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.

7th February 2025

January is over for another year and we are now just one week away from the February half term break, which also signals the fact that we are about to reach the half-way point in the academic year.

Time flies when you are busy learning and having fun, and at St Peter's that is certainly the case. Last week we saw this in abundance as we celebrated all things STEM, whilst also ensuring our commitment to EDI throughout our teaching. As part of our work, we explored seven key areas: neurodivergent STEM professionals and influential figures; women and girls in STEM; science experiences linked to the national curriculum; activities inspired by STEM picture books; scriptwriting for an iMovie project; engagement with mathematical programmes; and sustainability, including efforts to improve biodiversity in our environment. Please refer to the school website to discover more about the work undertaken by the children in support of STEM week and DT Day https://www.stpetersce.lbhf.sch.uk

Special thanks to Miss Cook for all of her hard work in planning our STEM week activities, to Miss Birkett for organising our DT activities, and to Natali (mum to Marina & Allan), Roddy (grandfather to Wynie & Lawson) and Salva (dad to Sonia), who came into school to share their knowledge and experiences with the children.

Online Safety

On Tuesday 11th February, we will be celebrating Safer Internet Day at school. As part of this, we hope that as many of you as possible are able to join us at the parent information session, led by Kat Francois, which has been arranged for this day. Kat is extremely knowledgeable and is a brilliant presenter; her workshops are always extremely informative and very well received. The session will be held in the main school at 9am and will last approximately 1 hour. Please come to the main Reception for 9am on Tuesday if you are able to attend. We look forward to seeing you then.

Diary Update

As many of you are aware, Rev'd Charles is currently away on a three month sabbatical, which means that he is unable to lead our Ash Wednesday Service on 5th March. We have been fortunate to secure the services of ex-vicar of St Peter's, Stephan Welch who has kindly agreed to lead our service for us. To align with Rev'd Welch's availability, our Ash Wednesday service will now take place at **2pm** on Wednesday 5th March rather than at 9am as previously stated. Parents and carers are all warmly invited to attend.

Due to the fact that Year 3 have been invited to take part in an Orchestral workshop on Thursday 6th March, which requires use of the school hall, we have decided to postpone our World Book Day celebrations by one day to **Friday 7th March**. This means that our now infamous book character parade

- where all of the children (and staff) are asked to come to school dressed as their favourite book character - will now take place on **Friday 7th March** as opposed to Thursday 6th March. We hope that as many parents as possible will still be able to join us in the Scott Building at 9am for this very special event.

Save the Date!

Friday 14th March, please join us at Chiswick Auctions for our annual big fundraiser event. These events are brilliant fun, whilst also having the added benefit of raising much needed funds for our school. The money raised from this year's event will go towards funding the new lease of our school iPads, which are used to enhance teaching and learning across all aspects of the curriculum. Our current 3-year lease ends in March 2025. At present, we have 70 iPads, ideally when we renew the lease we would like to increase this number to 100 allowing one class set of 30 iPads to be shared between two year groups (our Reception class have their own set of Learn Pads). A request for auction lots has been sent out recently, and tickets to our auction night will go on sale shortly, so please do whatever you can to support this event.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to support our PTA fundraising efforts, please refer to the PTA 'How to donate' flier attached to this email. Every penny raised comes back to support the education of your children. Thank you as always for your continued support.

Spirituality

Last week during our Collective Worship sessions we focused upon awe and wonder in nature, where I encouraged the children to think about those 'wow' moments that they observe in the world around them. Taking the time to stop and reflect can be challenging in our busy lives, however to support our spiritual development, staff and children at St Peter's are being encouraged to stop, reflect and enjoy these precious moments and then to share them with others.

During our Collective Worship session, we looked at some awe and wonder moments captured by Rev'd Charles during his recent visit to the Scottish Highlands. Later in the week, we also looked at some photographs of the night sky captured by Mrs Breen. This inspired the children to share their own examples:

'*I was amazed by the glistening patterns I saw in the sand*.' Juno (Y2)

'*I saw orange and pink rays of light coming from the sun, it reminded me of a birthday rosette, it was very beautiful.*' Michaela (Y6)

'*Whilst I was walking home from school, the sun was setting beneath the clouds in the winter sky. I looked and thought 'wow'!*' Risha (Y6)

'*A beautiful sunrise during my drive to work on a dreary, grey February morning.*' Miss Frazer

Our discussions also inspired Alfred (Y3) to send in some images of awe and wonder moments he had experienced recently and had managed to capture on camera. The first image depicted a stunning sunset over Richmond Hill, whilst the second showed a radiant crescent moon in the clear night sky. These images were shared with the children during our Collective Worship session this morning.

Whilst our initial discussions centred around these moments in nature, we also recognise that awe and wonder moments can happen in other aspects of our lives. During a recent visit to St Paul's Cathedral, our RE Ambassadors explained how they felt stepping inside this iconic building:

'*I was amazed by the building, the cross and the paintings on the ceilings.*' Joni (Y3)

'*I had an amazing feeling of wonder when the sun shone on the cathedral, it felt like the cathedral was moving looking up at the turrets.*' Rose (Y4)

'*The paintings inside the cathedral gave me feelings of amazement and awe. Looking around the cathedral, wonder filled my brain*.' Bowen (Y5)

'*I felt speechless when we walked into the cathedral, it was such a huge building with so many amazing paintings on display, I was filled with awe*.' Ava (Y5)

'*Being inside the cathedral and thinking about all of the people who believe in God and how they have shaped our religion made me feel feelings of wonder and amazement*.' Susannah (Y6)

Please try to take the time to talk to your child about this at home, pointing out those moments that you may experience which we often dismiss or take for granted. The world is an incredible place and there is much beauty around us, if we take the time to look for it and reflect upon what we are seeing and the impact it has on us. If you manage to capture a special moment on camera, please do send it through to me via communications@stpetersce.lbhf.sch.uk as we are hoping to display some of our awe and wonder moments around the school. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

RE Ambassadors

Last Thursday, our Key Stage Two RE Ambassadors represented St Peter's at the London Diocesan Board for Schools' Annual Service of Celebration, in recognition of the family of Church of England Schools in London. The theme for the service was Strength Beyond Time: The God of Eternity. For many of the children it was their first time visiting St Paul's Cathedral. The iconic building, which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the later 17th century, certainly created a moment of awe and wonder for many of our children, as we stepped inside and took time to observe our surroundings.

Prior to attending the service, the children visited Lady Margaret School, where they participated in a series of sessions led by the school's Chaplain Reverend Helena Whittaker and the Year 9 Worship Leads. Alongside children from All Saints Primary School and St John's Walham Green, our RE Ambassadors reflected upon the word eternity, thought about the passage of time, and discussed key events which have taken place in their lives and shaped them as individuals. The children responded extremely well to the challenges presented to them, they took time to reflect and enjoyed the opportunity to work collaboratively with children from other local church schools.

Where are they now?

The morning that we visited Lady Margaret School was also the morning that the Headteacher, Ms Stevenson, announced the school's newly appointed Head Girls, Deputy Head Girls and pupil Leadership team. I was delighted to discover that one of the two newly appointed Head Girls was an ex-pupil from St Peter's, Etta Skeates. Etta attended St Peter's from 2011 until 2019, when she moved on to LMS to continue her school career. I managed to have a chat with Etta, it was wonderful to hear about her continued successes and to have the opportunity to introduce her to our RE Ambassadors. Etta's appointment to Head Girl comes after Nefertari Williams, another former St Peter's pupil undertook the role two years previously. Nefertari is now in her first year at Cambridge University.

Year 6 SATs Meeting

Thank you to all of the Year 6 parents who joined the Year 6 SATs meeting on Tuesday. During the meeting, Miss Milligan talked parents through the timetable for SATs week, shared examples of the questions the children will be required to answer and outlined how parents and carers can support their children, at home, in the run up to SATs week and during the week itself. Miss Milligan was also on hand to answer any concerns or questions raised.

Keeeeeeep dancing!

On Wednesday and Thursday, the children put on their dancing shoes and took part in our PTA Valentines Discos. Snacks were eaten, games were played and various impressive dance moves were out on display – the contestants on Strictly Come Dancing have nothing on our children! A wonderful time was had by the children and staff alike. Special thanks to the Year 6 parents who organised this event.

Happy Birthday Bob!

On Thursday, some of our children joined with over 250,000 young singers from across the globe to sing in celebration of Bob Marley's 80th birthday. The event, which was organised by Young Voices in collaboration with Bob and Rita Marley, allowed our children to learn more about Bob Marley's life and to appreciate a selection of his infamous music.

Dress Up for Digits!

Today we showed our support for the important work undertaken by the NSPCC by celebrating National Number Day and adding digits to our clothing. The children engaged in lots of maths learning during the day and had great fun showcasing their creative interpretations of the theme. If you would like make a donation to the NSPCC please visit: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/

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. 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

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. 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 next 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 January	W/C 3rd February
Reception	**97.7%**	**97.3%**
Year 1	**96.6%**	**96.3%**
Year 2	**100%**	**96.2%**
Year 3	**98.7%**	**98.3%**
Year 4	**97.7%**	**95.3%**
Year 5	**99.3%**	**98.6%**
Year 6	**99.3%**	**96.7%**

House Points

Class earning the most house points to 31st January: **Year 2**
Class earning the most house points to 7th February: **Year 5**

	House points 31/01/25	House points 07/02/25	Total
Cross	**282**	**279**	**1632**
Fisher	**291**	**293**	**1714**
Rock	**286**	**356**	**1818**
Keys	**274**	**309**	**1649**

Headteacher's Award

	31st January	7th February
Reception	**Sonia & Grace**	**Robert & Lottie**
Year 1	**Peto & Dia**	**Lucas & Sienna**
Year 2	**Rex & Rosa F**	**Maya & Chara**
Year 3	**Evalyn & Alfred**	**Xander & Bear**
Year 4	**Evie & Lawson**	**Imo & Zach**
Year 5	**Charlie & Charlotte**	**Bart & Anna**
Year 6	**Elsa G & Kennedy**	**Risha & Alexander**

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.

31st January –Rosa B, Belle & Kleo (Y2), Evalyn (Y3), Mr Edgar
7th February – Pipper & Imran (YR), Evalyn (Y3), Mr Moura

Sports Awards

Each week Mr Moura will award two certificates per class to children who have demonstrated good sportspersonship during PE sessions. Congratulations to the following children:

	W/C 27th January	W/C 3rd February
Reception	**Pipper & Wilf**	**Felix & Ruby**
Year 1	**Thomas & Saoirse**	**Rufus & Astrid**
Year 2	**Juno & Rex**	**Maya & Xander**
Year 3	**Dylan & Ottolie**	**Amber & Bear W**
Year 4	**Alicia & Lawson**	**Pawel & Louanne**

Year 5	**Anna & Zach**	**Ava & Tom**
Year 6	**Louis & Kennedy**	**George & Elsa G**

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 Noonan; 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 **@stpetersschoolw6** and remember to like our posts!

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**
WC 10/02/25		Interschool competition (Netball)
11/02/25		Safer Internet Day
11/02/25		International Women and Girls in Science
13/02/25		**Year 1 Class Assembly**
WC 17/02/25		**Half Term**
24/02/25		**Children return to school**
28/02/25		International Stand Up to Bullying Day
03/03/25	4pm – 7pm	Parents Evening
04/03/25	3.30pm – 6pm	Parents Evening
05/03/25	2pm	Ash Wednesday Service
07/03/25		World Book Day Celebrations
07/03/25		Celebration of International Women's Day
WC 10/03/25		Arts Week