



St Peter's Newsletter, May 2024

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Executive Headteacher's Message



This month we've seen the lighter evenings and some lovely weather which has enabled us to make good use of the school field. A number of our children have used the opportunity to evaluate some of our areas and make suggestions as to how they can be improved. Some of our Year 6 children have been working on developing the flowerbeds and pond area and some of our Year 5 children have been planning how we can develop a reading area on the field. This independent leadership is wonderful to see and part of the courageous advocacy that is an important part of St Peter's - striving to make the school, the local area and the world a better place. Unsurprisingly, in this regard, St Peter's children stand out.

Our Year 6s took their end of key stage SATs tests this month. These are important tests that assess their understanding of the primary curriculum. They provide an opportunity to revise and bring together the collective learning. The children applied themselves really well and I was impressed with their resilience and attitude to learning. Once again, they stood out.

Our annual Base Camp residential took place at the school this week. Unfortunately, we didn't get the weather we hoped for, but the children had a great time nonetheless. This is a valuable experience for them and one I know they look forward to.

I'd love to hear your thoughts on homework. This is a difficult area to get right in primary schools so it's important we hear from the community to learn more about what is working and what could work better so that can feed into the final homework policy. The link to the short form to share your thoughts can be found in the 'What we're working on' section below.

Thank you for your ongoing support this half-term. I hope you have a good, restful break and we look forward to seeing everyone when we come back on Monday 3rd June.

Mr Seex

What We're Working On



We have been developing a new website, which will be far more user-friendly, contain useful information such as details about our curriculum and links to websites and resources that will benefit your children. We hope it is useful and supports you. As always, we are grateful for any feedback.

We have also sent out a homework consultation to learn more about your thoughts on homework. Please do share your feedback and suggestions by completing the short form. It is likely there will be very contrasting ideas, but all comments will be taken into account and feed into our homework policy. The link can be found below. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the form.

<https://forms.office.com/e/6QU9PcxMg4>

If you would like to verbally share your thoughts, please speak to Mr Seex or Mr Castledine.

Year 6 SATs



The week commencing Monday 13th May, our Year 6 children completed their SATs tests.

A huge thank you to all of our children, we are all very proud of your efforts, not only during SATs this week but also throughout the year in making sure you were ready to sit those tests.

It was a pleasure to offer a SATs breakfast for those children that chose to join us from 8a.m. each morning. A mountain of bagels, toast, pancakes and cereal was consumed across the four days! Thank you as well to Mrs Clay, our school cook, who opened the kitchen early to prepare a cooked breakfast for the Year 6's to celebrate the end of SATs week.

All of our Year 6 children did amazingly well and gave 100% effort in each test they sat and we couldn't have asked for any more. We wish them all a very well deserved half term break.

Year 3/4 Base Camp



On Wednesday 22nd May the children in Year 3 and Year 4 took part in a base camp expedition. This involved camping in tents on the school field overnight, camp fire lighting, team building games, a nature walk around the local area and cooking their own food using a gas stove.

Despite the weather, the children had a fabulous time and were a credit to the Academy. One of the instructors supporting the delivery of the base camp commented that St Peter's children were amongst the politest, most engaging and well-behaved children they had ever had the pleasure to work with. Once again, an external visitor has recognised how St Peter's children stand out.

A big thank you to Mrs Sherry and Mr Mason for giving their time, particularly with the over night stay to support the children in what for many would have been their first experience of a night away from their families. Without the commitment and dedication of our staff here at St Peter's, we would not be able to offer such valuable experience as these to our children.

Reception, Year1/2 Trip to Wonderland



We are so incredibly proud of Reception, Year 1 and 2 for their fantastic behaviour on our school trip to Wonderland. Despite the pouring rain, the children were able to peer into the homes of their favourite fairytale characters, be brave and bold by riding on some fairground rides and spend time with the Mad Hatter learning songs, dances and listening to stories.

Explorer Visit to Y5/6

Year 5/6 received a visit from Mr Wilkinson this week. He has lived an extremely interesting life. He has climbed Everest and Mt. Kilimanjaro and still competes as a triathlete.

He came in to speak to the children as part of their Antarctica topic. He spoke to the children about his expedition to climb Mt Vinson in Antarctica. Mr Wilkinson shared the highs and lows of the journey, the extensive costs, the challenges and the extremities of the journey - the light, silence and danger. He even fell down a crevasse and had to be rescued during his trip so he shared his feelings, fears and gratitude.

Mr Wilkinson was thoroughly impressed with the maturity of the children as they asked excellent questions and listened very well. As we always say, St Peter's children stand out.

Year 4/5 History Project



As part of their history topic this half term, a number of children have gone above and beyond at home to create their own versions of WWII Anderson shelters.

Mr Seex and Mr Castledine were blown away by the effort, creativity and detail that the children put into their designs. We know that children here at St Peter's stand out and this was yet another example of that in action.

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.uk¹

Parent Forum



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.docx²

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:

¹<mailto:Wraparound@progressive-sports.co.uk>

²https://stjohnsacademycouk-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/matthew_seex_stjohnsacademy_co_uk/EWEs02iq1ndElnRH1MY9O-8Ba_aq7uzySOJ-fizl3Yh-9Q?e=9xnn37

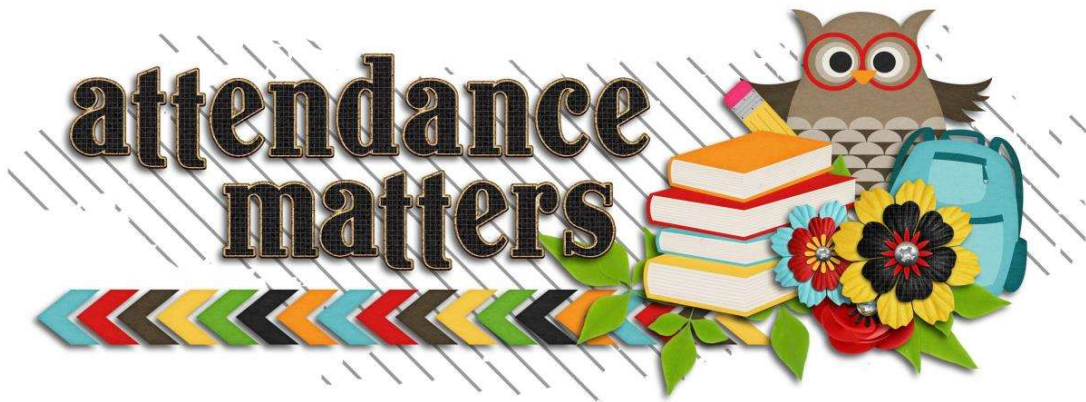
- Red - unsuccessful
- Amber/yellow - some progress made
- Green - good progress made
- Blank - not actioned yet

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. Further details will go out nearer the time.

- Thursday 20th June, 5pm

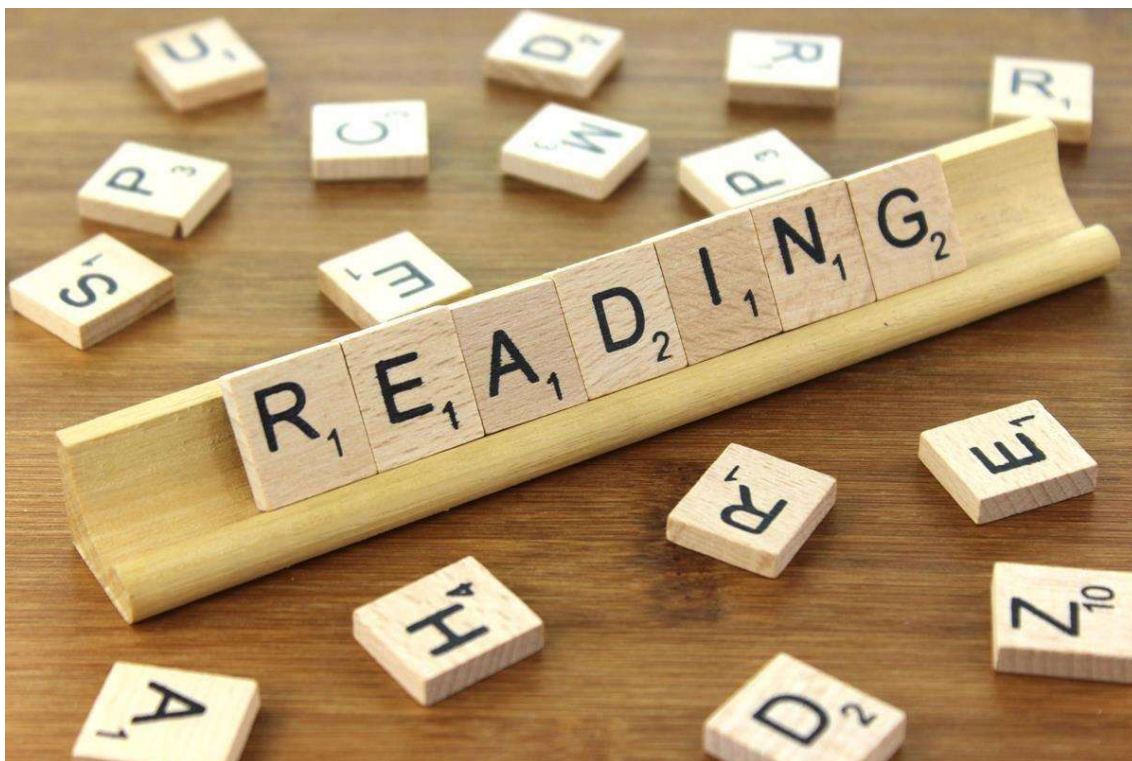
Attendance



Our attendance policy can be found on our website in the policies section: Attendance Policy³

³https://www.stpetersacademystonnall.com/files/ugd/dc95c8_923e361f83dc4d868baa0c7a77a6d0fe.pdf

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

⁴<http://www.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

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



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