sit in rows and stand up if they wanted to speak. The teacher was very strict. If you didn't sit up straight, you had to use the back straightener. We had a go at writing on slates and learnt some new sayings – "Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Til your good is better and your better is best." We definitely have more fun at school now!



## Farnham Food Bank



Thank you to all the families who donated to our harvest collection for The Farnham Food Bank. Your generosity really makes a huge difference to the families within the Farnham community who find themselves in difficult circumstances and unable to provide a meal. As the volunteers who collected the food said: It only takes one thing such as illness, relationship breakdown or losing a job to change people's circumstances over night. Our School Council co-ordinated the collection.

## Harvest Festival Services at St Peter's Church



Both our infant and junior services were opportunities to celebrate the abundance of the harvest and to reflect on the injustice around the world and those communities who are starving, due to decisions made by humankind. The time in the church is a time to come together, pause the school day and reflect on what we have and how we can use our voices to instigate change.

### Assemblies this term have included:

- International Day of the Girl Child
- World Food Day (all families encouraged to include more beans in their diets- please send in photos)
- Black History Month
- International Day of Peace

All of these whole school assemblies aim to introduce children to the world's big issues and reflect on what each individual can do, to play their part.

## Artsmark Gold



St Peter's has been awarded Artsmark Gold by the Arts Council, a rare commendation

which has been given to celebrate our creative work right across the curriculum and one which few schools achieve. This award, which we have been working towards for over three years, reflects the hard work of all the staff and children. The Arts Council commented that St Peter's "has deepened its commitment to the arts by extending the range and complexity of creative and expressive learning available to children."

**Hockey tournament**



A team of Y5 & Y6 won the Farnham schools' hockey tournament last week. Well done everyone.!

**Smartphones**

You will have seen the recent letter regarding a 'Smartphone Free Childhood'. One of our families was interviewed on BBC Radio Surrey and St Peter's parents appear to be giving the campaign support as the school is at the top of leaderboard among other Surrey schools. While we acknowledge that internet access has many positives for learning, most children and young people use a smartphone to communicate on social media. In school we have seen the negative impact that this can have on children's wellbeing. We have also noticed (in line with other schools) that in recent years, pupils' ability to focus has decreased. There is a lot of research to show that constant engagement with online devices has contributed to this.

**TrickBox**



Thank you to the families who attended the Trick Box presentation. We aim for every family to own a set of Trick Box cards so that children can put their strategies to use at home. Next term, we shall

be facilitating workshops for parents with the aim of supporting parents to support their child's resilience and wellbeing. More information will follow.



**Eco School**

We have received official recognition that we are an Eco Green Flag school, with distinction. Thank you to Mrs Edmonds and her Eco team for all their determination and hard work.

**dates for your diary**

- 6<sup>th</sup> November: Y6 National Child Measurement Programme
- 8<sup>th</sup> November: PTFA laser and fireworks display
- 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> November: parents' evening
- 13<sup>th</sup> November: Y1 trip to Milestones Museum Basingstoke
- 15<sup>th</sup> November: PTFA cake sale
- 19<sup>th</sup> November: Y4 Viking workshop
- 21<sup>st</sup> November: Y6 (+ any catch up) flu vaccinations

**REMINDER—secondary school applications**



If your child is in Y6, please remember to apply for a secondary school place by 31<sup>st</sup> October. More info and online applications on [www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions)



**HALF-TERM HOCKEY CAMPS**

Come and try out hockey at Guildford Hockey Club! Play with double-Olympian and Director of Hockey Dan Fox

- DATES: Monday 28th - Wed 30th October 2024, 10am - 3pm, with early drop-off (from 8am) and late pick-up (until 4pm) available as an add-on.
- VENUE: Broadwater School CUF 3BW, home of Guildford HC

Special 20% off holiday discount with this code: **SCHOOLESS** valid until 29 October on any holiday camp booking including future camps, for example Christmas (29th Dec, 2nd & 3rd Jan, February, Easter & May half term).

For bookings visit: [ghchockey.co.uk](http://ghchockey.co.uk)

- Hockey season is now under way! Regular junior training takes place at Broadwater School on Fridays from 6pm, with matches on Sundays



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[www.stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk)

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