



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

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## Trust Headteacher's message

As the end of this term approaches, I write to say a heartfelt farewell after fourteen wonderful years as part of this remarkable school.

It is difficult to put into words what St Peter's and the community has meant to me. From my very first day as year 6 teacher, I was welcomed with warmth and kindness, and over the years that feeling has only deepened. This school has been far more than a workplace, it has been a family.

To the children, you have been at the heart of everything. Your curiosity, creativity, and energy have filled each day with joy. It has been a privilege to watch you grow, achieve, and discover your unique strengths. You have taught me as much as I could ever hope to teach you, and I leave feeling incredibly proud of the young people you are becoming.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your trust, support, and partnership. Your involvement in school life and your commitment to your children's education have played a vital role in shaping the positive and nurturing environment we are so proud of. It has been a pleasure to work alongside you over the years. I was particularly touched by the number of you that joined us on the school field on my penultimate day to say farewell - it was very unexpected but so appreciated.

To my colleagues, I could not have asked for a more dedicated, talented, and supportive team. Your passion for education and unwavering commitment to the children have been truly inspiring. I am deeply grateful for your friendship, collaboration, and the many joyful moments that we have shared together. I am so pleased and proud that Miss Hiley is stepping into the role of headteacher and wish her every success. I know that the future of St Peter's is in safe hands and the school under Miss Hiley's leadership, and with the wonderful staff team and community around her, will continue to grow from strength to strength.

As I say goodbye, I carry with me countless memories: the excitement of school events such as sports days, Christmas productions, the special services at St Peter's church, the pride of achievements celebrated in assemblies. I will miss most the everyday moments in classrooms and corridors that make this school so special. These are the moments that will stay with me always.

Leaving is not easy, but I do so with a full heart and immense gratitude. I am excited for what lies ahead, but I will always look back on my time at St Peter's with great fondness and pride. This school will forever remain a very special part of my life.

Thank you for fourteen unforgettable years.

With warmest wishes and sincere thanks,

Mr Castledine

## Armed Forces Covenant

On Tuesday 10th March, Miss Hiley signed the Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of St Peter's CofE Primary Academy.

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation ensuring that those who serve, have served, and their families are treated with fairness, respect, and face no disadvantages in society, including in education.

At St Peter's, we are proud to support our military personnel and recognise the dedication and sacrifice they make for our country.







## Mother's Day Lunch

It was lovely to welcome so many of our mothers and family members into school on Friday 13th March for our Mother's Day lunch. The children really enjoyed sharing this special time together, and it was great to see so many of you there.





## Reception Class Balance Bikes

Our Reception children have been having a fantastic time taking part in balance bike sessions this term. With lots of enthusiasm and growing confidence, they have been learning how to balance, steer, and move safely while having plenty of fun outdoors. It has been wonderful to see their determination and smiles as they develop new skills, build coordination, and support one another.

A huge thank you to Progressive Sports for running these sessions for our youngest children.



## Fire Engine visit



As part of their learning about 'Real Life Superheroes', our Reception children were delighted to welcome a group of firefighters who kindly gave their time to visit and talk about their very important job. The excitement grew even more when the children realised they had brought their fire engine with them!

The children had great fun exploring the fire engine, learning about its different functions and even having a go at squirting the hose. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that brought their learning to life! There was even just enough time for Year 1/2 to have a quick

look before the firefighters had to zoom off again — back to saving lives! We would like to thank the firefighters for giving the children such a fantastic experience!



## World Book Day



World Book Day is always an exciting event at school, with so much happening—and this year was no exception. We kicked off the week with our competitions: designing a book character potato and writing an alternate ending to a story. Choosing the winners was

incredibly difficult, given the fantastic quality of all the entries. Congratulations to the children who won vouchers to spend at the Scholastic Book Fair!

Throughout the week, we were delighted to welcome children to browse the book fair. Thanks to your support, an impressive £439 was raised for the school to spend on new books—we are extremely grateful.

We rounded off the celebrations with a fun dress-up day. It was wonderful to see such a variety of costumes and to feel the buzz for reading spreading throughout the school.



## St Peter's Fundraisers Events



On Monday 23rd March, the St Peter's Fundraising team organised an Easter Crafts workshop that ran after school. The children who attended had lots of fun and got to take part in a variety of different craft activities from decorating eggs to creating their own Easter ornaments to take home and share with their families.

After the successful Hedwig painting session, **Look What Debbie Did**, returned to St Peter's on the 25th March.

Debbie is a talented local artist who guided KS2 children through a relaxed, step-by-step watercolour workshop, teaching them how to paint beautiful hares and develop their painting skills. The session was a wonderful opportunity for children to explore watercolour techniques, build confidence in art, and take home their own finished painting.





## St Peter's Big Dig



🌱 A Huge Thank You for the Big Dig! 🌱

Ms Knight wanted to say a massive thank you to all the children and parents who took part in our first Big Dig on Wednesday 18th March. We were genuinely amazed by how much we achieved together, it was wonderful to spend time with some of our parents, and the weather couldn't have been more perfect!

☀️ Our Peace Garden is really shaping up to be a beautiful space that the whole school will be able to enjoy. To help our seedlings grow and to give us time for more compost to arrive, we will be holding our next Big Dig on Wednesday 22nd April.

Thank you once again for all of your hard work, enthusiasm, and support. It really does make such a difference. ❤️



## Easter Services

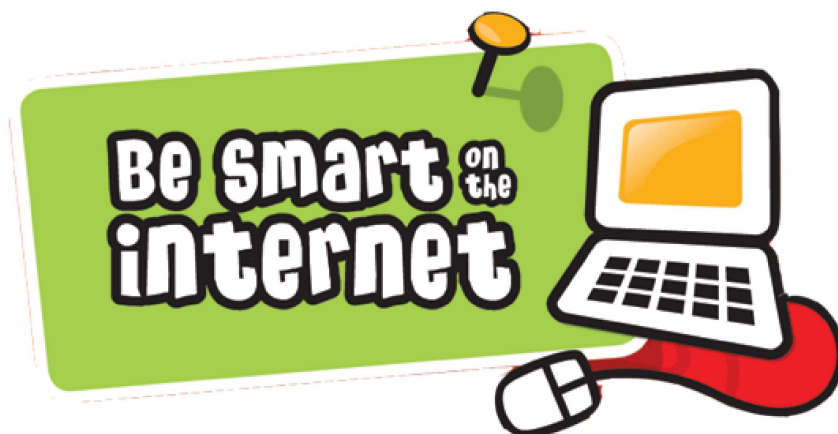


Thank you to all of our Reception and Year 1 parents who were able to attend the Easter assemblies in school on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th March. It was so lovely to hear the children reading so beautifully and singing with such enthusiasm.

It was also fantastic to see so many parents join us up at St Peter's church for our KS2 service on Friday 27th March. To see the church full and to hear the children's lovely voices in such special surroundings really helped to bring the story of Easter to life.

A huge thank you also to the St Peter' Fundraisers (SPF) who kindly provided each child with an Easter egg to enjoy.

## Advice for Parents on the Use of Social Media



When used correctly social media has many benefits. When used incorrectly social media can cause upset and anxiety for adults and for children. Research says that children can be affected in many ways – they feel unhappy, vulnerable, left out, bullied, can't sleep and lose confidence.

This is clearly something that we all want to protect our children from. Incorrect or inappropriate use is very often texting on mobile phones to individuals through group chats. We talk often about this in school but it remains the responsibility of ALL parents to manage and monitor their child's usage of mobile phones and wider internet usage.

Many sites have age restrictions; eg facebook, you tube, Instagram, snap chat, musical.ly - this is to prohibit and ultimately safeguard primary school children from having their own authorised use.

Often peer pressure persuades children that they must have a mobile phone "because everyone else has" OR to join a social network group. This pressure can equally persuade parents to buy children a mobile phone for their child or children. OR to overlook age restrictions on sites. As parents it is entirely appropriate to say "no". If your child does have a phone (or i pad or tablet or lap top) some simple but important safeguarding messages are:

☑ Set guidelines for when your child has use of their phone or device and what they can use it for

☑ check usage and messages for appropriateness

- 🔒 restrict access to certain sites
- 🔒 age restrictions on sites are there to protect and safeguard children, check and if in doubt say no!
- 🔒 keep phones downstairs and not in bedrooms
- 🔒 remove the privilege of a phone or device if it is used inappropriately
- 🔒 Remind children that digital media leaves a digital footprint; this means that messages and images are stored and are traceable. Think what you say and post
- 🔒 Use sensibly and safely – look after each other and yourself

## 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



Even a small number of absences can quickly add up and have a real impact on your child's learning. Seeing it broken down can help put attendance into perspective:

- **1 day off school** = around **5 hours of learning missed**
- **1 week (5 days)** = **25 hours missed** (over half a full school week of lessons)

Over time, this becomes more serious:

- **10 days absent in a year** (about 95% attendance) = **50 hours of learning missed**
- **15 days absent** (around 92% attendance) = **75 hours missed**
- **20 days absent** (90% attendance) = **100 hours missed**

That's the equivalent of **4 full weeks of school lost** in just one year.

It's not just about the number of hours. When children miss school, they often miss key explanations, group work, and opportunities to practise skills. Catching up can be difficult and may lead to gaps in understanding, lower confidence, and increased stress.

Even occasional absences can disrupt routines and friendships, making it harder for children to feel settled and engaged.

**Good attendance (97% and above)** gives your child the best chance to succeed. Every day really does count, and building strong attendance habits early helps set the foundation for future achievement.

## 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 - Summer Term

### Summer Term 2026

#### April

Monday 13th – Children return to the Academy

#### May

Monday 4th May Bank Holiday

Monday 11th to Thursday 14th - KS2 SATs Week (SATs breakfast for Year 6 children to be confirmed)

Monday 18th to Wednesday 20th May - Wilderness Academy Residential Trip for Y5 and Y6 children

Thursday 21st - Children break up for half term 3:20p.m.

Friday 22nd – INSET DAY (School closed for pupils)

#### June

Monday 1st - Children Return to Academy

Monday 1st - Year 4 Multiplication Times Tables Check ongoing over two weeks

Monday 8th - Year 1 Phonics Testing ongoing this week

Friday 19th - Father's Day Lunch (Reception & Year 6)

Wednesday 24th - Sports Day (Reception and KS1 a.m., KS2 p.m.)

Friday 26th June - St Peter's Day

## July

Friday 10th - End of year reports out

Monday 13th - Moving Up Morning

Tuesday 14th - Open Afternoon for Parents 2:30pm-4:30pm (TBC)

Friday 17th - Y6 Leavers assembly (TBC)

Friday 17th - Break-Up @ 1:30pm for Summer Holiday

Mon 20th - INSET day (Academy open to Staff only)

## Contact Us



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