

ST PETER'S NEWSLETTER

September 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all settled into your new routines at school and that your children are enjoying their new year groups. We have welcomed many new families who we hope feel at home. Please ask any member of staff if you require help and appointments can be made via the office to speak to your class teachers about anything that can't be said in a quick comment in the playground.

There is a huge variety of clubs on offer so I hope your child will want to take part and maybe try a new skill. They are there for enjoyment, not just for childcare so please choose clubs you know your child will enjoy.

The morning drop off zone is so successful, and it relies on parent volunteers. If you feel you can offer one morning to support us, please speak to the office.

During our time as a whole school together, we have been looking at ways we can serve one another, show respect and make a positive contribution and a difference to our community.

St Dunning

Sarah Dunning

Head Teacher

WELCOME TO RECEPTION!



We have loved welcoming the new Reception children into our school. They have all settled in so well and we are very proud of them.

They have enjoyed meeting their Y5 buddies, have already been to Forest School and are enjoying school life at St Peters. Here are our new Foxes and Badgers. We wish all their families a warm welcome to our school.



RUBBISH COLLECTING



Eva in Y2 noticed on her walk to school there was more and more rubbish, so she decided to do something about it. Eva and her mum went out in the drizzle for three hours at the weekend and collected multiple bags of rubbish. She bumped into Josie and her sister CeCe, who helped clean up the playground.

Eva said "Mummy, I had the best time collecting rubbish because we

did it together, we got exercise and we are helping the environment, it's a win win. I'm going to make a poster to tell everyone at school to do it, because then there would be less to pick up."

Keep your eyes out around the school for Eva's poster.



A beautiful double rainbow in the playground captured by BASE.

WASHING HANDS POSTER COMPETITION

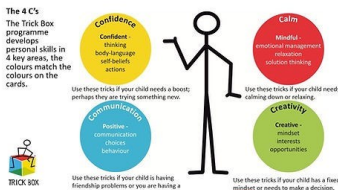


Design a poster explaining how to wash your hands. It must include that it takes 20 seconds to wash them properly; how you include that information is up to you. It must be clear and simple so that all year groups can understand it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3EPLfzNM_Q

Hand your entries into the main office by **Friday 3rd October**.

TRICK BOX - a personal development designed by experts to support your child's wellbeing and resilience



We hope that your child is able to tell you which Trick Box card they have learnt this term. Trick Box is introduced from YR - Y6. There are 24 cards altogether and six of them are covered over

the year in YR. Thereafter, three new tricks are added in each year group.

The cards are split into four key areas:

- Communication (blue cards)
- Calm (red cards)
- Confidence (yellow cards)
- Creativity (green cards)

The idea is that by the end of their time at St Peter's, each child has a set of 'tricks' or 'simple strategies' designed to support their thinking and subsequent action, at times when things might not be going as well as they'd hoped. If you'd like to find out more or purchase a set of tricks to use at home (£5) please ask us. We would ask all parents to support us with Trick Box. No child is too young or too old to be using these strategies. They are tried and tested by years of research and work equally well for adults. It's all about empowerment and helping individuals to see that they have options and can be their own agent for change.

If your child attended Green Shoots, they will be familiar with Trick Box through Drew, the dog. If child is new to the school, they will be given input so that the tricks become familiar to them too.

A REQUEST FROM FOREST SCHOOL

If you have any large empty candle jars or yarn/wool going spare, please hand them in to the office with a label 'forest school' on, thank you.

Mrs Webzell is also looking for adult volunteers for a weekend garden clearup (date TBC). Please email forest@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk if you are able to help.

TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL



Welcome back to a new school year at St Peter's. We continue to ask that parents who drive to/from school and park in the local area, do so with care and consideration for our neighbours. Traffic and parking, particularly on corners, causes daily problems for our local neighbours. Sadly, we were already sent photos of a car which was blocking a neighbour's driveway.

We encourage all our families to walk to school whenever possible and there is also a bike and scooter rack at the entrance to the school for anyone to use. Walking to school can be a lovely start to the day, but if you have no choice but to drive, please consider the following:

- We have a successful drop-off zone from 08:30am to 08.45am 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, meaning you do not need to park, and you can drive away quickly. If you can volunteer your time to help make this valuable system work, please let us know.
- Clearly, at school drop-off and pick-up times the roads outside school are 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.**
- Please do not park close to corners, or to tracks/private driveways.
- Consideration for all our neighbours is appreciated and makes for a safer journey to and from school. Lastly, 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.

Thank you for your cooperation.



PARENT READERS NEEDED

Do you have half an hour a week to spare each week?



We have been running a successful parent reader scheme for around 10 years now and would love to recruit a few more adults to support.

The parent (or grandparent) would need to offer two separate 15 minute slots a week (days to suit you). These take place from 08.45 until 09.00, before formal lessons begin. The idea is that one child reads with the same adult each week and ideally for the whole academic year. In this way they build a good rapport and we normally see an increase in the child's confidence as they feel able to discuss their book and their reading progress. The pupils are all from KS2 and are usually children who can decode the words but who struggle more with the comprehension and meaning through lack of vocabulary.

It is a very rewarding experience for someone who wants to volunteer in some way. If this is something you may be interested in, please let Mrs Major know (via the office) and we shall be in touch. Thank you.

WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLIES IN SCHOOL

All schools in the UK are required to provide a daily act of worship/assembly (DfE). At St Peter's we design our own assembly plan which aims to include as many relevant awareness themes as possible. We have a different theme each week. We also aim to incorporate our school values whenever possible. We have a big focus in school around 'belonging' to the St Peter's community as we know that if a person does not feel that 'fit', it will impact their wellbeing and their ability to flourish. As well as Harvest, Advent and Christmas this term, the following themes are included:

- School Rules and Expectations
- School Values
- Trick Box - how can we use the tricks to help ourselves and others?
- International Day of World Peace (including the UN Global Goals)
- Fairtrade
- International Day of the Girl Child (injustice around the world)
- World Food Day
- Black History Month
- Interfaith Week in the UK
- Anti- Bullying Week
- World Children's Day

We hope this gives you some idea of the rich variety of topics covered. They are inclusive and should connect with children of all faiths and no faith as they look at what it means to be a human being in the world today. Our reflection also aims to be inclusive. The full schedule is available on the school's website and is changed each term. If you have any questions about the content please contact Mrs S Marshall.

CALLING ALL CREATIVE STORY WRITERS...



We would love to encourage children to enter the BBC 500 Words competition. This is the UK's biggest children's story-writing competition and children can write the kind of story they would love to read. There are lots of prizes that can be won - including the opportunity to win books for schools and an invite to a grand final hosted by Her Majesty the Queen!

The competition is open from Tuesday 23rd September to Friday 7th November at 9pm. All further information can be found at www.bbc.co.uk/500words

MORNINGS ON THE PLAYGROUND

Overall, the morning routine is working well. Everyone knows where they need to be and in most cases the process is streamlined.

However, we do still have a bottleneck on the central playground where children are sometimes having to negotiate adults chatting in groups and the occasional buggy. Please can we ask parents to leave the school premises as soon as the bell goes. We appreciate that it can be difficult for some children but we have to insist that parents move away from the lines. If one child has a parent still chatting to them, it can make it harder for other children. It also makes it harder for the staff to keep the line moving.

It's essential that we get children into class as soon as possible. We have carefully planned interventions starting at 08.45 before formal lessons begin and missing five minutes of a ten-minute intervention will not result in progress. Those not in interventions have morning tasks to complete and even a couple of minutes delay can have an impact. If we can't keep to this routine we may have to ask you to drop and go at the school gate. This would be a shame as we would lose our community vibe but our children's safety must come first. Thank you for your understanding.



EARRINGS AND PLASTIC RETAINERS

Please can you ensure your child is not wearing either earrings or plastic retainers. Sadly, an increasing number of children are wearing the retainers and this shows they are willing to stretch the rules. We want to keep all children safe. They seem to be a status symbol and are often worn by children who have had their ears pierced over a year ago. Your child will be told to remove them.

HAIR ACCESSORIES

All hair items should be neat and functional. Large bows are not allowed or anything that is more weekend/party wear. All hair accessories must be school green, brown or black. Anything that does not fit this description, your child will be asked to remove them.

We have these rules to help everyone feel they belong, and so no-one stands out with something different. It helps prevent children from being distracted or trends being set which are often at the expense of the parents. Thank you for your support.

UNAUTHORISED HOLIDAYS

If you take your child on holiday during term time and the school have not been notified, you will receive a penalty notice. If your request is declined, you will receive a penalty notice.

We have had families this term tell us that their child is sick and cannot attend school, only be told by the child they have been on holiday.

Please do not encourage your child to lie, it puts them in a very difficult position and teaches them the wrong message. Let's work together, embrace a full education and enjoy holidays during the 13 weeks that we have.

SAFETY TIPS FOR PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS

Police.UK

When picking up or dropping off children at schools, you should do the following:

- Allow yourself plenty of time as the area is likely to be busy.
- Do not park on yellow zigzag lines and avoid parking opposite them.

If you decide to park further away, please be considerate of local residents and avoid blocking driveways or accessways.

Some parents are parking on the zigzags during pick up time. This may incur a penalty notice. It certainly puts other children in danger. Do not park on the zigzag lines in line with the Highway Code.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 1st Oct: Y5 Winchester Science trip

6th – 10th Oct: book fair all week

Tue 7th Oct: Y6 residential meeting @ 2.45pm

Mon 13th Oct: Y2 Rural Life trip

Wed 15th Oct: Harvest Festival @ St Peter's Church

Sat 18th Oct: Cross Country @ Farnham Park

20th – 24th Oct: Y6 Residential to Osmington Bay

27th – 31st Oct: half term

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

If your child's date of birth is between 1.9.2014 and 31.8.2015, please remember to apply for a secondary school place by 31st October 2025 at the latest. Info available here:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/secondary/apply>

The office will be happy to assist if you need help with your application.



Saplings

At St Peter's C of E Primary School, Little Green Lane, Farnham GU9 8TF

Forest School For Toddlers

Book now for September & October

Weekly Forest School Sessions for you and your toddler at St Peter's C of E Primary School, Farnham



Mud kitchen fun



Nature investigation

Sessions available

Thursday dates
25/9, 16/10, 23/10
Friday dates
26/9, 3/10, 10/10, 17/10
Booking essential - places are limited (aged 18months-4 years)
9.30-11.00am
Refreshments and campfire snacks

Nurture through nature with your pre school child. Encourage creativity, resilience and exploration through play, in our woodland environment. Sessions include: nature crafts, bug hunting, gardening, exploring pond life, painting with natural materials, rope bridges and cooking on an open fire.




Sessions are led by a level 3 Forest School Practitioner with Outdoor First Aid Training. All activities are risk assessed to a high standard whilst allowing freedom for your little ones. Sessions will take place in all weathers (with the exception of lightning storms and high winds) so outdoor clothing is essential. For further information or to book a place, contact forest@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk






01252 714 115

www.stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk

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