

St Peter's Newsletter, Autumn 2 2024-25

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Executive Headteacher's Message



We have had a really enjoyable term at St Peter's. As well as our normal learning, there have been lots of memorable highlights such as the pantomime, musical concerts, KS1 nativity and the KS2 performance at the church. As well as this, our pupils have continued to embody our 'key' values of service and trust through their work as leaders - the play leaders are doing a brilliant job of engaging others through leading playtime activities; the school

council are contributing to identifying key purchases to make play times more active; children from year 4/5 are supporting children from year 1/2 with their maths; our reading champions are supporting our younger children brilliantly; and our corridor monitors are helping to ensure that the inside of school is always calm, orderly and respectful during break times. We are proud of our children; St Peter's children stand out.

Although I love Christmas time at St Peter's, there are mixed emotions as I will be moving to lead another school in the trust on a two-term secondment. As part of a trust, we want to ensure every child in the trust has the best possible experience of education, so with St Peter's in Mr Castledine's very capable hands, I will be helping new children to stand out. During the next two terms, I will be on hand to support in any way I can and will come back for support visits at times. I will miss being at St Peter's regularly, but I will look forward to returning in September.

Thank you for all of your ongoing support. We're proud of what the children and staff are achieving here. After our strongest ever set of results last year, we are on-track for this year's to be even higher. As well as that, our children are flourishing in leadership roles and as good people. A reminder that the **children return on Tuesday 7th January** due to INSET. Until then, have a great Christmas.

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.docx¹

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.

The next parent forum is Wednesday 15th January at 9am, where we will be discussing homework and communication. We will send a letter out with more details when we return from the Christmas break.

¹https://stjohnsacademycouk-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/matthew_seex_stjohnsacademy_co_uk/EWEs02iq1ndElnRH1MY9O-8Ba_aq7uzySOJ-fizl3Yh-9Q?e=9xnn37

St Peter's Fundraisers Events

Fundraising

School Disco

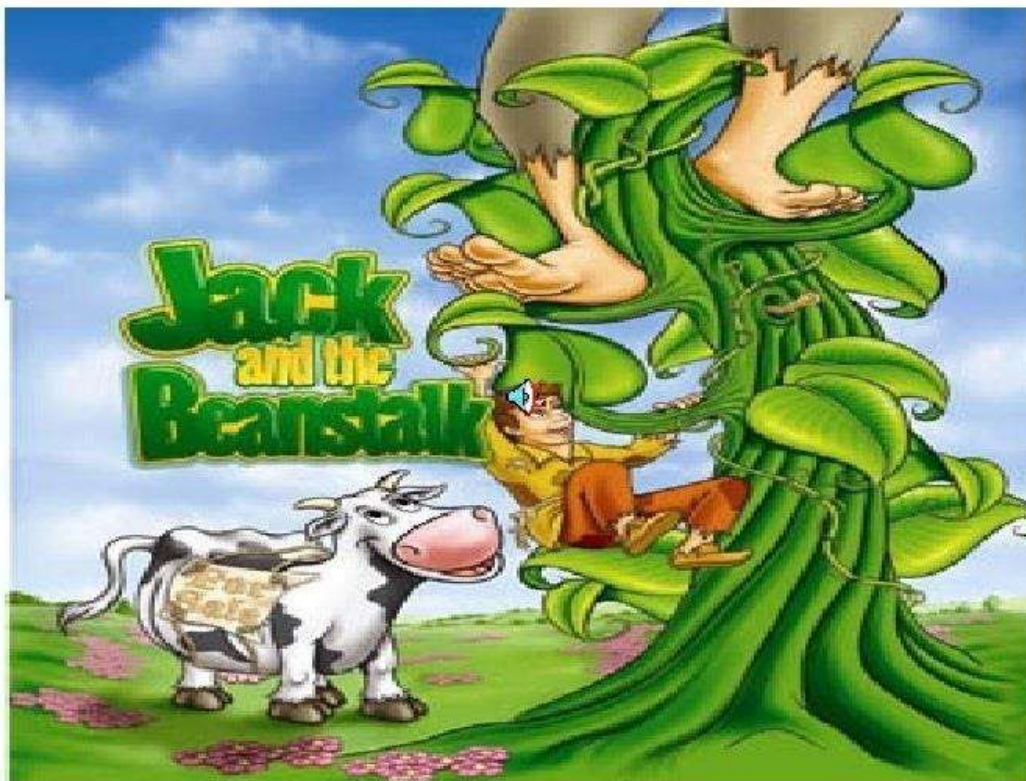
On Thursday 5th December, the St Peter's Fundraisers (SPF) held the first school disco of the year. In collaboration with Midzkidz, the children enjoyed a Christmas UV Rave party where the festive spirit met the thrill of glow sticks, music and endless fun! The children enjoyed laughing and dancing all night with a special 'bubble' finale to send them off home happy.

Christmas Craft-ernoon Fayre

On Thursday 12th December, St Peter's welcomed our children and parents to join us after school for our Christmas Fayre. A wide range of crafts were on offer alongside the traditional tombola's, games and stalls. There was even a surprise visit from Santa's Alpaca's who were able to take the time from their busy schedule in Lapland to say hello to us on the playground. Well done to our Year 6 volunteers who through an Enterprise project were able to set up and run two of the most popular stalls at the Christmas Fayre.

A huge thank you to all of the members of the SPF for all of their hard work and those parent volunteers who helped to organise the disco and Christmas Fayre. You all make a difference not only through the money raised but the opportunities for our children and families to get together, have fun and make memories.

Pantomime Trip



On Tuesday 26th November and Wednesday 3rd December we were able to offer all of the children at St Peters the opportunity to attend the pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at the Lichfield Garrick Theatre.

The children staff and parent helpers had a great time enjoying the wonderful singing, dancing and acting. As always our children were a credit to the Academy from their sensible behaviour on the coach journey and at the theatre, to their enthusiasm when joining in with the cheers, boos and general merriment.

It was a pleasure to see their smiling, happy faces!

Musical Performances

It has been my great pleasure to have arranged 2 concerts, recently, where St Peters' pupils have had an opportunity to show off their musical skills.

On Tuesday 3rd December, children from years 1, 2 and 3 charmed their audience with their renditions of Christmas pieces on a range of instruments, including piano, guitars and violin. On Tuesday 10th December, it was the turn of children from years 4, 5 and 6 to showcase

their skills and talent. Again, the audience was captivated by their wonderful performances on guitars, piano and flute.

It was wonderful for everybody to come together to share in these fantastic musical performances at such a special time of year. I find such joy in teaching music at St Peters and its an even bigger privilege and pleasure to be able to share this with the wider school community.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful and harmonious Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in 2025.

Mrs Angus

Supporting Charities at St Peter's

Poppy Appeal

During the first week of this half term the children were invited to make a donation to the Poppy Appeal. The Royal British Legion provided a selection of poppies and accessories for children to purchase in school. Altogether we were able to raise a very impressive £159!

Children In Need

On Friday 15th November the children were invited to come to school wearing their pyjama's, dressing gowns and/or any Pudsey accessories in order to support and raise money for Children In Need. Having set a target to raise £100, thanks to your generous donations on our JustGiving page, we exceeded this total by almost 3 times. Altogether we raised an incredible £297 which will be a huge help in supporting children across the United Kingdom and beyond.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday 12th December, children and staff were invited to wear their Christmas jumpers to school in support of Save the Children. Save the Children exists to help every child reach their full potential. In the UK and around the world, they make sure children stay safe, healthy and keep learning, so they can become who they want to be. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to raise a total of £69 for the charity! Well done everyone!

Altogether this half term alone we have raised a total of £525 for charity.

Thank you so much to everyone who has made a donation, you have truly made a difference to people's lives!

Christmas Performances

It is always one of the highlights of the school year for us to be able to put on our Christmas performances and once again the children at St Peters have exceeded all expectations.

The Reception & Y1/2 performance of 'A Miracle In Town' was amazing and our youngest children in school did a fantastic job. There was some fabulous acting, dancing and singing bringing a smile to everyone's faces. Thank you to all those parents who supported with supplying costumes that helped to make the performance even more special.

It was also lovely to see St Peter's church so full again for the KS2 Christmas service. The beautiful readings and singing really did help put us all in the festive mood. An enormous well done to all of the children who took part in each of these performances and a big thank you to staff for their hard work and commitment that enables us to hold events such as these. Many thanks also to all of the parents, carers and members of the community that came to support us. The walk to and from church could not run smoothly without all of your help.

Donation of Laptops

Following our appeal to parents for any unused laptops, we are delighted to be able to inform you that we have now received a donation of **13** laptops in total.

On behalf of the children and staff at St Peters CofE Primary Academy, we would like to say a huge thank you to Management and Consultancy Solutions for their kind and generous donation of 8 laptops to the school and Barhale Holdings for providing us with a further 5 laptops. Not only will these laptops enhance the children's learning in their computing lessons, thanks to their generosity they will also provide an invaluable resource for children to develop their knowledge across all subject areas.

A huge thank you to two of our parents from our Reception class who were able to liaise with these companies to secure these donations for the school. The staff and children at St Peters are so grateful for your time and efforts.

Quality Mark Award for PE and School Sport



Exciting News! We are thrilled to announce that St Peter's Church of England Primary Academy has been awarded the prestigious Quality Mark for Physical Education, School Sport, and Physical Activity (PESSPA) by the Association for Physical Education (AfPE).

This recognition celebrates our school's commitment to improving PE and sport and is valid for three years, starting from December 2024. Following a rigorous validation process, the assessor highlighted some key strengths that led to this achievement:

- A wide range of activities offered to children, encouraging participation beyond school into the wider community.
- Excellent standards in swimming across the school.
- Commendable efforts in building a dedicated PE and school sports team
- A school-wide journey towards an exciting and inclusive PE and school sports programme.

This award reflects the hard work, dedication, and collaboration of everyone involved in our school community.

A heartfelt thank you to our parents and guardians for your continued support—whether it's encouraging attendance at before- and after-school clubs, or allowing your children to represent St Peter's in local competitions. Your involvement is invaluable in making this achievement possible.

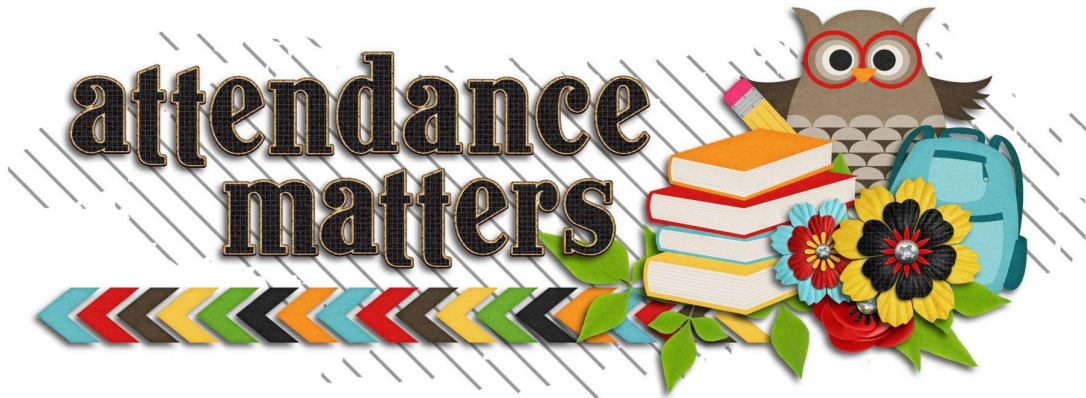
Here's to continuing our journey of excellence in Physical Education and School Sport!

Thank you,

Mr. Mason

P.E. Lead

Attendance



It is vital that all pupils attend school and on time every day unless there is an unavoidable reason for absence.

Good attendance at school is crucial because it helps pupils to achieve - pupils who are not attending are not learning and will therefore not achieve as much as they are capable of.

Some Key Reminders About School Attendance

Parents / carers are reminded that holidays must not be taken in term time. Parents are reminded that due to government legislation head teachers cannot grant leave of absence for family holidays during term time.

Taking holidays during the school term will be recorded as unauthorised absence and the school *will* refer such cases onto the local authority (Staffordshire County Council) who may administer a penalty fine.

Any request for absence during term time must be made by meeting with the Head of School and completing a Request for Leave of Absence during Term Time form. Any absence during term time will only be granted for exceptional circumstances.

Please also note that non urgent medical appointments such as dental checks or opticians appointments must be arranged outside the hours of the school day or in school holidays.

The school will take robust action to address issues of persistent lateness and attendance with the support of outside agencies.

Where there may be specific issues affecting attendance /punctuality parents are encouraged to contact the school so that we can offer support and ways forward to help children attend school more regularly and therefore improve their learning opportunities.

Changes to issuing penalty notices for leave in term time - August 2024

In February 2024, the Department for Education published *Working together to improve School Attendance*. Within this document, in Chapter 6, it lays out the changes to issuing penalty notices.

The changes to the law are introduced through the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 and will come into effect from 19 August 2024. This means that any unauthorised leave taken after this date will be dealt with under the new Regulations.

The changes to the regulations are significant

New two penalty notice limit in a three-year period

The three-year rolling period starts for parents when the first penalty notice is issued to them after the 19th 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 £1,000.

National threshold for issuing penalty notices

Parents may have heard about the new national threshold for issuing penalty notices which has been set at 10 sessions (5 school days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks.

However, if in an individual case the local authority believes a penalty notice would be appropriate, they retain the discretion to issue one before the threshold is met.

For example - where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below threshold, or for repeated absence for birthdays or other family events.

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 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 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 2024, giving our pupils the opportunity to learn new skills, experience new sports and activities, and be more active!

We will be welcoming Miss Goodfellow as our lead sports coach after the Christmas break as Mr Ingham will be leaving Progressive Sports to pursue a career in teaching. A huge thank you to Mr Ingham and good luck in everything you do in the future.

Please note that wrap around care will begin from the first day back after the Christmas break (Tuesday 7th January) and information about after school clubs will be shared in that first week back with a view to them commencing the week beginning Monday 13th January.

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.uk²

Absence Reporting

Parents should notify school that a child is absent and for what reason as soon as possible - this should be done by contacting the school on 01543 372060 before school commences on the day of the absence, alternatively an e-mail can be sent to: office@st-peters-stonnall.staffs.sch.uk³

Where the school does not receive a message about child's absence from an adult with parental responsibility, the school will ring the parent to ascertain the reasons for absence

Parents should ensure they contact the school on each day their child is absent unless advised otherwise by the school office.

Where parents require further support to enable their child to attend school, they should contact a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team.

The school will always look to support parents with improving their child's attendance however, we recognise that it is our duty to ensure every child has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled. As such, it is our policy to make a referral to the local authority where we feel parents have not engaged with the advice and support offered and their child has continued to acquire unauthorised absence marks, despite interventions having been put into place by the school.

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.

²<http://www.edwardsandward.co.uk/>

³<mailto:secretary@millfield.staffs.sch.uk>

Key Dates: Spring Term



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

January 2025

Monday 6th – INSET day school closed to children

Tuesday 7th – Children return to Academy

Wednesday 29th - Chinese New Year – ‘Year of the Snake’ – children invited to wear traditional/bright clothing

February 2025

Tuesday 11th - Safer Internet Day

Friday 14th – Children break up for half term @ 3:20p.m.

Monday 24th - Children return to the Academy

Friday 28th - St David’s Day – Donations of plants, seeds and bags of compost for around school

March 2025

Thursday 6th - World Book Day – Children invited to dress-up as a favourite character

Wk beginning Monday 10th - Parents Evening (Dates and times for this to be confirmed)

Monday 17th - St Patricks Day – £1.00 donation children invited to wear green

Friday 28th March – Mother’s Day Lunch

April 2025

Wednesday 9th – Rec and KS1 Easter Service (Times to be confirmed)

Thursday 10th – Rec and KS1 Easter Service (Times to be confirmed)

Friday 11th - KS2 Easter Service (Times to be confirmed)

Fri 11th – Children break up for Easter holidays @ 1:30p.m

Monday 28th April – Children return to the Academy

Contact Us



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