Embrace excellence through God, to build a better world

***"Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God."* – Micah 6 v. 8**

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas, and we are fully in the festive spirit here at St Peter's! With only five days left until the end of what has been an extraordinary autumn term, in true St Peter's style, we're continuing to keep things busy, exciting and safe for the children, right up until the very end of term.

Yesterday, our Reception and Key Stage 1 children were all movie stars for the day, as filming commenced for their Nativity: A Midwife Crisis. They were absolute stars, and we cannot wait to share the recording with you. A huge thank you to Ben (Evie in Reception's dad) and Marcin (Matylda in Year 5's dad), who professionally filmed the performance for us, and are set to edit it over the weekend. We will not be charging for a copy of the performance this year, and the Nativity performance will be shared securely with our school community on Wednesday 16th December, before its première in school on Thursday 17th December!

On Monday, we are set to film our Carols by Candlelight service, and the Key Stage 2 children have been busily rehearsing their songs for the concert. A very big thank you to Stephen (Amie, Becca, Dominic and Sebastian's dad) who will be filming the service for us and editing it too, ready to share with our school community on Wednesday 16th December. Whilst we would have loved to have shared these performances with you in person and live, we hope that you enjoy the recordings and we thank you greatly for your support and understanding.

On Friday, we look forward to our special Christmas service, and further information about that will be shared soon.

During these challenging times, our wonderful staff team at St Peter's have gone above and beyond, in all of their duties, and I would like to thank them all for their ongoing dedication and commitment. All of the things we do as a school are only possible because we have such a dedicated team, who are fully committed to providing the very best for our pupils.

We also cannot thank you – our parents and carers – enough for all of your ongoing support and understanding. There have been many changes to school life, and this incredible support, patience and understanding has been very much appreciated. We greatly value the importance of strong relationships between home and school, so that we work together, in partnership, to achieve the very best outcomes for your child.

Thank you too, to our wonderful governing body, who give of their time freely and willingly to support St Peter's, and have been a wonderful support this term.

And last, but most certainly not least, I would also like to thank our incredible children, for their resilience and determination, embracing the challenges and opportunities presented to them, and for working their hardest throughout this very long term.

If I don't get to chat to you personally before next Friday, please take my very best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a happy and safe 2021.

Staffing

This Monday, we sadly say goodbye to the wonderful Mr Alex Paxton (whose last day with us will be on Monday) after working at St Peter's for almost 6 years. Whilst he will be leaving St Peter's, he will not be leaving Pelican Music, and we wish him congratulations on his new role with Pelican Music, where he will be overseeing the entire music curriculum for them! I am sure we won't be seeing the last of him! Mr Alex has had a huge, positive influence on the children at St Peter's, and their love of singing and music, which shines through in every lesson and at every performance. We will greatly miss him, and we wish him all the very best.

We look forward to welcoming Ailsa Mainwaring who will be replacing Mr Alex from next term. Ailsa is a highly experienced musician, with a masters in singing from the Royal Academy of Music; in addition to this, she also has extensive experience working in schools, and we are sure that she will pick up beautifully from Mr Alex.

Christmas Fair

Our virtual Christmas Fair is open for one more weekend, so there's still time to purchase those Christmas trimmings and take part in the fun and festive competitions.

Click here for our virtual Christmas Fair

For our Christmas Fair "Guess the teacher baby" competition, I've heard that as the staff members are wearing face coverings on the gates, it isn't helping the parents when they are trying to work out which babies are which staff members! Just one hint though - I've heard that Mrs Noonan is an easy baby to guess, and it truly is a classic 80's baby picture.

Thank you to everyone involved in helping to make our Christmas Fair a huge success this year, particularly in these challenging times. Special thanks to Louisa, Charlotte, Barbara and Georgia for all of their incredible work and creativity organising this event. I look forward to sharing the amount raised for the school, once the fair has closed.

Sponsored 10K

I'm sure that last weekend was one of the coldest, wettest weekends we've had this year, and on this weekend, the amazing Barbara Illingworth (Lucy and Charlotte's mum) ran a sponsored 10k to help raise money for the school. Thank you to all of our generous parents and carers who donated, as Barbara raised a phenomenal £1,180, and this was generously match-funded by Barbara's employer (Legal and General), meaning that her efforts raised a fantastic £2,360!

Thank you very much Barbara. The money raised will be put to very good use, helping to ensure the recovery of our children from the effects of the pandemic. We look forward to hearing when the next 10k will be…!

On your bike…

This week our Year 5 children have been completing their cycling proficiency training. After their bikes had been thoroughly checked by the instructors, the children started cycling in the playground, before venturing out onto the local roads. The instructors were very impressed with the children, especially since they had to cycle in cold conditions at the beginning of the week, and they said that the children's focus was excellent. Now the training is complete, I look forward to seeing lots of our Year 5 children choosing to cycle to school in the new year.

Snowball Competitions? Snow way!

Next week, within our PE lessons, we will be running Christmas-themed House Competitions. The competitions will be snowball (dodgeball) competitions, which will take place within each year group. Each class will be divided into their house groups, where they will compete against their opposing house groups to win the House Competition Trophy. Each year group will have a winning house, but the trophy will be given to the house with the most wins across the school; the trophy will be presented in one of our virtual assemblies and each member of the winning house will receive a certificate. Good luck all!

A mouse took a stroll through the deep dark wood…

Today, Year 2 were treated to a live-streamed performance of "The Gruffalo". The children adored the performance, and it was very well deserved after all of their hard work learning their lines and rehearsing for the Nativity. St Peter's even got a shout-out during the performance! Thank you to Sandra (Oskar Y2's mum), who kindly donated a class ticket, so that the class could watch.

Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to everyone who supported National Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. All of the money collected for this event will be sent off to this very worthy charity next week.

Music Assembly

The children who learn an instrument in school have been working on putting together a virtual Winter Concert, to entertain and showcase their amazing musical talent. We look forward to watching it in school, and we will share it with our community too. Thank you to our Pelican Music Lead James Bester, Mr Alex and all of the peripatetic music teachers, who work so hard at promoting music throughout our school. We hope to be able to put on a live performance in March – fingers crossed!

Stick Man, oh Stick Man!

Inspired by the Julia Donaldson favourite, *Stick Man*, our Reception children had a fantastic time in Ravenscourt Park last week on a Stickman Adventure. They all made their very own stickman, re-told the story, built their stickman a home and had lots of other stickman adventures in the park. The day before their adventure, our Year 6 children brilliantly recited the story to their buddies, socially distanced of course!

Congratulations Cross!

Congratulations to the members of the house group Cross, who earned the most points this term; it was a very close call though! While at the moment we can't take the children to the cinema, we brought the cinema to them, and in school today we held a special screening of 'The Trolls - World Tour" for Reception & Key Stage 1, and a screening of 'Onward' for Key Stage 2, as chosen by our Cross House Captains! Well done Cross!

House Points

	4th December	Running Total (for this term)
Rock	657	4317
Fisher	692	4354
Cross	697	4371
Keys	517	4001

Acting Headteacher's Award

	4th December	11th December
Reception	Isaiah and Freddie	Poppy and Rio
Year 1	Bart and Rebecca	Leon and Tom
Year 2	Molly and Avestan	Alexander and Chloe
Year 3	Jago and Brooklyn	Bea and Nicole
Year 4	Elizabeth and Janis	Jimmy and Amara
Year 5	Giorgio and Isabel K	Isabelle and Qinlan
Year 6	Angelique and Henry	Holly and Adam H

Citizenship Award

Children can be nominated for a Citizenship Award by other pupils, parents and staff members. Currently we are looking for nominations for children who have displayed acts of service, as this is the Christian Value as a school we are focusing upon this half term.

4th December – Chloe (Year 2), Matilda (Year 3), Nasir (Year 4), Ezana (Year 6), Todd (Year 6), Stella (Year 5) and Charlie B (Year 1)

11th December – Phoebe (Year 2), Dolly (Year 3), Mrs Zalar, Mr Thomas, Florence (Year 5) and Toby (Year 1)

A quick plea

Please can I ask that dogs are not tied up on the railing directly outside of the school gates, we have a number of children who are scared of dogs and fear walking past them to get into school. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Medicines in School

If your child is required to take prescribed medicine during the school day, please ensure that it is given in via the school office, we need parental permission in order to administer any medication. For health and safety reasons, children are not allowed to keep any medications in their bags.

Website

Please remember to log on to our website to view your child's class page at www.stpetersce.lbhf.sch.uk this will give you information about what your child has been learning throughout the week, and what will be learnt next week.

Class webpages are updated weekly by your child's class teacher.

We also have a Twitter account which you can find here:

https://twitter.com/St_Peters_CE

Please do give us a follow!

No nuts please!

Just a quick reminder that we are a nut free school. Please double-check the ingredients before sending any snacks into school - particularly cereal bars - as sometimes they can contain hidden nuts which can be dangerous for other children. Thank you.

Finally…

If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to speak to myself, Mrs Noonan or your child's class teacher. We are always here to help, and believe greatly in the importance of good communication between home and school.

Best wishes,

Mrs Zalar

Date for the Half Term

Dates	Time	Description
14/12/20		Reception & KS1 Christmas Lunch
15/12/20		KS2 Christmas Lunch
16/12/20		Nativity Play Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (virtual)
16/12/20		Carols by Candlelight Key Stage Two (virtual)
17/12/20	9.30am	Christmas Quiz Key Stage Two
17/12/20	AM	Reception & KS1 watching Lyric's performance of "Father Christmas"
17/12/20	1.30pm	Christmas Party Reception and Key Stage One
18/12/20	9am	Christmas Service - Virtual
18/12/20	1:45-2:00pm	**End of term**
04/01/21		**INSET Day**
05/01/21		**Children return to school**
WC 11/01/21		**Clubs to restart**