

ST PETER'S NEWSLETTER

September 2026



Dear Families

It has been wonderful to welcome you all back to the new term in more sunshine! Our new families are settling in well and making friends which is great. Sporting events have started well with some great teamwork and success and choir are sounded good already! If you haven't signed up for our extensive range of clubs please do. Thank you for all the parent helpers on school trips so far and for those reading regularly with our children – we really appreciate all your help. We continue to encourage children to spend a minimal amount of time of screens – this is the message I am sharing with our prospective families too. We suggest replacing a screen with a book or a chat. We are hearing from many children that they are not sitting with their families for shared meals and this is such a shame as this is where language, empathy, fun can happen. Life is busy and we understand. We are noting as staff, that children's creative juices are reduced, along with a lack of an extensive vocabulary. Let's all work together to get the enjoyment back into writing.

St Dunning

Sarah Dunning
Head Teacher

Y2 HABITATS



Do we know what lives in our woodland? Do we know what a micro habitat is? Could we make a bird nest and put it in a safe place away from predators?

LAVENDER

If anyone has time to strip some lavender for the school to use, please contact Mrs Webzell:
forest@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk



**FOREST SCHOOL**
THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS
9:30-11:00AM
Ages 18 months - 4 years
booking essential

BOOK TODAY!
forest@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk

EXPLORE - CREATE - DISCOVER - GROW
Build confidence, independence, encouraging creativity and resilience through hands-on play





WHERE TO FIND US:
St Peter's C of E Primary School
Little Green Lane
Farnham
Surrey
GU14 6TF

Schools are held by St Peter's C of E Primary School. All children are to be accompanied by an adult. No food or drink is allowed. All children are to be accompanied by an adult. No food or drink is allowed. All children are to be accompanied by an adult. No food or drink is allowed.
www.stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk



Forest school winter kit



WRECCLESHAM CONSERVATION GROUP - ECO COMMITTEE



The Wrecclesham Conservation Group is hosting a nature-inspired crafts workshop at the Leverton Hall on Sunday 4th October. The £3 registration fee will cover materials and raise funds to buy hedgehog and bird food (free to adults accompanying children).

The WCG also very busy moth trapping at the churchyard, starting around 7.10pm, looking at beautiful Autumn moths. Other upcoming WCG events are a bat walk and a fungi walk. Please talk to Mrs Rennoldson (our eco-lead) if you are interested in any of the events.

TRICKBOX



As a school we are passionate about the support that the Trick Box programme can give pupils of all ages to manage their emotions and develop resilience. We shall be working with children to help them to understand how the tricks can be used both at school and at home. There are 24 tricks in total and 12 are completed in KS1. The nursery children are also introduced to Trick Box. Later this term, we plan to hold a session for parents to explain how the programme works and how you can help your child to be able to handle setbacks and remain positive - essential traits for a fulfilling life.

SOCIAL MEDIA - PARENTS

We are fortunate at St Peter's, to have a wonderfully supportive parent body. The PTFA's achievements are second to none and we are blessed with parents who give their time in school to support the learning, school trips and events. We are more grateful than you can imagine! But... occasionally, something less positive is brought to our attention.

Please may we respectfully ask parents not to discuss or make comments about staff members online. Unfortunately, these groups are not always as 'tight' as people think and invariably comments are forwarded to the school. Many things posted have absolutely no foundation and are based on hearsay. We have even had discriminatory comments made about members of staff suggesting that they have something against a 'particular group or gender'. This is actually very hurtful: to accuse a person of something when you have no evidence and don't know them, can have a serious impact on that person's wellbeing and mental health. If an adult has an issue with a member of staff, please bring it to the school so that we can deal with it in a helpful and constructive way.

Children are our focus in school. We want them to flourish and this can only happen if we work together with parents. But it's a two-way agreement. If a child's parent does not respect the staff, this is already a barrier to success.

A MESSAGE FROM MEL SEFTON



Olivia and Rufus, our Junior Choir Captains

Just a little note to introduce you to our brand-new Jr choir captains. I have chosen two year-six choir captains this year, with responsibilities that include kindness, inclusion and supporting each and every member of the choir. This may be with simple instructions or helping to lead the warmup. A super important job and I'm very proud that these two year sixes have been chosen to take on that role.

GARDEN / ECO SALE

Keep an eye out for a gardening/eco playground stall on Tuesday 20 October after school.

Selling small plants, herbs, lavender gifts, second hand books and other garden based items. Cash only please.

This sale will be to raise money to purchase a new polytunnel /irrigation project.

BREAK TIME SNACKS

Children are allowed to bring in fruit or vegetable sticks for their breaktime snacks. No processed fruit or vegetable snacks please.



CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL MEAL OFFERS

From September 2026, The Department of Education (DfE) has expanded the allocation of free school meals to include all children whose households are in receipt of Universal Credit. Please may we suggest that if your household receives Universal Credit, that you speak to Mrs Major in school and take up the provision for Free School Meals. This is done in confidence and your child will not be aware. Other DfE changes impact the funding that the school receives but will not affect parents. There is a menu choice for school meals and you can book your child's choice in advance. They are nutritionally well balanced.

PARENT SUPPORT COURSES

Surrey County Council run a variety of courses aimed at supporting parents. For more information please see their website

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/family-learning>

DOGS AT THE SCHOOL GATES

We all love our four-legged friends, but please make sure any dogs you bring to the school gates are well-behaved and do not jump up at anyone. Some children may be wary or allergic. Thank you.

Days off school add up to lost learning

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments					
190 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR 190 days for your child's education	10 days absence 180 Days of Education	19 days absence 171 Days of Education	29 days absence A term missed 161 Days of Education	58 days absence 152 Days of Education	87 days absence 143 Days of Education
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Good Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start		Worrying Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress		Serious Concern Not fair on your child. Court action!	

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5th – 9th October: book fair all week

6th October: textile recycling day

7th October: Y5 Winchester Science Centre

9th October: EYFS PTFA cinema club

10th October: Farnham Cross Country

12th – 16th October: Y6 residential to Osmington Bay

16th October: Just One Tree mufti day

26th – 30th October: half term

PARENT READERS - THANK YOU!



We had a great response to our Parent Reading Scheme - thank you. It's great to be able to give so many pupils this extra input. We are always, open to more volunteers for this 08:45-09:00 programme (twice a week if possible).



Jennifer Dalcie, one of our school parents, is participating in the Surrey Artist of the Year Award. Voting at the New Ashgate Gallery until 23rd October.

WHAT HELPS CHILDREN THRIVE MOST

- Love
 - Reading together
 - Good sleep routines
 - Time outdoors every day
 - Helping with family chores
 - Unstructured, independent play
 - Feeling safe, seen and supported
 - Adults who are present, patient and attuned
 - Screens replacing real world connection and play
 - Inconsistent routines and unclear boundaries
 - Solo time on unrestricted touchscreens
 - Distracted, stressed out adults
 - Ultra processed, sugary diets
 - Early smartphone-use
 - Validation via likes
 - Algorithms
- ...AND LEAST



01252 714 115

www.stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk

@stpetersfarnham

