NEWSLETTER

*Let your light shine before others, so they see your good works and give glory to God*

Matthew 5 v.16

Rooted in Christian faith, which underpins the school's ethos, we seek to enable all pupils to develop their full academic potential; discover skills and talents in art, music, sport and drama; and grow in spiritual awareness and moral character. By striving for excellence within an inclusive environment, enabling every child to develop their gifts and flourish, we seek to shine as a community, so our achievements give glory to God.

**12th January 2024**

Happy New Year and welcome back. I hope that you all managed to have an enjoyable Christmas break filled with loved ones, joy and laughter. It has been so nice to chat to many of you over the past few days and to hear all about your Christmas adventures. We had a lovely break; Ruby turned three in August, so for the first time this year she was completely swept up in the excitement and festivities. On Christmas morning, I found her under the Christmas tree enjoying a Lindt chocolate reindeer, just testing it out apparently before she was planning to share the remaining crumbs with her family - all chocolates were carefully packed away at that point!! On behalf of the staff and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the lovely cards, kind words and very generous gifts which we received at the end of term, it is much appreciated.

The Christmas decorations are now packed away for another year and the spring term is underway. Although this is the shortest of the three school terms - this half term is only 5 weeks long - we have still managed to plan numerous events and activities, which support the development of creativity throughout the school and aim to enhance the learning experiences of the children. These include: our second DT day; poetry recital assembly; celebration of World Book Day, when all of the children and staff will come to school dressed as their favourite book character; STEM Week, which will see the children focus upon Science, Technology and Mathematics; Arts Week, which will see the entire school spend a week learning about and experiencing different aspects of the Arts.

Furthermore, we plan to host a second music evening later on in the term, which will allow those children learning a musical instrument the opportunity to display their new skills and talents. In addition, in recognition of our hard-working mums and significant female carers, we plan to host a special breakfast in March. Dads and significant male relatives will get their turn later on in the school year! Added to all of this, every class will go on at least one educational visit this term and Year 6 are off on their 5-day residential visit in February, so there is lots to look forward to.

As always, we are fully committed to ensuring that all of the children at St Peter's are supported in order to achieve their full potential in a happy and safe environment. Therefore, in addition to all of the above, we will continue to hold extremely high expectations for your children in terms of their learning and behaviour, and will closely monitor and evaluate their progress throughout the term. We will also celebrate and promote events, which support the emotional and physical well-being of the children, including Safer Internet Day and Children's Mental Health Week.

We value greatly the importance of good home/school links and therefore, if we have any concerns about your child, we will contact you directly to discuss them. Similarly, if you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with your child's class teacher via communications@stpetersce.lbhf.sch.uk who will endeavour to address your concerns.

**Thank you!**

Thank you to everyone who supported our appeal for gifts, which were being sent to refugee children by West London Welcome. Please see below their letter of thanks:

*Dear St Peter's School Community, Thank you so much from all of us at West London Welcome for your donation of Christmas gifts for local refugee children who arrived in this country with so little. For many this was their only gift. We had enough gifts to give presents to the children who came to our Christmas parties and to children living in two local hostels – where families without homes live long term. The children were surprised and delighted and they all knew the presents came from the kind people at St Peter's School. Thank you. You made Christmas extra special this year for so many children. Kind regards, Joanne MacInnes Director West London Welcome*

**Please follow St Peter's**

Please follow us on Instagram @stpetersw6. For those who already do, thank you and please do remember to like and comment on our posts. We are very keen to create an active community to help drive more followers, which in turn raises our profile amongst local businesses and partners to help with further fundraising and support. Your likes mean a lot and make a huge difference! Special thanks to Lucinda Pride who is doing an incredible job of running our account.

**Please use it or we might lose it!**

JAG are there to assist with your daily childcare needs; booking can be done in advance or on the day you require the provision. We need the numbers to increase or we may lose this facility, which would be disappointing, as I know that a number of families have come to rely upon the support.
I have spoken to some of the children who attended JAG on a regular basis last term and this is what they told me…

***'I go to JAG most days, I like playing games at JAG and I like the snack.'*** **Evita (Reception)**

***'JAG is fun, as you are allowed to play games. The people are nice and I like playing with children from other year groups. Everyone should go to JAG!'*** **Lawson (Year 2)**

***'I go to JAG every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and I really enjoy it. What I like most is the fact that we help to decide which games we get to play and they are all really fun. We also get to do a range of craft activities; I enjoyed making paper chains before Christmas. I also really like the variety of food we are given. I would give JAG 9.5 out of 10, I would give JAG 10 out of 10 if more people attended!***' **Becky (Year 5)**

***'I attend JAG at least once a week and I really like the chance to spend time with children from other year groups. The group leaders really look after us well and care for us. I enjoyed making origami Christmas trees last term. I also enjoy participating in the games; sometimes we play board games and other times we go outside and play in the playground. The food is great too! I would DEFINITELY recommend JAG!'*** **Amelie (Year 5)**

**School Lunch Payments**

We were informed on Tuesday morning that the Mayor of London has agreed to extend the funding for Universal Free School Meals for another academic year. This means that there will be no charge for school meals for the remainder of this academic year and next. As we have previously explained however, the funding allocated to schools does not cover the cost of the provision. Therefore, if you wish to make a voluntary donation towards the cost of your child's lunch, please go to **IRIS Parentmail - Accounts.** A further payment item has also been set up in **IRIS Parentmail – Payments** for those who find this easier to access. A suggested donation is £1.00 per day (£5.00 per week) and this will accrue

weekly, although you are very welcome to donate more if you are able to do so. Thank you to those of you who have already made a payment/s, your support is greatly appreciated.

**Punctuality**

The punctuality of all of the children is closely monitored. It is our hope that children arrive at school on time every day, although we appreciate that sometimes circumstances beyond your control prevent this from happening. Therefore, we allow up to 5 lates in an academic year before any action is taken. Unfortunately, a number of families have already breached this threshold last term.

Good punctuality is extremely important to your child's education. In addition to the fact that arriving at school late can be very distressing for your child, first thing in the morning is often a time when we run intervention support or pre-teach concepts to those children who require some additional support with particular areas of the curriculum. Those children arriving late at school routinely miss this additional provision. As we begin a new school term, please can I ask that you all make a concerted effort to get your children to school on time. **Breakfast Club support is available from 8am every day – this provision is offered free to those in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.**

Please remember that the school gates will be opened at 8.45am for children to go straight into their classrooms in readiness for the beginning of the school day: **8.55am** for children in **Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5** and **6** and **9am** for children in **Reception**.
Please also ensure that your child is collected promptly at the end of the school day: **3.20pm** for children in **Reception**; **3.25pm** for children in **Year 1** and **Year 2** and **3.30pm** for children in **Year 3, Year 4, Year 5** and **Year 6**. Thank you for your help with this matter.

**Attendance**

Yesterday we emailed letters to all parents detailing our expectations for attendance and indicating the attendance bracket your child fell into at the end of last term. Monitoring attendance is part of our statutory duty; we are committed to working with you all to ensure that the children are attending school on a regular basis. As stated in the letter, we recognise that at this time of year many children are affected by winter illnesses, which account for many of the absences we have seen recently. However, if there are any underlining medical conditions we need to be made aware of, or any issues we can help with which are preventing your child from attending school, please speak to us immediately. Thank you.

A copy of the term dates for this academic year and the academic year 2024 -2025 have been sent out to all parents and carers, these dates are also available to view on the school website. Please make a note of these dates and avoid booking events and holidays which mean that children are required to take time out of school. **Please note that we are unable to authorise any holidays taken during term time.**

**Please see below our attendance percentages for this week:**

| | W/C 8th January |
|---|---|
| Reception | **96.3%** |
| Year 1 | **96.3%** |
| Year 2 | **97.5%** |
| Year 3 | **94.2%** |
| Year 4 | **95.4%** |
| Year 5 | **95.4%** |
| Year 6 | **96.3%** |

**Headteacher's Award**

| | 12th January |
|---|---|
| Reception | **George & Jossi** |
| Year 1 | **Ernest & Juno** |
| Year 2 | **Alfred & Xander** |
| Year 3 | **Sylvia & Reyan** |
| Year 4 | **Ava & Lucy** |
| Year 5 | **Edward & Chloe** |
| Year 6 | **Bea & Thomas** |

**Values Award**

Children can be nominated for a Values Award by other pupils, parents and staff members. When making a nomination, we ask you to state the value/s the child has shown (***courage***, ***respect***, ***thankfulness, perseverance***, ***service*** or ***kindness)*** and how they have demonstrated this value.

**12th January – Alba (Y1), Mia (YR) and Lola (Y3)**

**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.

**Medicines in School**

If your child is required to take medicine during the school day, please ensure that it is handed in, in its original packaging 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 medication in their bags. Our Medical Lead is Mrs Johnston; should your child have any serious medical issues that you need to share with us, please contact her via communications@stpetersce.lbhf.sch.uk

**Website**

Please remember to log on to our website to view your child's class page: https://www.stpetersce.lbhf.sch.uk/ This will give you information about what your child will be learning this coming half term.

**Finally**

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

Warmest regards for 2024,

Miss Frazer

| Dates | Time | Description |
|---|---|---|
| WC 15/01/24 | | **Clubs to restart** |
| 15/01/24 | | Martin Luther King Day |
| 18/01/24 | | **Year 4 Class Assembly** |
| WC 22/01/24 | | STEM Week |
| 25/01/24 | | DT Day 2 |
| 29/01/24 | | Year 6 SATs Meeting |
| 30/01/24 | | Year 5 and Year 6 visit to the Gurdwara |

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|---|---|---|
| 31/01/24 | | Year 3 visit to the Synagogue |
| 01/02/24 | | LDBS Service for Schools St Paul's Cathedral |
| WC 05/02/24 | | Year 6 residential visit |
| WC 05/02/24 | | Interschool competition (Netball) |
| WC 05/02/24 | | Children's Mental Health Week |
| 06/02/24 | | Safer Internet Day |
| 06/02/24 | | PTA Valentine's Disco – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 |
| 08/02/24 | | **Year 1 Class Assembly** |
| 08/02/24 | | PTA Valentine's Disco – Key Stage 2 |
| 09/02/24 | | International Women and Girls in Science |
| WC 12/02/24 | | **Half Term** |