

# ST PETER'S NEWSLETTER

January 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

Although this is a shorter half term, we are managing to pack many exciting activities and visits into it. I hope you enjoy reading the highlights. I want to thank you all for helping us to provide a safe and happy learning environment for all our pupils. This includes ensuring that your child is not in school before 8.30am unless they are attending BASE of course.

Sarah Dunning

Head Teacher

## INTERNATIONAL AWARD 2024- 2027



Mrs Marshall and Mrs Simpson with Deputy Chief Executive of The British Council and our new MP, Greg Stafford

Last week we were invited up to the Houses of Parliament to receive our whole school International Award. It is accredited by The British Council and this year, only 54 schools (secondary and primary) received the award at this level. Our new MP, Greg Stafford showed up for the photo! Different elements of our curriculum feed into this work, examples being:

- French Day
- Live links with schools overseas (France, Uganda, Greece)
- Fairtrade learning which always focuses on learning about communities in different countries
- Chinese New Year (EYFS)
- Ukrainian art exhibition

As always, if any parent has contact with a primary school overseas, we would love to make contact.

## RHS AWARDS



We are proud to announce that we are now an RHS level 5 garden school! Our children have worked hard over the years to meet the criteria, with help from parents, grandparents and local businesses. We will continue to learn and grow in our school garden areas.



**Y2 FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE**



The children in Year 2 welcomed Florence Nightingale to school. We found out what it was like for Florence to grow up as a Victorian child in a wealthy family and how determined she was to become a nurse. She shared her experiences of what it was like arriving at Scutari Hospital during the Crimean War. We learnt about the improvements she made to the hospital and know why she is still remembered today.

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**Y5 MUSIC FESTIVAL CHOIR**



Here is the Year 5 Music Festival Choir rehearsing with 2,000 children on Zoom across the south of Surrey. We rehearsed our 10 songs with the conductor and now feel super prepared for our concert. We are performing in GLive on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

**YR FOREST SCHOOL**

Badgers class built a bike, a car and a train. They climbed and went on the slide. They also created music and learned different woodland leaves.



Foxes played with dinosaurs, built towers and farm yards. They balanced, climbed and zoomed.



**A MESSAGE FROM THE PTFA**

We hope everyone is back in the swing of term! We're excited to announce the pipeline of PTFA events - subject to the usual caveats of volunteers etc. Please drop us a line if you'd like to get involved in any events and we'd really appreciate you promoting these to your classes. Everyone is welcome to attend the PTFA monthly meeting. Keep your eyes peeled for the **PTFA Post** which celebrates our recent fundraising, hot news and elaborates on the below.

**SPRING TERM EVENTS:**

- Pilates for the PTFA** - ongoing Tuesdays in the School Hall @7.30pm - Nina Campbell
- Cinema Club for EYFS&KS1** - Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Jan - Rachael Mathews / Caroline Peck
- Valentine's Bake Sale** - Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb - Lily Rennie / Y3 & 4
- School Disco EYFS&KS1 + KS2** - Tues 11<sup>th</sup> March - Emma Ward / Lily Rennie / Shelley Fassett
- Mad March Hair Day** - 28<sup>th</sup> March - Laura Pelham

**FOR BUSINESSES:**

Please be in touch if you'd like to volunteer and use your **employer match funding**. Could your **business sponsor** an event? We offer a few packages for different budgets. Would your company like to **donate a prize/voucher** for a future raffle or auction?

**EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT ST PETER'S FUNDRAISING:**

- EasyFundraising** - have you signed up to raise money for free, while you shop online?
  - Your School Lottery** - did you know we had a £25k winner in the past 5 years?
  - Clothes Recycling Bin** - please donate outgrown clothes, shoes, textiles etc (when full please hold on to your bags)
  - JustGiving Page** - please consider donating, for example if you're unable to attend events
  - Preloved Uniform** - don't forget we have a well-stocked online shop
- For more information see School Website under **Parents>PTFA***

Are you keen to get involved? We'd love to hear from you! Your PTFA

[ptfa@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk)

**NSPCC WORKSHOPS**

Three year groups (Y2/Y5/Y6) watched assemblies and attended workshops run by the NSPCC on how to keep themselves safe. Children engaged well and on a recent learning walk by governors, it was clear that they had remembered what they had learnt. One of the main messages is of course, what to do if you are worried about something.



## STAYING SAFE ONLINE

During an external survey carried out last academic year with Y6, we discovered that 40% of that cohort responded to say they had seen adults only videos/images online and 29% said they had seen videos/images that upset them online. Obviously, this is really concerning. At St Peter's we teach how to keep safe online through our Learning for Life curriculum and it is a subject that is covered in depth as we understand the importance of it. However, we need your support at home to make sure children are keeping themselves safe, but we also understand that there is a minefield of information out there. Therefore, we will be sharing helpful hints and tips in the newsletters that should provide support for parents to help keep their children safe online at home.

### STAYING SAFE ONLINE

#### Hints and Tips #1 - YouTube for Kids

To allow children to explore YouTube safely, use the YouTube Kids app. The YouTube Kids app has a set of parental controls for you to customise your child's individual experience. You can decide what content to make available for them to watch, set a timer to control screen time, block videos or channels, and more.

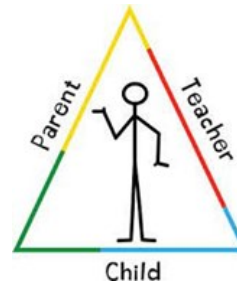
We know that there are pupils who have no interaction with online material, but if your child does have access, we would strongly advise you to make sure that they are not able to view material which might be totally inappropriate. YouTube is often mentioned by pupils and as we are all aware, anyone can upload a YouTube clip, including people who are targeting children with an underlying motive.

## DO YOU KNOW WHAT/WHO YOUR CHILD IS INTERACTING WITH ONLINE?

Staff are aware that there are children in school who are routinely watching material or playing games which are not appropriate for their age. This often comes to light when a child starts telling other children about what they've seen. That child then asks their parent if they too can have access and the parent raises the matter with school.

It is of course parental choice, but material has a 14+ or 18+ band for a reason. Children are not able to understand or process material which is way above their years developmentally, so there is a danger that they come away with distorted versions of life and relationships. This can impact a child's mental health. Many children watching YouTube are also accessing material which is not age appropriate. We would ask you to spend half an hour really checking your home devices to be sure that your child is not accessing material which targets adults or older teenagers. Please see the box above.

## TRICK BOX



Trick Box is a programme which supports children to manage their wellbeing by teaching ways to self-regulate and develop resilience. We would encourage all families to have a Trick Box set at home -( £5 from the office). The programme starts in Nursery and then moves up through the school, adding new tricks but building on the previous ones. It is designed to be appropriate for children to take with them into secondary school. Adults will recognise the concepts as tried and tested self help/wellbeing focused. We thought it might be helpful to give a short summary of one trick on newsletters. This may help families when supporting situations at home.

## STAND TALL



This trick is based on the neuroscience that we can make changes to our state by managing our thoughts, feelings and posture. It's important because our state can be 'read' by others through our body language. How we present to others can affect our social relationships and this feedback, in turn, affects how we perceive ourselves.

### For younger children

Did you know that we speak with our bodies not just our mouths? This is called body language. Adult now demonstrates speaking with their body and asks the child to tell them what they are saying (happy, sad, angry ,excited etc).

Then move to the concept: I'm feeling good about myself today. I feel strong inside. I feel confident. I'm standing tall.

Look at the card. The arrow shows that we're standing tall and the red circles show how strong we feel. And everyone else can read our body language.

### For older children

Ask them to demonstrate different 'states' for you to guess from their body language (happy, sad, excited, fed up, worried etc)

Discuss how our thoughts and feelings affect our body language and what 'confident' body language looks like.

## MORNING DROP OFF

It is imperative that no child is left on site unattended before 8.30am. This morning, I spoke to at least 15 children at 8.25am who has all been dropped off early. Children are playing football (no ball games before school) and many were racing around. There are no adults on duty until 8.30am. Let's work together to keep our children safe. Thank you.

Mrs Dunning

## NAIL POLISH

Children are not permitted to wear nail varnish to school. Please make sure any nail varnish applied at weekends or school holidays is taken off before the start of school, thank you.

### TERMLY REMINDER

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, **per parent/carer per child**, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

### NATIONAL CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT

If you would like more information about the testing throughout the Primary years, then please see the parent information booklets on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-information-for-parents>

Reception Baseline

Phonics - Year 1

Optional KS1 tests (which we do very subtly)

Multiplication tests – Year 4

KS2 national tests (SATS) Year 6

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5<sup>th</sup> February: Y5 mosque visit

11<sup>th</sup> February: safer internet day

12<sup>th</sup> February: Y3 Satro workshop

Y4 school of noise workshop

Y5 fire safety

13<sup>th</sup> February: swimming gala KS2

14<sup>th</sup> February: PTFA cake sale

17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February: half term

24<sup>th</sup> February: inset day

25<sup>th</sup> February: Y3LG feet first walking training

26<sup>th</sup> February: Y3E feet first walking training



### ST PETER'S SOCIAL MEDIA



Just for information, we shall no longer maintain a school account on 'X', but will update our news on Instagram and Facebook. Please follow us to keep up with all the exciting things that happen at St Peter's.



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

@stpetersfarnham

