



# St Peter's Newsletter, February 2024

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## Executive Headteacher's Message



As it is a shorter term, the spring term always seems to go by so quickly. As always, there is a lot going on in school. It was great to have parents in for a craft workshop in Reception and our phonics workshop in Reception and Y1. A big thank you to the SPF for the Mother's Day shop - proceeds will be used to buy new books for the children so we really appreciate everyone's donations.

Teachers are organising trips for the summer term so keep your eye out for messages. This is an important part of our curriculum offer and something we will continue to develop over the next 12 months. Having these experiences with their classmates with focused workshops linked to their learning is really beneficial in helping children understand and remember what they have been taught. Even if a child has already visited the trip destination, they will get a completely different experience going with their class.

Our Pupil Leadership continues to have an impact on the school. Reading Champions are supporting younger readers wonderfully, the Worship Group are creating reflective, thoughtful school worship assemblies and the School Council are beginning to think about how they can make break times even more fun for our children. We even have some of our younger children in Y1 working as phonics peer buddies to support their friends. We'll keep you updated with developments.



Parents Evening is in a few weeks so please look out for communication about that. We look forward to welcoming you into school to discuss your child's successes and next steps. We appreciate everyone's ongoing support.

Mr Seex

## Sports Provision - Clubs

We have been delighted to see the numbers steadily increasing at our after-school clubs and breakfast club. Mr Mason has been working closely with Progressive Sports and our fantastic coach, Mr Ingham, to plan some exciting sessions over the coming weeks.

Every Wednesday, our children will have the opportunity to explore different sports and develop their athletic skills in a fun and engaging environment. Here's what's in store for the remainder of this half term:

 6th March - Basketball 

Shoot, dribble, and score in our action-packed basketball session! From layups to three-pointers, your child will learn fundamental skills while having a ball on the court.

 13th March - Cricket 

Step up to the crease and bat, bowl, and field in our cricket extravaganza! Whether they dream of being the next cricket superstar or just want to try something new, this session is sure to be a hit.


 20th March - Tennis 

Swing into action as we serve up some fun on the tennis court! From forehands to backhands, your child will learn the basics of this timeless sport while rallying with friends.

Don't miss out on the opportunity for your child to explore these exciting sports! You can book your child for one-off sessions to try out a sport or sign them up for the remaining weeks of the club using the link below

<https://progressive-sports.kidsclubhq.co.uk/rdr?u=home>

If you're experiencing any difficulties with booking your child onto the clubs, please contact their head office for assistance:

 Phone: 01889 343 120

 Email: [Wraparound@progressive-sports.co.uk](mailto:Wraparound@progressive-sports.co.uk)

## Parent Forum



Following on from our Parent Forum last term, and the parent survey sent out at the beginning of the year, our Parent Action Plan can be found on the link below.

[SP Parent Forum Action Plan.docx](#)

This will enable us to be transparent and accountable about the actions we will be taking based on your feedback. We have used a RAG rating system to evaluate progress:

- Red - unsuccessful
- Amber/yellow - some progress made
- Green - good progress made
- Blank - not actioned yet

We appreciate all feedback, be it positive or constructive, so please share it when you see Mr Castledine, Mr Seex or any of the school staff.

We have two more parent forum sessions this year if you would like to join us to discuss how we can make our school even better.

- Monday 11th March, 2.15pm
- Thursday 20th June, 5pm

## What We're Working On



In school, we are continuing to develop our curriculum so that it is interesting, inspiring and engaging. The curriculum is everything that a school offers, including the lessons, enrichment, clubs and assemblies. Curriculum development is never complete and something that we are constantly improving and refining.

For the move to mixed-age classes, we couldn't continue to use the exact same curriculum as we had children from different year groups in the same class. We had to look at the National Curriculum objectives and design clear progression models so that a year 3 and a year 4 in the same class both get age-appropriate instruction and activities to complete. Teachers have very quickly become highly skilled at both supporting and stretching children as needed. As I've said before, the mixed-age model actually benefits everyone because it creates competition, aspiration and strong role models. As an example, I have never before seen a group of year 1 children become so independent so quickly. Similarly, the year 2s in the same class seem to have matured and grown up rapidly so that they are fantastic role models and achieving excellent outcomes.

All staff are involved in this curriculum development so that we draw from the expertise of a range of backgrounds and also their knowledge of the children in front of them, their interests and their background knowledge. Our curriculum offer was already good, but now we aim to make it truly exceptional, maximising the benefits of the mixed age groupings.

## School Council



The school council held their first meeting this week on Tuesday 27th February. After each child formally introduced themselves we held a vote to elect our chair person, vice chair and secretary. The school council members discussed what their role was in school and started to generate some fantastic ideas about how they could help to make St Peter's even better. Finally, they were given their first task as school councillors. There is a small pot of money to purchase some new playground equipment and each council member was tasked with discussing this with their class and putting together a 'wish list' of equipment the children in school would most prefer. The school council will then collate everyone's suggestions and decide which equipment would be the most beneficial for us to spend the money on. It was a very productive meeting and all the members of the school council are very excited about putting their ideas into action over the coming weeks.

## Chinese New Year Workshop



On Friday 9th February, the children were invited to wear red as part of our Chinese New Year celebrations to welcome in the 'Year of the Dragon'.

As part of this event, our Reception/Y1 class parents were invited into school to attend a craft workshop as part of their learning on Chinese New Year. During this afternoon, children and their grown-ups worked together to create traditional Chinese hand drums; we thought they looked fantastic!

Some of our children from year 5 and 6 visited our Reception class to talk to the children about how they celebrate Chinese New Year. They were born in Hong Kong and told the children that Chinese New Year is their FAVOURITE time of year.... even better than Christmas. They showed the children firecrackers, red money wallets and taught them a traditional dance. They then helped the children to make a dancing dragon. Finally the children finished off by eating fortune cookies and reading the fortunes that were inside.

An enjoyable morning was had by all!

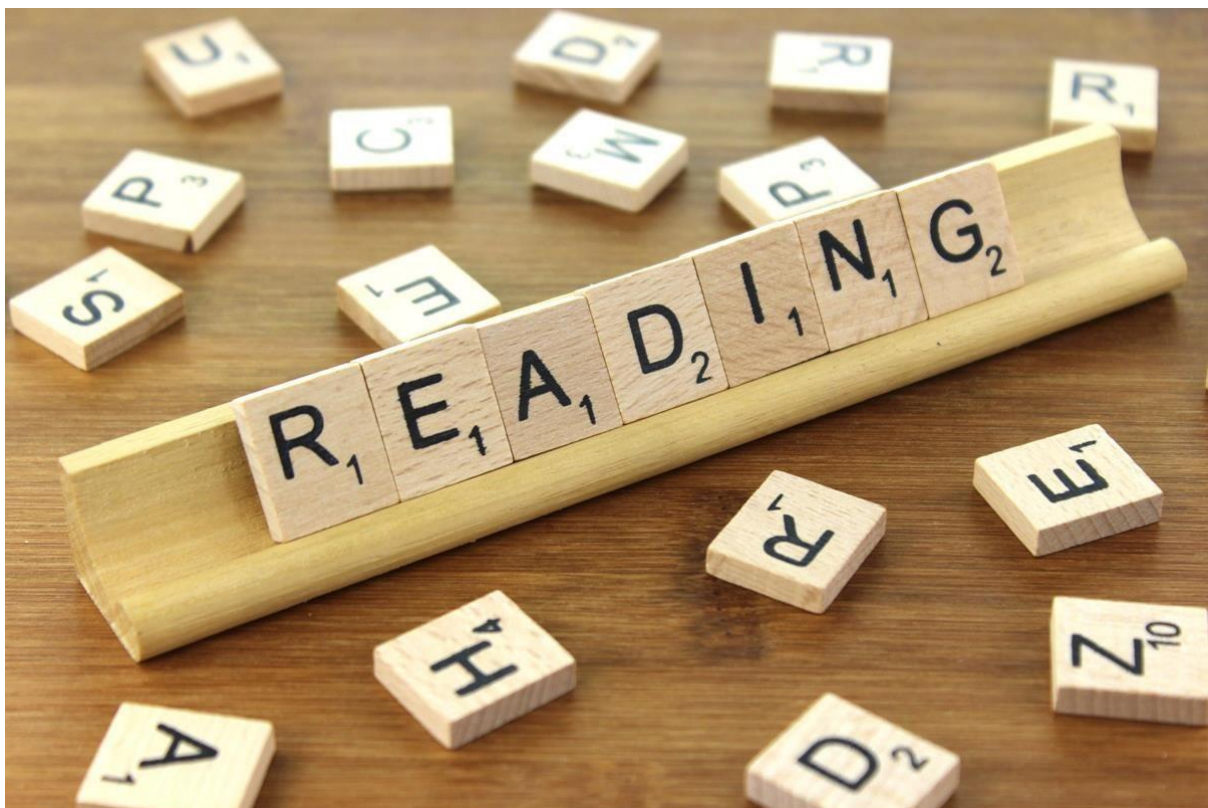








## Reading Volunteers



Reading is really important. It allows children to access the full curriculum. Some children need a little more practise than others, which is where you can really support us.

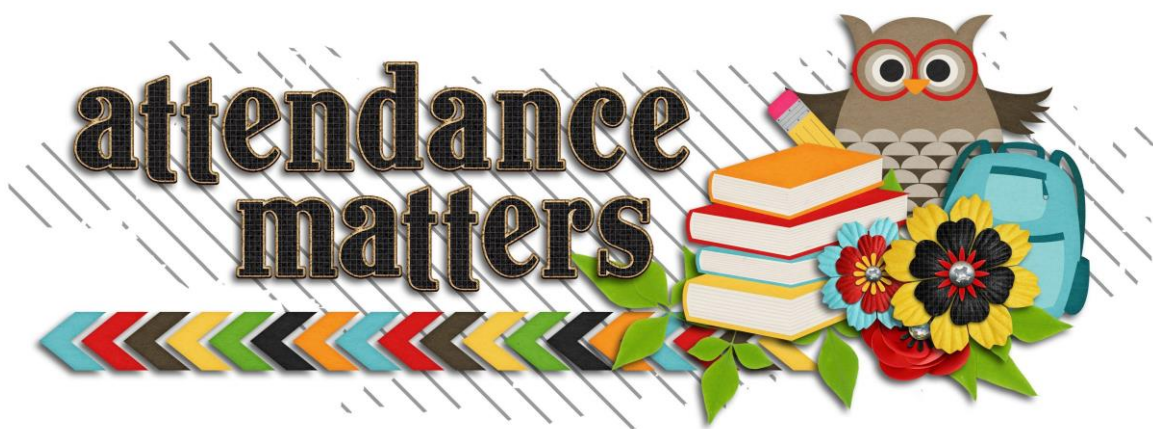
We are delighted that we have had some parents sign up to be reading volunteers.

We can never have enough volunteers, so we're still extending the invitation to come in and read with our wonderful children. We will provide training and process the DBS (background check). If you are interested in helping, please get in touch with Mr Castledine via the school office.

Please note that we would be asking for a regular commitment, eg every Monday afternoon, so that we can timetable this and support you in ensuring that the session is productive. Any time that you are able to give will be gratefully received.

Thank you in advance.

## Attendance



There is a very strong link between attendance and academic attainment, as well as happiness at school. Regular attendance is really important. Sometimes, your child will be too ill to attend. When they have a minor headache and a small cold, it is important that they do attend as the staff are very nurturing and will look after them. Where your child is displaying signs of being too ill to be in school, we will always call you.

To support with the decision of whether to send your child in, the NHS have published some guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

In school, we minimise the spread of illness through ventilation, cleaning procedures and hand hygiene. Where there is a bug that has affected several children, we will take reactive infection control measures which may include keeping the class out of assembly, increased ventilation, seating plans and increased hand hygiene, with the measures dependent on the bug.

## School Dinners Feedback

If you have anything you want to share, you can contact our catering providers using the details below:

**Rebecca Davies, Area Manager, Edwards and Ward**

**Email:** [rdavies@edwardsandward.co.uk](mailto:rdavies@edwardsandward.co.uk)

## Absence Reporting

Gentle Reminder: If your child is unwell, please call the school office on 01543 372060 to report it. The teachers do not have access to their Class Dojo messages whilst teaching so the message may be missed if it does not go to the office. This is also the case when someone different may be teaching the class such as supply teachers.

## Parking

To keep everyone safe, please park considerately. Where possible, parking a couple of minutes walk from the school can reduce congestion and help ensure that everyone is safe. A reminder that there should be no parking or dropping off on the yellow zig-zag lines.

We have asked the PCSOs to have a regular presence to support with this so that everyone can remain safe.

## Key Dates - Spring

We endeavour to communicate about events in advance to give plenty of notice. Please see below for upcoming key dates for the rest of this term.

### **Spring Term 2024**

#### **Dates for the diary**

**Tuesday 5th March** – Usborne Book Fair in school

**Thursday 7th March** – World Book Day (dress as a favourite book character or come to school in your pyjamas)

**Friday 8th March** – Mother's Day Lunch (for Reception and Y6 parents)

**Monday 11th March** – Parents Forum with Mr Seex @ 2:15p.m.

**Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th March** – Parent Consultation Evenings (3:30p.m. – 6:30p.m.)

**Thursday 14th March** – St Peter's Fundraisers Disco (Rec/KS1 3:20p.m. – 4:15p.m. and KS2 (4:30p.m. – 5:30p.m.)

**Friday 15th March** – Red Nose Day (Children invited to wear red)

**Wednesday 20th March** – Easter service in school hall for Rec/Y1 class parents @ 9:30a.m.

**Thursday 21st March** - Easter service in school hall for Y1/2 class parents @ 9:30a.m.

**Friday 22nd March** – Easter service at St Peter's church for KS2 parents @ 9:30a.m.

## Contact Us



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