



# St Peter's Newsletter, Spring 1 2025-26

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As we reach the end of this half term, I want to say a huge thank you to our children, staff and families for another positive and productive few weeks. It has been a busy half term, but also a really rewarding one.

I am sure that you will all join me in congratulating Miss Hiley on her successful appointment as Trust Headteacher here at St Peter's from the summer term onwards. I am delighted that Miss Hiley has been given this wonderful opportunity and am so pleased that the future leadership of St Peter's will remain stable and continue to grow from strength to strength. Miss Hiley will also be continuing in her role as SENDco in the short term until the staffing structure is reviewed later in the summer term. I know that she is very excited to be taking on this new leadership role and would like to say a huge thank you to all of those parents who have passed on their best wishes to her.

Similarly, I am extremely thankful to everyone for their support over the last few weeks since I made the extremely difficult decision to leave St Peter's after 14 years to take on a new headship role from the end of March. In the meantime, I am very much looking forward to working alongside Miss Hiley and our Regional Hub lead, Mr Dobson, during the next half term to ensure a smooth transition process.

Our children, as always, have worked hard and shown great enthusiasm for their learning. It has been lovely to see the work they have been doing in their classrooms and we are looking forward to sharing this work with you next half term during parents evenings. It has also been great to see the children taking part in some different activities, whether that be dancing with their friends at the school disco or dressing in red to join in with the Chinese New Year celebrations.

Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support, we truly value the strong partnership we have with you and appreciate all that you do to support the school community.

As we head into the half-term break, I hope everyone enjoys a well-earned rest and some quality family time. We look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed, ready and excited for Spring 2 on Monday 23rd February.

Warmest wishes

Mr Castledine

## SPF School Disco's

We were very excited to welcome Midz Kidz back to St Peter's for two fun-filled disco's on Tuesday 10th February!

The disco's were a huge success and an experience to remember for our children! The hall was filled with music, dancing, and plenty of smiles as children enjoyed showing off their best moves with friends. With colourful lights, great tunes, and lots of laughter, the atmosphere was fantastic from start to finish. A big thank you to the St Peter's Fundraisers who organised and helped supervise the event, and to families for their continued support in making activities like this possible.





## Supporting Amelia's World Record Attempt

Earlier this half term we were contacted by one of our parents to see whether St Peter's children could help a seven-year-old girl, who is sadly receiving palliative care for cancer, to break a UK record on her birthday.

Amelia Kolpa, from Rowley Regis in the Black Country, has neuroblastoma and has been in and out of hospital since the age of two and a half. To mark her eighth birthday on 3rd March, Amelia is hoping to break the record for the most birthday cards received in the UK, by hitting the 8,000 cards mark.

Our children were only too happy to help Amelia reach this target, and every child in school took the time to create a special birthday card and write their own personal message inside.

We would like to wish Amelia the very best in attempting to break this record and are delighted that the children at St Peter's were able to help add to the total of birthday cards received so far.

For further information, please follow the link to the news story on the bbc news website

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpv71xe14kno.amp>

## Safer Internet Day



Our school recently took part in Safer Internet Day, giving children the opportunity to learn how to stay safe, kind, and responsible when using the internet. Through age-appropriate discussions and activities, students explored topics such as protecting personal information, being respectful online, and knowing what to do if something doesn't feel right.

Safer Internet Day was a valuable reminder of the importance of working together—at school and at home—to help children develop safe and positive digital habits.

## Chinese New Year



On Friday 13th February, the children celebrated Chinese New Year by exploring the traditions and significance of Chinese New Year through a range of activities, including stories, crafts, music, and classroom discussions. Children were invited to wear red clothing

instead of their school uniform, as red is a significant colour in Chinese culture symbolising good luck, happiness, and prosperity.

This year marks the **Year of the Horse**, and students enjoyed learning about what it represents in Chinese culture. The celebration was a wonderful opportunity to recognise and respect cultural diversity while sharing in the joy of a special global celebration.

## Inset Days

School have five in-service (INSET) days per year. On these days, the academy will be closed to all children. Our days for this academic year are available on our school website and the remaining INSET days are as follows:

**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>

## Attendance



Regular attendance plays a huge part in helping children feel confident, settled and successful at school. Every day in class helps pupils build strong routines, keep up with their learning and feel part of the school community.

We know that from time to time children may be unwell and need to stay at home, and we always appreciate parents keeping us informed. However, we also know that even a few days missed can make a real difference over time. Being in school every day helps children develop good habits, build friendships and make the most of all the opportunities available to them.

Thank you to our families who make attendance a priority — your support does not go unnoticed. If you are finding attendance challenging for any reason, please remember that we are here to help. Working together, we can support every child to attend regularly and get the best possible start to their education.

If you have any concerns or need support, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school.

## Request for leave in term-time

We wanted to remind you of the key attendance updates to enable you to consider the details and potential consequences of taking your children out of school during term time.

Headteachers must support and follow the government guidance and legislation which makes it clear that they may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. In practice, there are very few occasions where requests meet this criterion. Staffordshire County Council and school local academy committee members support this, therefore the vast majority of requests will be 'Unauthorised' and recorded as such in the attendance register.

As a school we are obliged to inform you that you may be subject to a Penalty Notice if your child's absence from school is unauthorised. This is in line with Staffordshire County Council's Code of Conduct and the "Working Together to Improve School attendance" statutory guidance.

To reflect the commitment of the government to ensuring high school attendance for all children, the penalties for unauthorised absence in term time are as follows:

For a first offence the penalty notice fine would be:

- £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, rising to
- £160 per parent, per child if paid between 21-28 days.

For a second offence within 3-years of the first penalty notice being issued, the penalty notice fine would be:

- £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days.

Following the second offence, every new offence within the 3-year period will be prosecuted under S444.1 of the Education Act 1996. If the prosecution takes place, the maximum fine is £1,000 per parent, per child.

We hope you will be able to plan your leave within the 13 weeks school holidays.

## 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

We'd also like to kindly remind you that the area by the community hut is for staff use only. This is in place for health and safety reasons, as pupils regularly walk across this path at the beginning and end of the school day.

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

Thank you for your co-operation and continued support.

## Key Dates - Spring Term 2

### **February 2026**

**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

**Monday 9th** - Parents Evening 3:30-6:30pm

**Wednesday 11th** - Parents Evening 3:30-6:30pm

**Friday 13th** – Mother’s Day Lunch

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

**Wednesday 25th** – Rec and Y1 Easter Service (Times to be confirmed)

**Thursday 26th** – Rec and Y1 Easter Service (Times to be confirmed)

**Friday 27th** - Years 2/3/4/5&6 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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