



St Peter's Newsletter, Autumn 1 2025-26

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we reach the end of our Autumn half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy, productive, and very positive start to the school year.

It has been a real pleasure to see the children settling into their routines with such enthusiasm and resilience. Whether they're just starting their journey in Reception or preparing for their final year at St Peter's in Year 6, our children have shown kindness, and a growing sense of responsibility that makes us all proud.

This half term has been full of learning, creativity, and community spirit. From exciting learning in the classroom, sporting events, pumpkin painting and harvest services, there has been a real buzz around school — and we're so grateful for your continued support in making these opportunities possible.

I'd also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our staff team, who work so hard to create a safe, inclusive and inspiring environment every single day. I would like to wish Mrs Chesters all the very best as she retires at the end of this month and have a special message of thanks for her later on in this newsletter. I would also like to welcome back Mrs Webster from her maternity leave as she returns to teach in our Y2/3 after the half term break.

As we head into the half term break, I encourage everyone to take some time to rest, recharge and enjoy time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 3rd November, ready for another exciting half term in the lead-up to the festive season.

Wishing you all a restful and happy break.

Warm regards,

Mr Castledine

Jeans for Genes



On Friday 19th September, staff and children were invited to come to school in jeans/denim in support of the Jeans for Genes charity . The charity helps to fund projects that provide nursing care, equipment, activity weekends, online support and counselling for those families in need of support.

Thanks to your kind donations we were able to raise just over £100 which will contribute towards supporting the thousands of families across the UK living with a genetic condition.

McMillan Coffee Morning



Thank you to those parents who were able to join us in school on Friday 26th September for our McMillan coffee morning and a big thank to the kitchen staff for making the cakes for us to sell. It was a great opportunity for parents to meet and chat with each other and some of staff at St Peter's.

Donations from thousands of Coffee Mornings, big and small, help raise vital funds to support the almost 3.5 million people in the UK living with cancer, from the moment they are diagnosed, throughout treatment and beyond.

The money raised from our coffee morning will help to make a difference.



Reception Open Days



Parents of children who are due to start in Reception next September 2026 were invited to have a look around the Reception learning environment and to meet the staff on Thursday 2nd and Wednesday 8th October. It was fantastic to welcome a good number of new parents into our school and show them what St Peter's is all about, in particular what an amazing 'family' the school is.

At St Peter's, visitors that spend time in our school, frequently leave with a strong impression of both the children's and staff's enthusiasm, happiness, supportiveness, and kindness. Our Ofsted report (February 2025) captured this:

'St. Peter's Primary is a school where pupils attend happily. Pupils arrive each day with smiles on their faces and receive a welcoming smile in return from caring adults. Staff place warm and positive relationships with pupils at the heart of all they do. Children settle very quickly into school life when they start in Reception. They quickly learn to trust the adults and each other. Strong relationships help pupils feel safe in school.'

Thank you to all those parents who shared the dates and information for our open day sessions on their own social media pages and those who came to the school office to collect posters to share in local businesses and nurseries. Your support is truly appreciated.



St Peter's Fundraisers Pumpkin Painting

On Friday 17th October, the St Peters Fundraisers (SPF) hosted a Paint-a-Pumpkin Family Event after school in the hall! Children and parents were invited to come along to "pick" their perfect pumpkin, and turn it into a masterpiece together.

It was lovely to see so many of our families join us for this event. 🍦 Treats (including ice cream!) were also available to purchase, which helped to create a fun-filled atmosphere. At times it was tricky to see who was having the most fun - children or parents!

Everyone had a great time and all of the finished pumpkins were fantastic - check out some of the photo's below and I'm sure you will agree.

A huge thank you as always to the St Peter's Fundraising team - the money they help to raise all go towards enriching the experiences of the children at St Peter's.







St Peter's Shine at New Brownhills Ormiston Football Competition

St Peter's travelled to Brownhills Ormiston to support the launch of an exciting new football competition. With only two schools in attendance, the teams were split to create more fixtures — meaning St Peter's A faced St Peter's B in the opening match. Both teams rose to the challenge, pushing each other to play at their best. There were some outstanding performances, with George bagging a brilliant brace after rounding the keeper twice, and Joe also netting two superb goals. Charlie responded for the B team with a clever finish, bringing the score to 4–1 in a competitive and entertaining first game

.Both St Peter's teams then went on to face Watling Street's A and B teams — and continued their fine form. Dominant displays saw St Peter's record impressive victories of 5–0, 5–0, 8–0, and 5–1. The team's teamwork, skill, and attacking flair were a joy to watch, as their amazing play simply blew the opposition away.

A fantastic start to what promises to be a great new competition!

Parents Evenings

Thank you to all who were able to make it to our parent consultation evenings on Monday 13th and Wednesday 15th October. It was great to see and speak with many of you. We hope that you enjoyed being able to have a look at the work that your children have been doing since the start of the year and meeting with their class teacher.

Harvest services

Reception and Year 1

On Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October, the children in our Reception and Y1 cohorts put on their Harvest Performance of The Little Red Hen. The children had an absolutely fantastic time and their singing was wonderful. Thank you to all of the parents/grandparents 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.

Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

It was wonderful to see St Peter's church so full again for the performance of our harvest service this year on Friday 24th 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 and to Reverend Jonathan Iddon for welcoming us all and introducing our service. We hope you enjoyed the celebration as much as we did.

St Peter's newest racing star

We are absolutely delighted to highlight the achievements of any future stars we have here at St Peter's and this half term we would like to share with you news of Hunter in year 2. Hunter spends much of his weekends practicing and taking part in the F.A.T. Karting league. Since starting karting, Hunter has gone from strength to strength, smashing lap times and improving his personal best times on a regular basis.

Hunter's parents have kindly forwarded a report from one of Hunter's races this year which we are very proud to share with you.

RACE REPORT - BAMBINO A FINAL

SUNDAY 07/09/25 16:50 21°C Track: Wet

Hunter had just made it in to the A Final, based on his average lap times from the Pre-Final. Starting at the back of the grid in P9. But wow what a race! By the end of the first lap he had made up 4 places! He took 3 at the first set of corners and another on the back straight! He just overtook anyone and everyone. He did not look out of place racing in the A Group! Where has this Hunter been all season?

By the end of lap 2 he was up in to third place! Could he really be on track to win his first trophy of the season? He held that third place for another two laps, keeping a very fast driver behind him. Eventually, the faster kart got past him dropping him down to P4. On the final lap he was under pressure from another driver and it was a race to the line where Hunter just managed to hold on to that P4. He drove the best we have ever seen and ended the day with another PB of 1:02.53 and he has his sights set on a trophy next time.

From P9 to P4 that was one exciting race!

What a fantastic achievement and since that race we know that Hunter has continued to just get better and better. Who knows, we may have the next Lewis Hamilton on our hands!

We are so proud of you Hunter!





Farewell to Mrs Chesters

Good
Luck!

As Mrs Chesters prepares to retire at the end of this half term, we wanted to take a moment to celebrate the incredible impact that she has had — not just on our children, colleagues and friends at St Peter's, but at every school she has worked in throughout her long career as a teacher.

Mrs Chesters passion for teaching, her patience, and genuine care for every child have always been inspiring. She has helped shape our school into the supportive, nurturing place it is today, and her legacy will live on in the countless children whose lives she has touched.

Mrs Chesters has been a fantastic role model, a team player who would do absolutely anything for anyone, and a friend. Whether it was through her acts of kindness, her talent for music and singing, her good humour in the staffroom, she has made a difference to everyone around her.

As she heads into this well-earned next chapter, we hope retirement brings her all the joy, rest, and adventure that she deserves. Mrs Chesters will be deeply missed, but we're so excited for what lies ahead for her.

Thank you for everything. It's been a privilege to work alongside you.

With all our best wishes,

Your colleagues and friends at St Peters

Inset Days

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 academic year will be available on our website. They are as follows:

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

For term dates for 2025/26, please see the Staffordshire County Council website: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/termdates.aspx>

Sports Provision - Clubs

🌟 After-School Clubs Are Back! 🌟

It's wonderful to have everyone back after the summer break, and we're excited to restart our after-school clubs.

Our wraparound care is provided by Progressive Sports, who have been working with us for the past three years. We've built a fantastic partnership with them, and the children always enjoy the sessions they deliver.

⚽ This half term's sports clubs:

Monday – Football

Tuesday – Nerf Wars

Wednesday – Benchball

Thursday – Dodgeball

Friday – Multisports

We can't wait to see the children getting active and having fun!

[Attendance - Little Heroes Campaign](#)



Why are we running an attendance campaign?

Regular school attendance is important for children and young people. Research shows there is a clear link between high attendance and educational outcomes, leading to better life opportunities and the best results that an individual can achieve.

There are also other benefits to young people's wellbeing such as nurturing long-lasting friendships, engaging in new activities and enabling young people to be able to develop in a supportive environment.

Across the UK, we are seeing a drop in attendance rates and attendance in Staffordshire schools is down by 2.3% compared to previous years.

What is the Little Heroes campaign?

We understand that for many families, getting their children to attend school can be a real challenge, and many children face significant barriers. We have considered this when planning our campaign.

The campaign is split into two elements:

1. 'Little Heroes'

The fun, motivational and engaging side of the campaign to encourage school attendance and the message:

Here

Everyday

Ready

On time

Creative materials are displayed around schools and children will receive certificates and stickers to recognise their attendance efforts.

2. Helpful Heroes

The educational side to support children who are emotionally struggling to attend school due to anxiety.

For pupils that are struggling with their emotional health, we have created a Helpful Heroes workbook¹ to understand children's barriers to avoiding school and to help children manage their worries.

The Helpful Heroes workbooks educate children about different feelings and emotions and why their body reacts in certain ways, explaining the feelings they are having are normal.

Through a variety of hero-themed mindfulness activities, designed suitable for their age group, children will also learn how to cope with anxiety in different scenarios to help them in real life situations.

We encourage parents to go through the workbooks with children who may be struggling, to enable them to also understand what barriers the child is facing and what helps them feel calm when they become anxious.



¹https://www.canva.com/design/DAGAt6dKriU/ MXyLkzE46e-lqXgPFDiaA/view?utm_content=DAGAt6dKriU&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor

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 2



October 2025

Friday 24th - Children break up for half term @ 3:20p.m.

Monday 27th Oct to Friday 31st October - Half term Holiday

November 2025

Monday 3rd – Children return to the Academy

Monday 10th – Friday 14th - Anti-Bullying Week

Friday 21st – Children In Need (non-uniform day)

Friday 28th - St Andrew's Day - £1.00 children to dress in blue & white

December 2025

Thursday 11th - Christmas Jumper Day – Donations for Save the Children

Wednesday 17th - Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 17th – Reception/Year 1 and all children in Year 2 Christmas Performance
(Morning – Time to be confirmed)

Thursday 18th – Reception/Year 1 and all children in Year 2 Christmas Performance
(Morning – Time to be confirmed)

Friday 19th - KS2 (Years 3,4,5 and 6) Christmas Church Service (Morning - Time to be confirmed)

Friday 19th - Break- Up @ 1:30pm

Spring Term 2026

January 2026

Monday 5th – INSET day school closed to children

Tuesday 6th – Children return to Academy

[Contact Us](#)



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