



# St Peter's Newsletter, Autumn 2 2025-26

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## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians

As we come to the end of Autumn Term 2, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a busy, rewarding and successful term for our whole school community.

Over the past weeks, our children have shown great enthusiasm for learning and a real commitment to our school values. From progress in the classroom to performances, events and festive celebrations, it has been a pleasure to see their confidence, curiosity and kindness continue to grow. The effort they put into their learning each day is something we are all very proud of.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff team for their hard work, professionalism and care. Their commitment ensures that our school remains a safe, nurturing and inspiring place for every child. I am also very grateful to our families for your continued support, encouragement and partnership throughout the term. Your involvement plays an important role in helping our children succeed.

As we approach the festive season, I hope the holiday provides time for rest, reflection and enjoyment with family and friends. It is a well-earned break after a term full of learning and achievement.

On behalf of everyone at the school, I would like to wish you a happy, peaceful and safe holiday season. Thank you for being such a supportive and valued part of our school community and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Warmest wishes

Mr Castledine

## Anti-Bullying Week



This half term saw us taking part in Anti-Bullying week (Mon 10th to Fri 14th November).

The theme this year was "Power for Good," which encourages people to use their power to safely speak up and support others against bullying, both online and offline.

The children took part in lessons with anti-bullying themes and joined in with a whole school worship to launch the week. To kick the week off, everybody came to school wearing 'Odd socks' on Monday 10th November - which was a perfect opportunity to celebrate what makes us all unique.

## Children In Need 25 challenge



On Friday 14th November all of the children at St Peter's came to school in their own clothes and/or Pudsey the Bear accessories in order to raise money for this wonderful charity event. One of the themes this year was: Challenge Yourself to 25!

To mark 2025, children were challenged to do 25 of anything; 25 kilometres on a bike, 25 cupcakes baked, 25 minutes of reading a book... whatever they like!

Lucie in Year 5 helped her Dad to take up the leaves off the lawn.....at least 25 times!

Sandy in Year 6 baked 25 cookies for his friends in his class which he bought into school to share.

Altogether we were able to raise a fantastic £221 through justgiving page! Thank you to everyone that made a donation.



## Dodgeball Tournament

A team of children from Y5 and Y6 took part in an exciting dodgeball tournament against Birchills and All Saints academies. Three teams battled it out across six thrilling fixtures - and what a display of energy, teamwork and determination it was!

Our St Peter's players showed fantastic spirit throughout, putting their all into every match. With some spectacular throwing, quick reactions and expert dodging, we managed to win three of our six games - a brilliant result against tough opposition.

Every pupil represented the school with pride, demonstrating excellent sportmanship and enthusiasm from start to finish. Well done to all our keen dodgeball players - you were a credit to St Peter's.

## Year 4/5 Trip to Cadbury World and Biscuit Making

On Thursday 11th December, the children in our Y4/5 class had a special Design and Technology Day to celebrate the end of their cooking and baking topic.

Throughout this unit, the children have learned a range of skills including budgeting, understanding target audiences, packaging design, tasting and evaluating different biscuits, and adapting recipes to suit purpose. To finish the topic, the children put all these skills into practice by making their own adapted chocolate chip biscuits.

Each child made two biscuits, working together in small groups to prepare the dough and bake their creations. The children then had the chance to try a small piece in class before taking their biscuits home to share.

The children were very excited for their fun and delicious DT day!







## Whole School Pantomime Trip



What a treat we had on the morning of December 3rd as the whole school joined us at the Lichfield Garrick pantomime 'Cinderella!'

Every single child did us extremely proud with their fantastic behaviour. They threw themselves into all the fun of the performance - shouting, singing and dancing along.

There were a few firm favourites including Cinderella and Prince Charming's rendition of 'Golden', the beautiful flying horse that lit up the stage and of course Button's performance of 'Steve's lava chicken' which had all the children up on their feet singing along whilst most of the adults looked on clueless!

There were big smiles all round from start to finish. Thank you to all those involved in organising the trip and facilitating such a joyful event to kick off the Christmas festivities at St Peter's.





## Christmas Tree Decorations at Lichfield Cathedral

In November we were approached by a parent who works for Howden Insurance to see if we would be interested in supporting the company in decorating a Christmas tree to be displayed in Lichfield Cathedral

The Christmas tree was large enough so that each of our children was able to either decorate a Christmas bauble or write 'Christmas wishes' on parcel tags to be displayed on the tree itself.

Howden Insurance and the team were thrilled that St Peter's children are able to be involved and if you would like to pop along to the Cathedral to see the tree, it is on display up until January 4th 2026.



## St Peter's Fundraisers Events

Our St Peter's fundraisers have been even busier than usual this half term, working hard to raise much needed funds for the school and also providing wonderful opportunities for our children.


### **KS2 Watercolour Painting Workshop**

Our children in KS2 were invited to join in a Watercolour Painting Workshop with local artist Look What Debbie Did on Friday 7th November. Debbie is an experienced artist known for her beautiful watercolour creations and creative teaching style. She guided the children step-by-step in learning watercolour techniques, helping them to explore colour, texture, and creativity. All materials were provided in what was a perfect opportunity for our young artists to get inspired and learn from a true local talent!

### **School Disco's**

The SPF's Christmas disco's were held after school on the 11th December. The children had a fantastic time in what was a jolly, joy-filled celebration for everyone! 🎄 🎉

### **K-POP Dance Class**

 The SPF teamed up with Silhouette Dance Studio to deliver an exciting new K-pop Dance Class running for 6 weeks, every Tuesday after school this half term. Children were able to learn the latest moves from their favourite idols, build confidence, and have loads of fun with friends! Whether they were new to K-pop or already a fan, this energetic class got children moving, smiling, and feeling like part of a real performance crew. ✨

### **Festive Family Bauble Painting!**

After the success of the pumpkin-painting afternoon last half term, the SPF invited all families to a Christmassy craft session on 18th December at 3:20pm in the school hall!

Children and parents came along and enjoyed decorating their own festive ceramic baubles together.

A huge thank you to all of the St Peter's Fundraisers and parents that have helped to support these events. You all really help make a difference to the children at St Peters.

## Virtual visit from Father Christmas



On 9th December, our youngest children in school received a very special Video call from Father Christmas all the way from the North Pole!

He told the children all about his reindeer, how the elves that some children have are the ones that aren't very good at making presents and that the children at St Peter's are currently on his nice list.

He wasn't so happy with one of the teachers for eating too much chocolate, although he wouldn't tell us which one!



## St Peter's Santa Mile – Sponsored Run



On Wednesday 17th December, all the children at St Peter's were invited to take part in a one-mile festive fun run to help raise money for our school.

To help create a fun, festive atmosphere, Christmas music was played throughout the event and children were invited to wear festive accessories such as:

- Santa hats or Santa suits
- Elf hats, ears or costumes
- Reindeer antlers

Each class headed outside at different times throughout the day for their allocated slot, ensuring plenty of space and a safe, enjoyable experience for everyone. We were delighted

to offer prizes for the three children who raised the most money across the whole school!

The winners were:

3rd - Bella Fox (£140)

2nd - Georgia Britton (£205)

1st - Ekam Chatta (£240)

In total we managed to raise an astonishing amount of £2341!

Thank you for your support, all funds raised will go directly towards supporting school projects and enhancing opportunities for our pupils.





## Christmas Nativity and Church Service



### **Reception and KS1 Nativity**

The children in our younger year groups had a fantastic time performing their nativity for their parents/grandparents, friends and family in the last week of this half term. The children looked amazing in their costumes and the singing was so beautiful throughout. A big thank you to the staff who worked incredibly hard to make it one of our best nativity plays yet!

### **KS2 Service at St Peter's Church**

Once again, it was a pleasure for our KS2 children to perform their Christmas service in front of a packed out audience of their families at St Peter's church on Friday 19th December. It was fantastic to hear some new songs being performed amongst the classic Christmas hymns that we all know and love. Our Year 6 readers did themselves proud, taking us through the Christmas story and reminding us of the true meaning behind this very special time of year. Hearing the children sing so wonderfully in such beautiful surroundings really does put everyone in a jolly festive mood before we finish for the holiday's.

## Christmas Lunch

A huge thank you to our catering team for preparing a delicious Christmas lunch for all of the children and staff to enjoy on Wednesday 17th December.

Everyone had a brilliant time and the effort that went into preparing lunch for so many people was truly admirable. Most people find it stressful cooking Christmas lunch for their family, imagine preparing it for 140 people!



## 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. Our remaining Inset days are as follows:

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>



### **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 are also conscious that there are occasions when absence cannot be helped, such as if a child is unwell, particularly at this time of year when lots of winter bugs are going around.

'Little Heroes' is the fun, motivational and engaging side of the campaign to encourage school attendance and the message:

**Here**

**Everyday**

**Ready**

## **On time**

We were delighted to be able to award a number of special certificates to children whose attendance has been above 96% so far this academic year.

## 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

We kindly ask for your support in helping to keep our school community safe and respectful during drop-off and pick-up times.

Please remember to park considerately by:

- Avoiding blocking driveways, crossings, or entrances
- Not parking on yellow lines or in restricted areas
- Allowing clear access for pedestrians, pushchairs, and emergency vehicles
- Being mindful of our neighbours and local residents

These simple actions help keep all children safe and ensure positive relationships with our surrounding community.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

## Key Dates - Spring Term

### **January 2026**

**Monday 5th** – INSET day school closed to children

**Tuesday 6th** – Children return to Academy

### **February 2026**

**Tuesday 10th** - Safer Internet Day

**Friday 13th** - Chinese New Year – ‘Year of the Horse’ – children invited to wear traditional/bright clothing

**Friday 13th** – Children break up for half term @ 3:20p.m.

**Monday 23rd** - Children return to the Academy

**Friday 27th** - St David's Day

### **March 2026**

**Thursday 5th** - World Book Day – Children invited to dress-up as a favourite character

**Week beginning Monday 9th** - Parents Evening (Dates and times for this to be confirmed)

**Friday 13th** – Mother's Day Lunch

**Monday 16th** - St Patricks Day – £1.00 donation children invited to wear green

**Wednesday 25th** – Rec and KS1 Easter Service (Times to be confirmed)

**Thursday 26th** – Rec and KS1 Easter Service (Times to be confirmed)

**Friday 27th** - KS2 Easter Service @ St Peter's Church (Times to be confirmed)

**Friday 27th** – Children break up for Easter holidays @ 1:30p.m.

### Contact Us



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