Embrace excellence through God, to build a better world

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

The weather is certainly feeling very wintry at the moment and, with Advent just around the corner, we're very ready at St Peter's to embrace the Christmas season with open arms! Christmas is such a magical time in the church and community calendar, and we want to ensure that we help to create some very special memories for children and families, as we move towards this very special time. We are working hard to ensure that all of our special events can still go ahead, in a safe and secure way. Rehearsals for our Nativity play are in full swing, and even though the Nativity will be pre-recorded this year, we are sure it will be just as special. Our PTA has been busily planning our very first virtual Christmas Fair, and Christmas carols are already firmly stuck in our heads, as our Key Stage 2 children are rehearsing for their Carols by Candlelight service, which again will be pre-recorded to keep everybody as safe as possible. We will also be having our special Christmas trees delivered soon, and I wonder what Miss Frazer might think of the decorations which Reception have planned for one of them…!

One thing, which again will be a little different this year, is how Christmas cards will be distributed. This is always a fun job – but promises to be more fun this year! From Wednesday 2nd December, each classroom will have their very own Christmas post box, and all cards will be posted into that. The classes will then distribute the cards between them, and the class teachers will make sure that any cards for other year groups will be carefully quarantined before being given out. If your child would like to post their cards to children in other year groups, they must remember to write the recipient's name and year group clearly on the envelope.

This is a busy time of year, and still continues to be so. Please ensure that you have made a note of our key Christmas events:

- Our Movie Night, kindly organised by our PTA, is being held next Thursday (3rd December). A ParentMail went out earlier this week for further information on how to sign up. Please contact the school if you require any assistance.
- St Peter's Virtual Christmas Fair has now gone live! Click here to take part! Read on for further information.
- As a school, we will be supporting national Christmas Jumper day on 11th December, in aid of Save the Children. We would like as many children as possible to swap their school jumper for a Christmas jumper on this day, or decorate their school jumper in a Christmassy theme.
- Christmas Dinner for our Reception Children and Key Stage 1 children will be held on the 14th December (read on for further information about the arrangements this year).
- Christmas Dinner for our Key Stage 2 children will be held on the 15th December.
- Our Nativity play will be released on Wednesday 16th December.
- Our KS2 Carols by Candlelight service will be released on Wednesday 16th December. During this special service, the Christmas story will be re-told through a series of carols and readings.
- On the last day of term (Friday 18th December), we hope to livestream, or certainly pre-record a special Christmas service in St Peter's Church. Further information will be released closer to the time.

We have many other fun things in the works for our children throughout the next few weeks, and it promises to be a fun, and exciting lead up to Christmas.

Virtual Christmas Fair

I think after the events of this year, we can safely say that absolutely nothing would stop our amazing PTA from throwing an extravaganza of a Christmas Fair, and this year's (virtual) Christmas Fair is now **live!** Please click below to take part:

St Peter's C E Primary School Virtual Christmas Fair

The events on offer are really lovely, and there are some great competitions which you can take part in, from a Bake Off judged by Rewa (whose standards I think surpass even the strictest of GBBO judges), to a Santa's Little Helper Pet Show, where you can enter pictures of your furry friends (pets only) dressed up in festive outfits, and many more. You can also purchase your Christmas puds and Sticky Toffee puddings, and many other festive treats, including some beautiful Christmas wreaths and candles. Thank you to everyone involved in helping to make this happen.

Spreading Christmas Cheer…

At this time of year, our Year 6s usually visit the local nursing home to sing carols, but this year we cannot do that. To help spread a bit of Christmas cheer to the elderly residents at the nursing home, our Kindness Ambassadors are organising a project, which will be to send Christmas cards to our local nursing home made by the children at St Peter's. I spoke to the nursing home yesterday, and their residents are regularly asking when our children may visit them again, as they "light up the room". I hope that this, in part, helps to add a little more cheer in lieu of our children visiting again this year. We look forward to returning when we are able.

Foodbank Advent Calendar

Our School Council is currently collecting items to give to the Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank, to support the local community over the Christmas period.

Children can bring any items they wish to donate into school, and give them to their class teacher. We are hoping to make a final collection on the 11th December, so please make sure that all items to be donated are in by then.

For a list of food items that the foodbank accepts, please follow the link below:

https://hammersmithfulham.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

Or, even better, watch this gif which Didi in Year 3 made!

Thank you to our school councillors and Mrs Adcock for organising this.

Anti-Bullying Week

Last week, we highlighted the importance of Anti-Bullying, through a week dedicated to learning about how we can be united against bullying. On Monday, we wore Odd Socks to school to celebrate difference, and on Thursday the school took part in virtual Anti-Bullying workshops. The children will also continue to learn about Anti-Bullying throughout the year in dedicated PSHE lessons.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to all of those families who were able to complete our parent questionnaire; the results of the questionnaire have been distributed via ParentMail. Your comments and suggestions were appreciated, and our Senior Leadership Team are reviewing them and acting upon them, to ensure that we are able to deliver the very best provision for your children.

On the whole, the responses were very positive, and we are very receptive towards any feedback. The staff were very happy to hear about how much you appreciate their hard work, and we are very blessed to have a staff team who go above and beyond, every single day, for the best of the children. We were very touched by the comment below, but all feedback is of equal value to us.

St Peter's is an amazing school. The children's happiness, kindness and motivation to learn shines through, due to the staff team's commitment, care and enthusiasm. All the adults are excellent role models; we are so happy that our daughter is in such an inspiring and nurturing school environment. In addition, parent involvement is valued and encouraged: the home-school partnership is strong. Huge thanks, to you all!

School applications

Secondary school applications are all complete, and our Year 6 pupils are now beginning the process of attending interviews and banding tests for their chosen schools. This can be a very stressful time for the pupils (and parents), and I wanted to say how impressed I have been by the children, for the maturity they have already shown this year. Where we have been able, we have hosted the banding tests/11+ tests at St Peter's, and having watched some of the children sit these tests, I am so very impressed with their positive attitudes and their determination to be their very best. Secondary school reference requests have been arriving, which will keep Mr Thomas and myself very busy for the next few weeks. A lot of the deadlines are earlier than normal this year, so if you haven't filled in your Pupil Information Sheet and sent it back, please do so as soon as possible. Families will be notified of their secondary school allocation in March 2021.

Just a reminder too, that all primary school applications need to be made by 15th January 2021.

Bulb Planting

Over the past few weekends, a number of our children have been busily planting bulbs in St Peter's Squar, in an event organised by the PTA. The children have planted an amazing 1700 bulbs! I've heard that it was a lovely event, and the square were so happy and delighted to have the children's help. We very much look forward to enjoying seeing them bloom come Spring!

Christmas Dinner

All of the plans have been finalised for our Christmas Dinners in school, and the crackers have been ordered – and not the ones that go with cheese, as they wouldn't be very fun to pull, but the ones with the terrible jokes…a bit like that one.

Christmas Dinner this year has taken a little bit more planning than it usually does, but Mrs Noonan, Chef Andrew and myself have found a way of making it work. On **Monday 14th December**, Key Stage 1 and Reception will have their Christmas Dinner in the Scott Building over two different sittings. On **Tuesday 15th December,** Key Stage 2 will have their Christmas Dinner in the Scott Building over two different sittings.

In order to make this work, it will mean that on Monday, Key Stage 2 will need to eat their lunch in their classrooms, and Key Stage 1 will need to eat their lunch in their classrooms on Tuesday. This is because we would like Reception class to have their Christmas dinner too in the Scott Building, and also the children need a little longer to be able to enjoy it all, pull their crackers and not feel too rushed. We hope you understand that this will just be for one day, and there was no other way to make it work safely (and for it also to be fun) for the children, unless we started lunches at 10am and finished at 2pm!

Namaste

A huge thank you to Miss Cook, who put on two fantastic virtual yoga sessions for our community, to help raise money for the school. I hear that they were fantastic and very well received; it is incredibly important to take time for wellbeing, mindfulness and reflection. Thank you to our PTA for organising these sessions.

Children in Need Day

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Children in Need Day collection this year. Together you raised £699.50 for this very worthwhile cause.

Punctuality

We continue to ask kindly that your child arrives at school on time. Our teachers at St Peter's make the most of every single second of learning time, and the children are learning from the moment that they walk in the door. Learning activities are given during registration time, and necessary interventions begin. If your child arrives late, then they will miss this important learning time (as it's usually helping to set up the lesson), and it means that our support staff need to leave that classroom to pick up the children. It can be disruptive for your child, and others. We kindly ask for your help in this matter, and if you require any further support, please do let us know.

House Points

	20th November	27th November	Running Total (for this term)
Rock	406	427	3660
Fisher	414	484	3662
Cross	369	425	3674
Keys	364	427	3484

Acting Headteacher's Award

	20th November	27th November
Reception	Orly and Imo	Evie and Reyan
Year 1	Alfie and Harry	Tilly and Stanley
Year 2	Georgie and George	Oskar and Michaela
Year 3	Eliza and Poppy G	Arel and George
Year 4	Rosie and Bella	Jack and Betsy
Year 5	Grace and Mia	Matylda and Mattia
Year 6	Ryan and Paul	Ammanuel and Jordan

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.

20th November – Alfie (Year 1), Sipara (Year 2), Malakai (Year 6) and Luke (Year 2)

27th November – Aimee (Year 5), Chloe (Year 2), Alicia (Reception) and Aneirin (Year 3)

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
03/12/20	3:30pm	PTA Movie Night
05/12/20		Virtual Christmas Fair
11/12/20		Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day
11/12/20		Winning House Reward
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	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**