

St Peter's Newsletter, April 2024

In This Issue



In this newsletter:

- Executive Headteacher's Update

What's Going on in School

- Parent Forum
- What We're Working On

Enrichment in School

- Sports Provision - Clubs
- Think Tank Trip
- Girls' Football Tournament
- Forest School
- Mini Medics
- World Book Day
- Red Nose Day
- Easter Celebrations

- Mother's Day Lunches

Regular Items

- Attendance
- Reading Volunteers
- School Dinners Feedback
- Absence Reporting
- Parking
- Key Dates
- Contact Us

Executive Headteacher's Message



St Peter's is particularly vibrant during spring, with the brightening days accompanied by birdsong and, most importantly for the children, access to our field again. It's a busy time of year and the point where things really seem to 'click' for children as they make rapid progress. We have a number of statutory assessments in May and June including the Year 6 SATs, Y1 phonics screening check and the Year 4 multiplication check. Our strategy is to ensure that children are well-prepared so that they are confident and understand what the test entails to minimise anxiety, whilst ensuring we are able to deliver a full, broad curriculum across the year. We know that if we teach the children really well and do a little test preparation so it's familiar enough not to worry, then they will do well. As I've said many times, St Peter's children stand out and I know that they will do fantastically. The tests are not just to provide a score however; they're an opportunity to ensure that all the key learning has been achieved by that set point, which supports children as they move onto the next stage.

You'll see in this newsletter that there has been lots of enrichment going on including charity days, services, clubs, forest school, Mini Medics, Officer Cadets, World Book Day, football tournaments, a trip to ThinkTank and more than I have space to mention. We try to provide children with a broad curriculum with access to experiences that will contribute to their personal and character development as well as their academic progress.

We are all very proud of St Peter's and our wonderful children. As we are told so often by visitors, they stand out. We are always keen to hear feedback, both positive and constructive, so please do speak to me or Mr Castledine if you have anything to share. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr Seex

Parent Forum



This term's parent forum was focused around homework and reports. Following on from this, we will be sending out a homework consultation to gather further views to build upon some of the key areas that were raised. There were also lots of helpful suggestions, including sharing the Progressive Sports email on the newsletter (can be found under sports provision in this newsletter), sharing reading strategies on the newsletter (this will be started this month) and ensuring all policies, including the attendance policy, are regularly shared (the new website will contain up-to-date policies and the attendance policy has been re-shared on this newsletter). Thank you to all who were able to attend and to those who emailed across their thoughts, feedback and suggestions. We value our partnership with parents and look forward to continuing to build on it in the future.

Our Parent Action Plan can be found on the link below. This was created based on feedback that we have received about how to make the school even better.

[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 another parent forum sessions this year if you would like to join us to discuss how we can make our school even better.

- Thursday 20th June, 5pm

What We're Working On



In school, we're continuing to think deeply about our curriculum to ensure that it both supports and challenges children in mixed-age classes across the school. We have looked at what they have already learned during their school journey and designed the curriculum for each subject to build upon this through interesting topics and experiences, whilst ensuring we cover the National Curriculum objectives. Trips are continuing to be organised to provide the children with concrete experiences to deepen their understanding.

We are also continuing to collaborate on in-class questioning and assessment strategies, including through ongoing coaching, to ensure that all children receive the best possible 'in the moment' feedback and are encouraged to think hard about what is being taught. This was already done well and is now a real strength of the school's.

Reading Strategies

Reading at home is the most important piece of homework you can do. Children need to read aloud and receive feedback so that they can get better. Once a child has read a word 3 or 4 times they begin to become fluent. If children are not reading aloud, there is a risk that they are reading words incorrectly and therefore practising pronouncing it wrong, which will make it harder to reteach correctly.

Children are never too old to read aloud, especially if they are still developing their fluency. Just 5-10 minutes a day can make a significant difference.

Sports Provision - Clubs

We're pleased to announce that we have a new timetable for summer. This will be shared and will go up on the noticeboard outside.


Olympics

We will also be delivering Olympic-themed after-school sports clubs in the run-up to the Olympics. This is a great opportunity to encourage participation in sports and, with the Olympics round the corner, we're hoping it will engage and enthuse children so they take an active interest in the Olympics over summer.

Breakfast Club

Wraparound care has continued to be successful. We are keen to increase the numbers in our breakfast club. During breakfast club., the children have been enjoying themselves and we have been participating in lots of fun activities including activities outside (we have the field to ourselves and are making the most of it now that the weather is better!), arts and crafts and relaxation time with a book in a calming space. There is something that everyone can enjoy.

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

Think Tank Trip

On Monday 22nd April, the Year 3/4 class visited the Think Tank science museum in Birmingham. The staff and children met at Shenstone train station in the morning and travelled into Birmingham New Street. They then made the short walk through the city centre to reach the Think Tank. Every single child stood out with their impeccable behaviour during the journey and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of travelling by train. They listened carefully at all times and made sure that they stayed with their partner during the walk across the city centre.

Once at the museum, we had plenty of time to explore each floor and engage with the interactive exhibits (the old style space invaders arcade game proved to be a very popular attraction)! The children then took part in a workshop based on their Science topic of changing states. They entered a science lab, put on their lab coats and safety goggles and spent a fun hour conducting some experiments. They used bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to create a gas that blew up a balloon and even had a go at making their own slime!

After lunch it was off to explore the science garden. Despite the rain, the children had lots of fun playing with the hands-on exhibits, including an eight-metre high clanging 'Terminus' machine and a giant human-sized hamster wheel.

A huge thank you to Mrs Sherry for all of the meticulous planning that went in to this trip, from the pre-visit, route planning and risk assessments. It was worth the effort to see the smiles on the children's faces throughout the day.

Girls' Football Tournament



On Thursday 25th April, our Y4-6 girls' football team competed in a tournament at Erasmus Darwin Academy. They won 3 games, drew 2 and lost only 1. Out of the 12 teams present, our girls managed to achieve a top 3 position. We are proud of them for their competitive spirit, teamwork, achievement and the way they represented our school so fantastically. St Peter's children stand out.

Thank you to Mr Mason for organising these sporting events and his coaching - which is obviously starting to pay off!

Forest School



We were thrilled to be able to launch Forest School sessions for our Reception and Key Stage 1 students during the second half of the Spring term.

As part of the Forest School experience, our students engaged in a wide range of outdoor activities including:

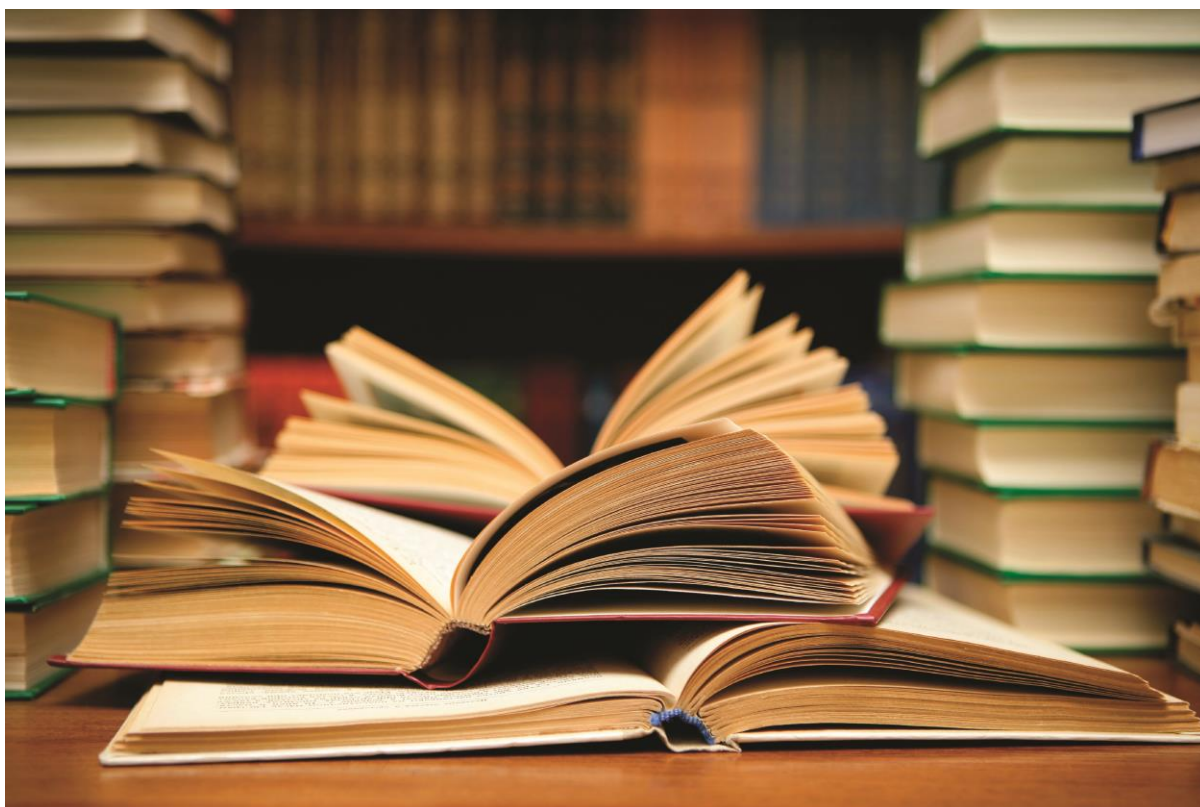
- Den building
- Knot practise
- Safe fire lighting and cooking
- Plant and animal identification
- Nature exploration and conservation
- Social and emotional skill development
- Outdoor play and risk-taking
- Building relationships and teamwork

Forest school has been a fantastic opportunity for our children to immerse themselves in nature and develop a wide range of skills and each week the children were so excited to take part and get involved. A big thank you to Mr Mason for organising this wonderful experience for our youngest children here at St Peter's

Mini Medics

During the spring term, each class in KS1 and KS2 were able to take part in a Mini Medics course across an afternoon. The Mini Medics first aid course is designed to encourage the importance of helping someone who is injured or becomes poorly. The children were taught what to do in an emergency situation alongside some basic first aid skills. The children listened really well and took the practical activities of the course seriously. There were certainly lots of children that stood out as potential first responders in their future careers!

World Book Day and Usborne Book Fair



On Thursday 7th March the whole school came together to celebrate World Book Day. A huge thank you to all of the children for their efforts. We had some wonderful book characters in full costume alongside those children who preferred to relax in their pyjamas for the day. We also had a visit from quite a few of the Mr Men characters too!

Alongside Usborne books, we were also able to hold a sponsored read across the week and during World Book Day and each child had the opportunity to visit the Usborne book fair. Thanks to an impressive number of our children taking part in the sponsored read we were able to raise an astonishing £1987.50, which we will be able to spend on new reading books for the children. We can't thank you enough for your support during this event and for helping to raise these much-needed funds for our children here at St Peter's.



Red Nose Day

On Friday 15th March the children wore their own clothes to school and their red nose if they were lucky enough to have one to celebrate Red Nose Day. Thank you to everyone who made a donation via our justgiving page. Altogether we were able to raise £97 for this wonderful charity.

Easter Celebrations

Thank you to all of our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents who were able to attend the KS1 Easter service. It was so lovely to hear the children reading so eloquently and singing with such enthusiasm.

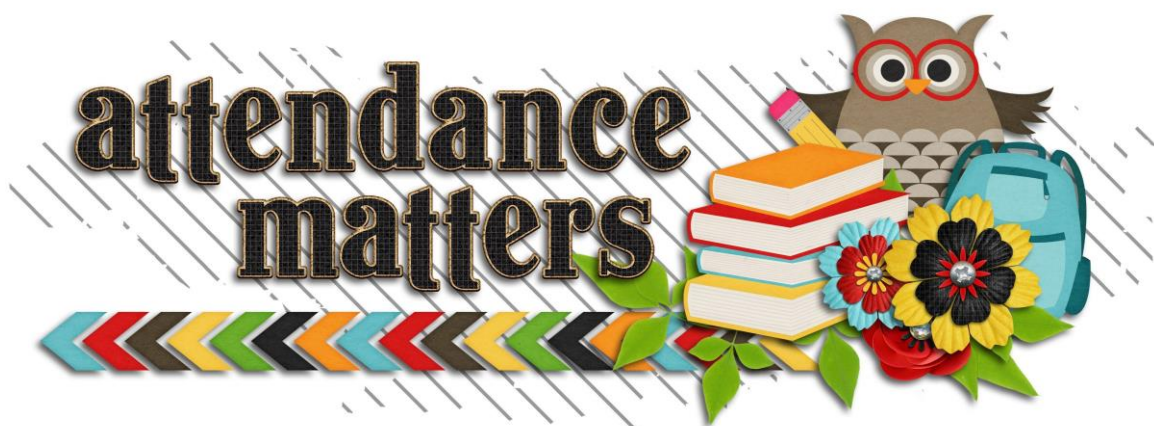
It was also fantastic to see so many parents join us at St Peter's church for our KS2 service. To see the church full and to hear the children's lovely voices in such special surroundings really helped to bring the story of Easter to life.

A huge thank you also to the St Peter's Fundraisers (SPF) who kindly provided each child with an Easter egg to enjoy.

Mother's Day Lunches

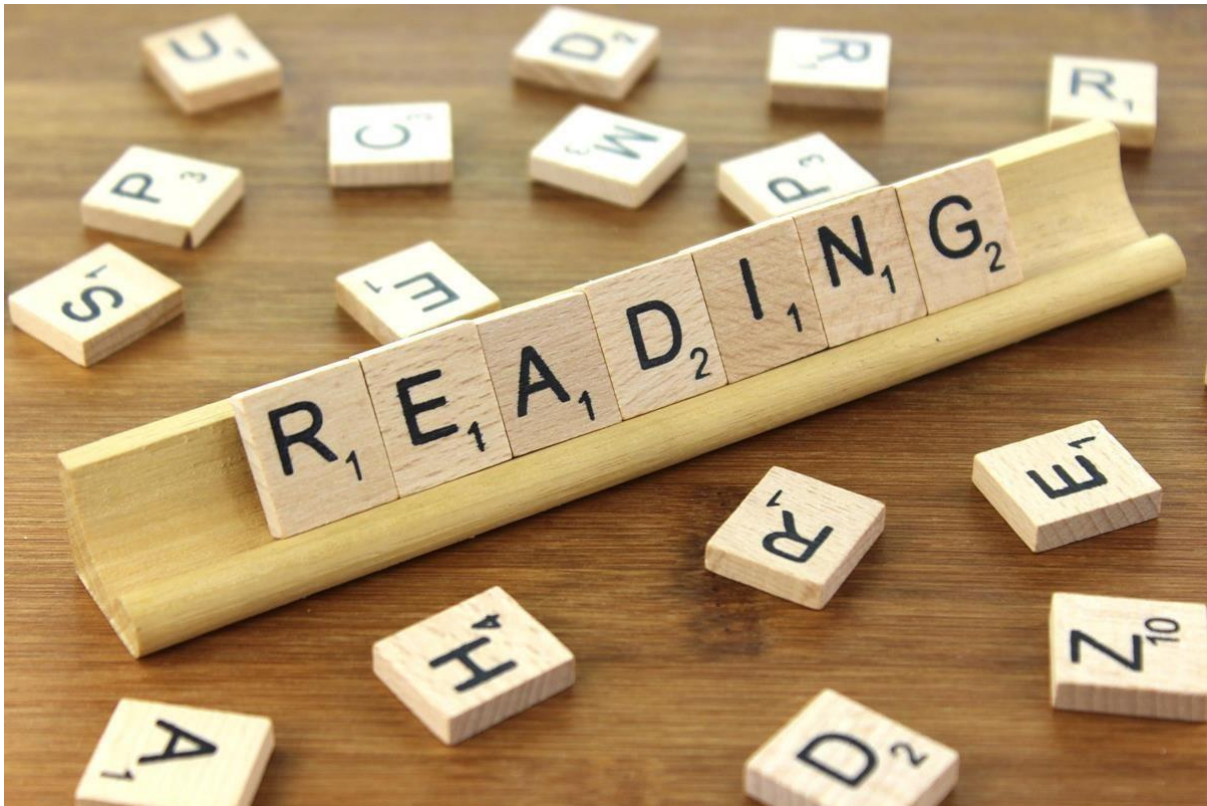
We were very pleased to be able to welcome our Reception and Year 6 families to join their children for a special lunch on Friday 8th March to celebrate Mother's Day. It was lovely to see Mums, Nans and Aunties sharing a meal with the children. It really made their day to be able to have you join them in the school hall.

Attendance



Our attendance policy can be found on our website in the policies section: [Attendance Policy](#)

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.

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

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: Summer Term



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.

May 2024

Mon 6th – May Day bank holiday (school closed)

Mon 13th to Thursday 16th - KS2 SATs Week (including SATs breakfast from 8:00a.m. each day)

Wed 22nd – Y3/4 Basecamp experience

Thurs 23rd - Children break up for half term 3:20p.m.

Fri 24th – INSET DAY (School closed for pupils)

June 2024

Mon 3rd - Children Return to Academy

Mon 3rd to Wed 5th - Y5/6 residential trip to Laches Wood

Mon 3rd - Year 4 Multiplication Times Tables Check ongoing over two weeks

Mon 10th - Year 1 Phonics Testing ongoing

Fri 14th - Father's Day Lunch (Reception & Year 6)

Friday 28th June - St Peter's Day

Fri 28th June - Sports Day (Reception and KS1 a.m., KS2 p.m.)

July 2024

Fri 12th - End of year reports out

Mon 15th - Moving Up Morning

Tues 16th - Open Afternoon for Parents 2:00pm-4:30pm (TBC)

Fri 19th - Y6 Leavers assembly (TBC)

Fri 19th - Break-Up @ 1:30pm for Summer Holiday

Mon 22nd - INSET day (Academy open to Staff only)

Contact Us



St. Peter's C of E Primary Academy

Main Street

Stonnall

Staffordshire

WS9 9EE

<https://www.stpetersacademystonnall.com/>

E: office@st-peters-stonnall.staffs.sch.uk

T: 01543 372060