

St Peter's Newsletter, Autumn 1 2024-25

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Executive Headteacher's Message



We have enjoyed welcoming the children back to school and have had a productive, purposeful and exciting first half-term. A few highlights include football tournaments, CPR workshops, McMillan coffee morning, parents evenings and our Harvest service. The Harvest Festival has deep meaning within school as it embodies our values of Service, Trust and Koinonia. Thank you to all those that were able to join us for these services; it means a lot to us and to the children.

Children have hit the ground running this half-term, as they always do. Our youngest children in Reception are already developing their writing skills and gaining a good understanding of number. In year 1, the children have impressed us with how quickly they have adapted to formal lessons - already, they seem much older than they are in the way that they conduct themselves and the work ethic that they are developing. As we move through the school, the children have continued where they left off, building on their hard work from the previous year.

Last year, we had our highest attendance and lowest persistent absence since the Covid-19 pandemic, so thank you for all of your support. Attendance is a hugely important priority; research suggests that it has an impact on wellbeing, happiness, social groups and academic attainment. As well as this, we had our best Key Stage 2 results since the pandemic and our projections suggest that they will rise again this year. Finally, although we have strong phonic outcomes in Year 1, we are particularly pleased that 100% of our children once again passed by the end of Year 2, which is very rare in schools.

Of course, school is more than just outcomes. Pupils have shown their leadership and nurturing skills through key roles that contribute to school life such as Reading Champions, School Council and Corridor Monitors. Our value of trust is important and our children always rise to the trust placed in them. Even outside of these roles, the children are continually helping and supporting one another. It is a joy to watch and makes us all very proud.

St Peter's children stand out. Every day, they make us proud, in the way they conduct themselves, their work ethic and their kindness. Little things like greeting one another every morning and asking each other how our day has been make a big difference and it is something that is increasingly rare in schools, but not this one. It is a great privilege to serve this community, so I would like to thank you all for your support, feedback and ongoing partnership. The children are a great credit to you all.

Have a wonderful half-term,

Mr Seex

Executive Principal

Parent Action Plan



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](#)

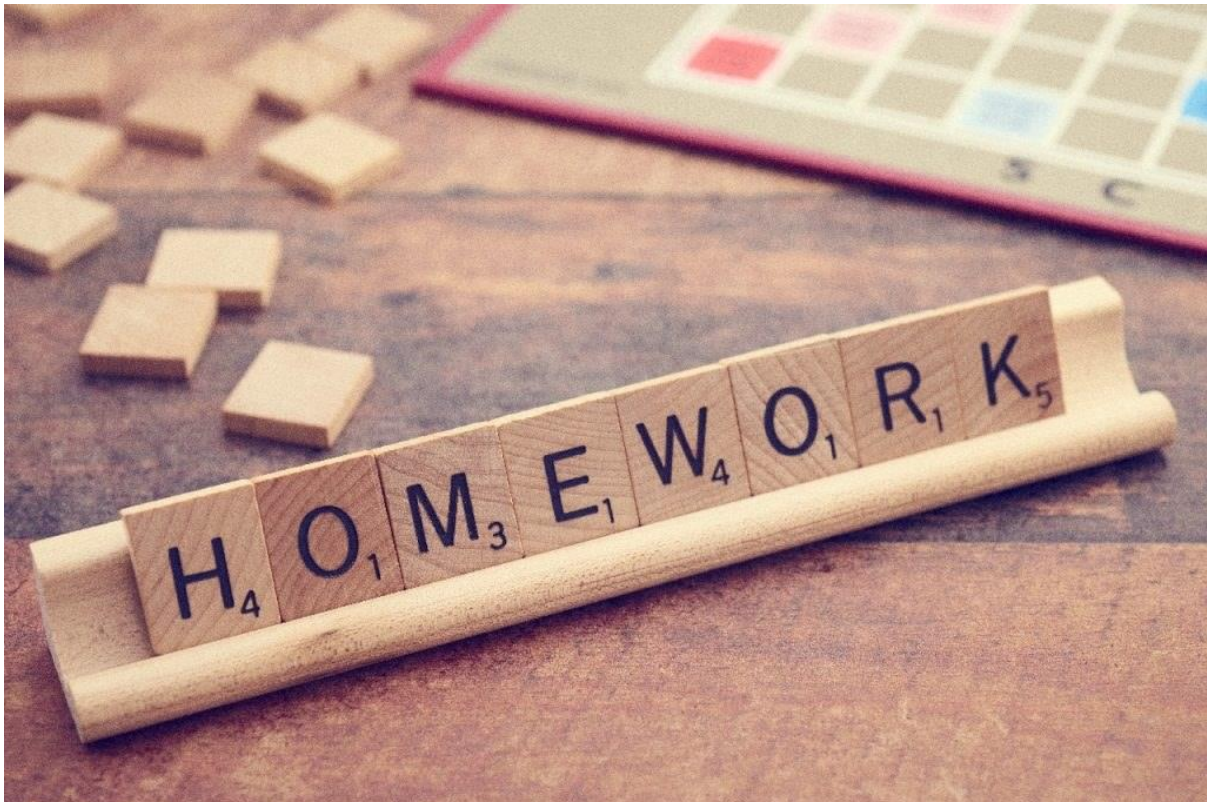
This will enable us to be transparent and accountable about the actions we will be taking based on your feedback. We have used a RAG rating system to evaluate progress:

- 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.

Homework Policy



Our new homework policy launched this half-term. Thank you for your suggestions and feedback. If you have any thoughts on it, please share these with Mr Seex or Mr Castledine. We hope it provides greater consistency and meets the needs of your children more effectively. Our homework policy can be found on the policies page of our website: <https://www.stpetersacademystonnall.com/key-information/policies>

If you would like additional work for your children, there are a number of links to resources available on our website at this link: <https://www.stpetersacademystonnall.com/curriculum/pupil-support-and-useful-websites>

Stonnall School Gets Helping Hand to Create Garden Area

St Peters CofE Primary Academy has been able to build a special raised bed for children to use after topsoil was delivered by JPE Shire Oak Quarry. Other equipment and a gazebo have also recently been supplied thanks to a funding grant from Shenstone Parish Council to enable us to create our very own peace garden.

Thanks to JPE and their generous donation of topsoil each class of children will now be able to have their own planting box. This will help to enrich our curriculum offer and add such value to our children's learning as they will be able to plant, grow and care for their own vegetable crops and flowers, observing nature in action.

A huge thank you to the St Peter's fundraisers for their support in obtaining the grant which has helped us set up this garden project that will benefit the children for many years to come.



First Response CPR Sessions

On Tuesday 22nd October the children in Years 4,5 and 6 had the opportunity to take part in a first aid workshop designed to equip our pupils with essential CPR skills, ensuring they know how to respond in an emergency. The children were able to acquire vital knowledge including how to perform CPR and how to get somebody into the recovery position – all taught in a simple, sensitive, and enjoyable way.



Mixed Year 5/6 Football Tournament



In early October, St Peter's entered two Year 5/6 football teams—St Peter's Sharks and St Peter's Stingrays—into the district early round competition. The **St Peter's Stingrays** found themselves in a challenging group, battling hard in each match. Despite narrowly losing two games and drawing two others, the Stingrays dominated possession but were unlucky not to find the back of the net. A huge congratulations to this team for showing incredible spirit, perseverance, and fantastic teamwork!

The **St Peter's Sharks** displayed resilient defending and brilliant passing throughout the competition. They secured their first win with a thunderous goal from Lenny. The second game ended in a hard-fought draw. The final game was a stalemate, leading to a penalty shootout in the final match to determine who would advance to the district finals. The Sharks held their nerve as the first six penalties soared into the back of the net, leaving the score tied at 3-3. In sudden death, St Peter's scored their fourth penalty, giving them the edge. Henry, standing tall in goal, stretched wide and read the opposition's shot perfectly, diving full-length to save a powerful attempt. The Sharks won the penalty shootout and have advanced to the finals of the district competition!

Well done to both teams for their dedication and teamwork!

Year 4/5/6 Girls Football Tournament

We were thrilled to have 11 enthusiastic girls volunteer to represent St Peter's in the district football tournament—a fantastic show of dedication and team spirit! In their first game, the girls played beautiful, flowing football, securing a strong victory. Powerful strikes from Jorja, along with a brace from Sienna, led the team to their first win of the competition. The second match proved to be a tougher challenge, with both teams cancelling each other out, resulting in a hard-fought 0-0 draw. The final game saw the girls face a formidable opponent, where they worked tirelessly to frustrate the opposition. Merryn put in a stellar performance in goal, making save after save. Unfortunately, after a valiant effort, one of her saves was followed up by the opposition to tap in the only goal of the match, ending in a 1-0 loss. Despite the tough competition, the team finished an impressive 2nd in their league—an incredible achievement! A huge well done to all the girls who played and gave their all in the tournament!

Harvest Services



Reception and KS1

On Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October, the children in our Reception and Y1 cohorts put on their Harvest Performance of The Enormous Turnip. The children had an absolutely fantastic time and their singing was wonderful. Thank you to all of the parents/guardians who came to watch the performance. We hope that this is the start of many opportunities for you to create those magical memories of your children's time with us here at St Peters.

KS2

It was wonderful to see St Peter's church so full again for the performance of our harvest service this year on Friday 25th October! The children read and sang beautifully throughout the service in such inspiring surroundings. Thank you to all of those parents who accompanied the children on the walk to church. A huge thank you as well to our church warden, Colin Birchill, for opening up the church to us and to Pauline Langley for playing such lovely music as the children entered the church. We hope you enjoyed the celebration as much as we did.

Attendance



A reminder about the new Department for Education Regulations around term-time absence that come into effect across the country from 19th August 2024. All **unauthorised** term-time absences are now considered within a three-year period rather than in isolation. This generally refers to leave (ie holidays) during term-time.

The changes to the regulations are significant, so we feel that it is important that our parents understand them and are aware of potential consequences of taking leave in term time from the above date.

New two penalty notice limit in a three-year period

The three-year rolling period starts when the first penalty notice is issued after the 19th of August 2024:

- The first Penalty Notices for leave in term time will increase to £160 per parent, per child but can be reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days.
- If a second penalty notice is issued within three years of the first penalty notice, then this will be at a fixed rate of £160 per parent per child, with no reduction for early payment.
- A third penalty notice cannot be issued within the three-year period; therefore, the county council will deal with any further unauthorised leave through prosecution in the Magistrates Court. If the parent is found guilty, the potential fine is up to £1000.

Penalty Notices issued for unauthorised absences taken before 19th August 2024 will not be included in the three-year period.

Some absences we understand are unavoidable – general sickness, a long period of illness and convalescence, an ongoing medical need, a particular educational need or disability that requires a lot more planning and support. Other cases are less easy to categorise – and we want to engage with individual families, in a supportive manner, to understand and work together to improve attendance.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance or require any support with this, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you as always for your ongoing support.

INSET Days - 2024/2025

Schools have five in-service training (INSET) days per year. On these days, the academy will be closed to all children. Our days for next year are on our website. They are as follows:

- Monday 2nd September 2024
- Tuesday 3rd September 2024
- **Monday 6th January 2025**
- **Friday 23rd May 2025**
- **Monday 21st July 2025**

For term dates for 2024/25, please see the Staffordshire County Council website: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/termdates.aspx>

Sports Provision - Clubs

We are delighted to announce that Progressive Sports are continuing to deliver their services (wrap around care and after school sports clubs) at St Peter's for the 2024/2025 academic year!

We're extremely happy with the impact they have made out our school since January, giving our pupils the opportunity to learn new skills, experience new sports and activities, and be more active!

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: Autumn Term



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

October 2024

Monday 28th Oct to Friday 1st November - Half term Holiday

November 2024

Monday 4th November – Children return to the Academy

Monday 11th – Friday 15th - Anti-Bullying Week

Friday 15th – Children In Need (non-uniform day)

Friday 29th - St Andrew's Day - £1.00 children to dress in blue & white

December 2024

Thursday 12th - Christmas Jumper Day – Donations for Save the Children

Tuesday 17th - Christmas Party Day – pm

Wednesday 18th - Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 18th – Reception/Yrs 1 & 2 Christmas Performance (Morning – Time to be confirmed)

Thursday 19th – Reception/Yrs 1 & 2 Christmas Performance (Morning – Time to be confirmed)

Friday 20th - KS2 Christmas Church Service (Morning - Time to be confirmed)

Friday 20th - Break- Up @ 1:30pm

January 2025

Monday 6th – INSET day school closed to children

Tuesday 7th – Children return to Academy

Contact Us



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