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.

**20th December 2023**

Tomorrow sees the end of the first term of the academic year. Maybe it is because I am getting old, but every term seems to pass by more quickly than the last. It really doesn't seem long ago that we were welcoming everyone back to school after the long summer break, but in reality fifteen very busy weeks have been completed and we are almost ready to break for Christmas and welcome in a new year 2024.

As the term draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank our wonderful staff team for their hard work; all of the things that 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. I would also like to thank our amazing children, they are the reason we come to work each day, for embracing the challenges and opportunities presented to them and for working hard throughout this very long term. Thank you also to the parents and carers for your ongoing support; the importance of positive working relationships between home and school should never be underestimated. Finally, I would like to thank the Governors, who give of their time freely and willingly to support St Peter's.

If I don't get the opportunity to speak to you personally tomorrow, please take my very best wishes for a very merry Christmas and happy and healthy 2024.

**Please note that term ends tomorrow, Thursday 21st December at 2pm. Term resumes for the children on Tuesday 9th January 2024.**

**Christmas at St Peter's**

Thank you to our wonderful PTA team and all of their helpers for putting together such a fantastic Christmas fair this year; this was a wonderful event which brought our community together. On Thursday 7th December, the children and staff put on their Christmas jumpers in support of Save the Children. The following evening, the PTA hosted our second St Peter's Family Disco event, which was another massive success. A snow machine added to the magic of the event, as too did the fire poi which was performed at the end of the event. Special thanks to Charlie Astor and his team for facilitating this, it is hugely appreciated. I have just been informed that all of our Christmas events and activities including the fair, raffle, trees, disco, cards, wish list and sponsorship have raised an incredible £9959, every penny of which will come back into school to enhance your children's education. Thank you again to our PTA team led by Charlotte and Jane, you really are an inspiration. Special thanks also to Lucinda Pride, who has been capturing all of our special moments and events on our school Instagram account. Please follow us on @stpetersschoolw6

Last Thursday our Year 6 children visited Chiswick Nursing home to perform a selection of Christmas carols to their residents. Both the children and the residents found this a truly moving experience. We received the following email from Arti Khan, the Activity Coordinator at the Nursing Home:

***Dear Miss Milligan,***
***We absolutely loved having you and the children over to sing for our residents. I cannot express just how much impact the children's singing had on our residents.***
***The choir was amazing- so very talented. I am sure you must be incredibly proud of them all.***
***We would welcome you back to The Chiswick Nursing Centre anytime- with pleasure.***
***Thank you and have a lovely weekend.***
***Kind Regards***
***Arti Khan***

Last Friday, the children and staff enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch prepared by our wonderful Chef Chloe and supported by our porter Mourad. Christmas songs were playing, crackers were pulled, sprouts were pushed around their plates(!) and a festive time was had by all.

On Tuesday, the children from Reception and Key Stage One did a truly incredible job of retelling the Christmas story through our Nativity play 'The Big Little Nativity'. In true St Peter's style, all of our plays always have a very special twist and this year was no different - in addition to an array of very stylish doors and a very cheeky donkey, we managed to incorporate Lulu's classic 'Shout' which was performed by our extremely angelic angels.

Despite being the youngest classes in the school, the children sang, danced and delivered their lines with such confidence, it was as though they have been performing for years. They made us all very, very proud. Special thanks to the staff team for their hard work and to Silk Factory Production Company for agreeing to record the production, so that you can watch it again and again and again!

Our Nativity was followed by a very special Candlelight Service led by the Key Stage Two children. As always, our children were incredible; their singing was phenomenal and the children who delivered lines did so loudly, clearly and with such confidence, it was a joy to witness. I think everyone left the church feeling a little more Christmassy. Special thanks to Miss Gezer and to the Key Stage Two staff for their hard work in preparing the children for this event. Thank you also to Rev Charles for hosting the event in St Peter's Church for us again this year.

This morning, the children in Key Stage Two enjoyed participating in a special Christmas quiz, whilst this afternoon our Reception and Key Stage One children enjoyed a Christmas party (both with snacks) to celebrate Christmas and the end of term. A wonderful time was had by all.

**Tomorrow, we will head to St Peter's Church to participate in our end of term service. Please join us in the church and then afterwards in the school hall for a cup of tea and a mince pie.**

**<u>Staffing Update</u>**

I am delighted to inform you that Ms Jensen will be joining our team from January. Ms Jensen is an experienced teacher who specialises in teaching Spanish. In addition to teaching the catch-up groups and covering management release time, she will also teach Spanish to every class across the school. We are extremely excited to welcome Ms Jensen to St Peter's and to see the impact she will have on this curriculum area, she has lots of wonderful ideas.

This week we said goodbye to Miss Gezer, our music teacher. From January, class teachers will take over the responsibility of teaching music lessons to their respective classes, something they are very much looking forward to. Specialist peripatetic music teachers will continue to come into school to provide instrumental music tuition.

**JAG**

Despite them making a financial loss this term due to the low uptake, we are delighted that JAG have agreed to continue providing after-school care at St Peter's into the new year. Please, please, please consider using this facility, because if numbers don't increase soon, then JAG have told us that they will locate to another setting.

**The British Guide Dog Association**

On Tuesday 12th December, The British Guide Dog Association came into school to deliver an assembly in honour of Disability History Month. The association is a beacon of hope, providing life-changing support and companionship to those with visual impairments. Their dedication to training guide dogs transforms lives, empowering individuals to navigate the world with confidence. The children asked sensitive yet inquisitive questions and made our visitors, including Upton the dog, feel very welcome.

Every day 250 people in the UK start to lose their sight. When someone loses their sight, The British Guide Dog Association is there to make sure they don't lose their freedom as well. Every penny donated will go towards helping provide life-changing services for people with sight loss. If you would like to donate to The British Guide Dog Association, please find a link to their website here.

**Father Christmas**

Reception got in the festive mood last week with a trip to the Lyric Theatre to watch Raymond Briggs' Father Christmas production. It was truly magical experience and the children had a fantastic time.

**Wonka**

Last Monday, courtesy of Mrs Macinnes (Y4/YR parent), our Year 4 class were treated to a showing of the new film Wonka. The children had the cinema all to themselves, and delighted in watching the film with their classmates. A wonderful morning was had by all.

**Doctor Who**

Last week the children from Year 3 and Year 4 visited Riverside Studios in order to participate in a creative workshop, which was inspired by the popular television series Doctor Who. Doctor Who was filmed at Riverside in the 1960's. The trip coincided with the programme's 60th anniversary this month.

**Winning House**

Last Thursday, the children in team Cross enjoyed a movie afternoon - complete with snacks - watching The Grinch, as a reward for earning the highest number of house points this Autumn term. Well done team Cross!

**Punctuality**

Please remember that gates are 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. **The side gate and the main school entrance gate will both be closed at 8.55am and the Reception gate will close at 9am**. Please ensure that your child arrives on time, as arriving late is not only disruptive and often upsetting for your child, but can also disrupt the learning of others. **If your child does arrive late, please ensure that you report to the school office to ensure that your child is marked in the register.** 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**

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 the past two weeks:**

| | W/C 27th November | W/C 4th December | W/C 11th December |
|---|---|---|---|
| Reception | **93.3%** | **95.3%** | **84.0%** |
| Year 1 | **90.0%** | **99.3%** | **97.0%** |
| Year 2 | **93.3%** | **100%** | **92.7%** |
| Year 3 | **95.3%** | **97.0%** | **94.0%** |
| Year 4 | **97.7%** | **99.7%** | **98.7%** |
| Year 5 | **94.0%** | **98.0%** | **95.3%** |
| Year 6 | **92.6%** | **97.0%** | **95.2%** |

**Headteacher's Award**

| | 8th December | |
|---|---|---|
| Reception | **Rufus & Astrid** | |
| Year 1 | **Mimi & Cosima** | |
| Year 2 | **Lucy & Katie** | |
| Year 3 | **Amber & Sadie** | |
| Year 4 | **Charlie & Tom** | |
| Year 5 | **Rebecca & Wynsome** | |
| Year 6 | **Thor & Remi** | |

**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.

**8th December – Astrid & Saoirse (YR), Louis (Y3), Tilly (Y4), Thomas (Y6)**

**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.

**Instagram**

Please follow us on @stpetersschoolw6

**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,

Miss Frazer

| Dates | Time | Description |
|---|---|---|
| 08/01/24 | | **INSET Day** |
| 09/01/24 | | **Children return to school** |
| 11/01/24 | | Year 6 Treginnis Farm Meeting |
| 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 |
| 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** |