

St Peter's Newsletter, Autumn 1 2026-27

Trust Headteacher's message

It is hard to believe that we have already reached the end of our first half term! Although we have only been back at school for eight weeks, it feels as though we have achieved so much already.

The children have settled beautifully into their new classes and routines. There is such a lovely, positive atmosphere across school and it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm the children are showing towards their learning and all the other opportunities on offer. Our new Reception children have settled in so quickly and already feel very much part of our school family, whilst our Year 6 children are embracing their roles as the oldest pupils in school. They are already working hard to be fantastic role models, taking on responsibilities and showing great leadership in a number of ways across school.

I hope you will take a few minutes to sit down and enjoy reading through our first newsletter of the year. It is packed with photographs and highlights of just some of the fantastic things that have been happening across St Peter's over the past few weeks. You will also find some

important information and useful reminders towards the end, so please do take the time to read these too.

As we reach the half term break, I would like to thank our children, families and staff for such a positive start to the school year.

I wish you all a very happy, safe and restful half term, with plenty of opportunities to enjoy some special family time. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 2nd November**, refreshed and ready for another exciting half term!

Miss N Hiley

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Jeans 4 genes



Back in September, our children took part in Jeans for Genes Day, wearing their favourite jeans and denim to raise money for this fantastic charity. We are pleased to share that we raised an amazing £223! Thank you to all our families for supporting this wonderful cause and helping to make a difference to the lives of children and families affected by genetic conditions.





RHS gardening Award



We are pleased to announce that St Peter's has been awarded Level 1 of the RHS gardening awards, run by the Royal Horticultural Society. To achieve this first step, our children have been working hard in our peace garden getting hands on with planting, understanding the benefits of growing things and transforming our outdoor space.

A massive thank you to all the parents, carers and children who rolled up their sleeves and helped out during our 'Big Dig' and of course a huge shout out to Ms Knight for organising the event as well as putting in the hard work needed to achieve this award.

This is just the beginning of our journey. We look forward to rising through the 5 step scheme and hopefully reaching Level 5 one day!


RHS School Gardening Awards
LEVEL ONE
RHS
SCHOOL GARDENING AWARD
Congratulations
St Peter's Church of England Primary Academy
• You understand the benefits of gardening
• Your growing space is accessible
• You have started gardening
Date: 7 September 2026
Alana Cama
Schools and Groups Programme Manager, RHS
Clare Matterson CBE
Director General, RHS
RHS CAMPAIGN FOR SCHOOL GARDENING
S14

Library Bus Path



A big thank you to councillor Phil Whitehouse (District councillor for Stonnall and Little Aston) and Lichfield District Council for helping us to fund a new path leading to our library bus.

Funded through Lichfield Council's Clean and green programme, the new path provides a safer and more accessible access for pupils, staff and visitors as well as ensuring we can keep the library running and mud free throughout the winter months.

We are very grateful for this support and the positive difference it will make to our school community.



Macmillan Coffee Morning



Thank you to all the people who baked cakes for our Macmillan Coffee Morning. We raised just over £170, which will go towards supporting people affected by cancer. Thank you also to everyone supported the event. It was great to see so many families sharing a coffee, cake and a chat in the school hall.








Life changing donations go here

Lichfield Litter Legends Visit



Earlier this month, we welcomed Bob, a Lichfield Litter Legend, who shared the story of Lennie the Hedgehog with our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. The children loved meeting Lennie and learnt how litter can harm wildlife and why it is important to look after our environment.

Bob also worked with our Eco-Council to plan ways to keep our school litter-free. Their ideas include making posters, organising litter-picking activities and playing litter bingo! The children were amazed to see a crisp packet believed to be around 50 years old, highlighting how long litter can remain in the environment.

We can't wait to see what the Eco-Council get up to throughout the year with Bob's support.



Reception Colour Run



Last Friday, Reception took part in a Colour Run! Despite a surprise hailstorm putting a temporary stop to the fun, the children showed amazing resilience and determination as they completed an incredible 10 laps of the playground!

There were lots of smiles, laughter and colourful faces, with some children even calling it “the best day ever!” and asking to do it again tomorrow.

We are so proud of every single child for their enthusiasm and perseverance! A huge thank you to everyone who has sponsored the children and supported this event!









Reception 'Crafternoon'



Families of our Reception children were invited into school for an afternoon of Autumn craft activities. The children enjoyed spending time with their families, getting creative and making a range of lovely Autumn crafts to take home. It was wonderful to see everyone working together and the children were very proud to show off their creations. Thank you to all the families who came along and joined in. We hope you enjoyed the afternoon as much as we did!





Harvest Celebrations



Over the past few weeks, we have been celebrating and learning about Harvest across school. We have been reflecting on the importance of being thankful for all that we have and thinking about how we can help those who are less fortunate than ourselves. As we are reminded in the Bible, *"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."* (Psalm 107:1)

A huge thank you to all our families for your generous Harvest donations. We had a glorious display of food which has now been collected and taken to the local food bank to support families in our community. Your kindness and generosity are very much appreciated.

We thoroughly enjoyed our Reception and Key Stage 1 Harvest Festivals. The children did a wonderful job performing for their families, and we were so impressed with their confidence, beautiful singing and enthusiastic actions. They certainly made us all very proud!

We finished the half term with our special journey up to church for our KS2 Harvest celebration. Once again, the children did a fabulous job with their readings and songs, bringing everyone together to celebrate this special time of year. We are already looking forward to welcoming you back to church for our Christmas service on **18th December**, when we can come together once again as a school community.



Enrichment Clubs



We've been having a fantastic time at our enrichment clubs this half term! The children have had the opportunity to try out a range of activities, including crochet, football, gardening club and Tabletop Titan's Board game Club. It's been wonderful to see the children getting involved, trying new things, developing new skills and most importantly, enjoying themselves with their friends! We've also discovered some hidden talents along the way.

Our enrichment clubs will continue right through until we break up for Christmas.









A win for Team Dragon!



Throughout each term, children earn Dojo points for showing good behaviour, working hard, being kind, helping others and demonstrating our school values. At the end of each week, we add up the points to see which house has earned the most and gets to lift the House Cup! The points continue to build throughout the term, with the overall winning house earning a special reward chosen by our School Council.

This half term, the School Council chose zorbing and glow football as the reward activities. However, glow football quickly turned into Nerf Wars when we discovered that the hall didn't get quite dark enough!

A huge well done to **Team Dragon** (1043 to be precise!), who earned the most points this half term and enjoyed their well-deserved reward morning. It is safe to say that everyone had a fantastic time!

We wonder which house will be lifting the cup next half term!









Rising Leaders



Pupil Leadership Opportunities

This year, we have lots of exciting opportunities for children to take on leadership roles and make a real difference across school.

Our **School Council** meets regularly to discuss and debate ideas and issues within school, giving children a voice in decisions that affect them. We also have an **Eco Council**, who are busy planning ways to make our school more environmentally friendly. From saving energy by switching off lights to keeping our school clean and tidy through litter picking and recycling, they are already making a difference!

Our Year 6 children were also given the opportunity to apply for a range of leadership roles across school. These include:

- **Reading Ambassadors** – Supporting younger children by sharing stories, listening to readers and helping to manage our school library bus.

- **Worship Ambassadors** – Helping to set up for collective worship, leading prayers and supporting with hymn actions.
- **Play Leaders** – Organising and leading playground games and activities for our younger children.
- **Tech Team** – Helping with technology around school and putting their photography skills to good use by capturing special moments at school events.

It has been lovely to see the children really getting stuck into their new roles and taking their responsibilities so seriously. These opportunities are a great way for children to develop their confidence, independence, teamwork and leadership skills. We are very proud of the enthusiasm they have shown so far and look forward to seeing what they achieve throughout the year!



1 - St Peter's Eco Council



2 - St Peter's School Council

Headteacher Award



This special award recognises children who have gone above and beyond in school, whether through producing an outstanding piece of work, showing exceptional effort, or doing something truly remarkable. Children are nominated by either their class teacher or support staff and invited to see Miss Hiley to receive a special sticker and certificate in recognition of their achievement. This half term the following children have recieved the award.

Dahlia - Exceptional effort in maths

Lucy C - For going above and beyond learning at home and producing a fantastic book all about space!

Henry E - For progress in writing

Out of school achievements



If your child has achieved something outside of school we would love to hear about it! We like to share achievements in our weekly celebration worship as well as featuring them on our newsletter. If you have anything you would like to share please send across to the school office

office@st-peters-stonnall.staffs.sch.uk



3 - We are so incredibly proud of Lucie and her sister, Mia, for this amazing achievement — dancing in Swan Lake with the English Youth Ballet!

You can read all about Lucie's achievement by clicking on the following link

Local dancers land role in English Youth Ballet production



4 - Hunter continues to impress us with his dedication to his racing! Hunter is currently sitting third in the championship, with just a few points separating him from fourth place, so it's all to play for in the final three rounds!

Inset Days/Term Dates

School have five in-service (INSET) days per year. On these days, the academy will be closed to all children. Our remaining INSET days for this academic year are:

Monday 23rd November 2026

Monday 22nd February 2027

Friday 28th May 2027

For term dates for 2026/2027 please see the Staffordshire County Council website

School term dates | Staffordshire County Council

School Calendar



Monday 2nd November - Back to school

Thursday 5th November - Reception and Y1 phonics meetings (Reception -3:30pm/Y1 4pm)

Tuesday 10th November - Year 6 SATS meeting

Friday 13th November - Children in Need (More details to follow)

Monday 16th November - Anti Bullying Week

Monday 23rd November - INSET day (School closed to pupils)

Wednesday 2nd December - Whole School trip to Lichfield Garrick Pantomime

Tuesday 8th December - SPF watercolour Christmas Card Wreath Event

Thursday 10th December - Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 11th December - SPF Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 15th December - Christmas Dinner and Party Day

Tuesday 15th December - Christmas Music Concert

Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th December at 9am- Reception and KS1 Christmas Nativity (Please note date change from original calendar)

Thursday 17th December - SPF Christmas disco

Friday 18th December - KS2 Christmas Church Service

Friday 18th December - Children break up for Christmas at 1:30pm

Monday 4th January - Children return to school

Tuesday 5th January - Young voices Concert

Attendance



Attendance Matters – Every School Day Counts!

Regular attendance at school is so important for children's learning, progress and wellbeing. Every day in school gives children the opportunity to develop their knowledge, build friendships, grow in confidence and enjoy new experiences. When children miss school regularly, they can miss important learning and find it harder to keep up with their classmates.

We want all our children to have the very best opportunities to succeed, and good attendance plays a huge part in this.

To put attendance into perspective:

- **97–100% attendance** – Excellent attendance!
- **95–96% attendance** – A positive level, but there is room for improvement.
- **90–94% attendance** – A cause for concern, as a significant amount of learning is being missed.
- **90% attendance or below** – Classed as persistent absence by the Department for Education.

An attendance figure of 90% means a child misses approximately 20 school days over a full academic year – almost four weeks of learning!

This year, we will be keeping a close eye on attendance across school. Where attendance is becoming a concern, we would really like to work in partnership with families to understand any difficulties and look at how we can support improvements together. Our aim is always to work with families in a positive and supportive way, ensuring that every child has the best possible chance to thrive.

Of course, we fully understand that children become unwell and that illness is sometimes unavoidable. We would never expect children to attend school when they are genuinely too unwell to do so. However, we do ask that families make every effort to ensure children are in school whenever they are well enough to attend.

If you are planning a family holiday during term time, please visit the school office to request a holiday form. Please remember that holidays during term time are not normally authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together, we can make sure our children are in school, enjoying their learning and making the most of every opportunity.

Absence Reporting

If your child is unwell, please call the school office on 01543 372060 to report it, if nobody is available to speak to right away, please leave a message reporting the name of your child and the reason for their absence. The teachers do not always access 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. Thank you.

Free School Dinners - How to claim



Parents claiming some benefits can claim free school meals for any of their children who are registered at a Staffordshire School.

Even if you don't want to have the meals, claiming them helps school. The more eligible parents who claim meals, the more funding the school receives.

If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals, please can you follow this link to apply. You will be given a decision immediately, please let school know if you are successful. If you would like some help completing the form, please come into the school office with your national insurance number and we will be happy to help.

Apply for Free School Meals - Staffordshire County Council

It is important to complete this even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 and 2 and already recieves a free dinner as part of the universal offer.

If your child has moved to St Peter's from a school in another local authority, you will need to complete the form again.

Vacancies

We currently have 2 live vacancies for teaching assistants to join our team.

Please click the following link for more details on our website. You will also see a range of other vacancies at schools within the Trust

St Peter's Church of England Primary Academy - Vacancies

Contact Us



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