

St Peter's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



**AUTUMN TERM 2024/25
2ND HALF TERM**



Dear Parents/Carers,

The second part of the Autumn term is now well underway and winter is fast approaching bringing with its colder weather and darker evenings. What a busy half term we have already had so far!

The season of Advent is upon us; a time of hope and waiting, where we have an opportunity to reflect on the year and get ourselves ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Now that we have had our Christmas Fair, we are excited to be doing the Christmas Shows with the dates in this newsletter. We Wish you all a hopeful and reflective season of preparation.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are so proud of the children here at St Peter's; with how they have such a drive to learn and the achievements they accomplish!



We are now on X where we will be posting regular updates of what is going on in and around school, trips, and your child's learning. Please do have a look and give us a follow:

[@st_peters_ce_](https://twitter.com/st_peters_ce_)



St Peter's
Christmas
Fair

We all enjoyed the school's Christmas Fair and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came. It really was wonderful to see the school community come together to enjoy the festivities. We would also like to say that we were so grateful for the generous donations towards the fair that you had been sending in on the non-uniform days!

We had the following stalls:

- Toy Tombola
- Chocolate Tombola
- Sweet Tombola
- Play Your Cards Right
- Hook a Jar
- Christmas Crafts
- Chocolate Fountain
- Face Painting



And... the children could even meet Father Christmas in his Grotto! It was a fantastic event!





Nursery News

We have had a very busy and exciting half term. We have now got to know all your children and what their next steps are to move their learning forward. This term our topic has been Animals. We have been learning about different animals and where they live, and what animals make good pets and which ones don't. The first book this term was 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell. This book introduced us to what animals make good pets and which ones don't. We have been describing these animals using words like 'fierce' and 'grumpy'. Throughout the term we have been listening to stories, singing nursery rhymes, learning to recognise numbers, counting a number of objects, counting forwards and backwards, recognising and copying our names. These are all things that children could also do at home with parents and older sibling. In RE the topic this term is 'Christmas'. We will be looking at how we celebrate special times with our families and why Christmas is important to Christians. We will be looking at photos of your children at their own celebrations and they will share their experiences with their friends. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to any of the Nursery staff. Thank you for your continued support.



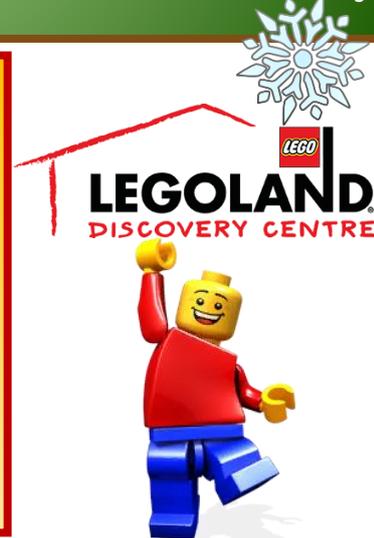
Reception News

We have had another busy and fun filled half term, we hope you had a lovely break, making lots of memories together as a family and are ready for another exciting half term in Reception! We will begin this half term by exploring all things animals! Our first story was 'Owl Babies' and throughout this story we began to learn key vocabulary such as 'hunting' and 'nocturnal' and develop skills such as story sequencing, recalling key events and acting out the story using puppets and props. We then moved on to a non-fiction book 'Night Animals', learning lots of fun facts, making animals using playdough and creating our own fact files. We have also been exploring autumn, recognising the changes in our own outdoor area as well collecting autumnal objects to make wreaths and engage in transient art activities. In Maths we have been continuing to develop our number recognition and counting skills, learning key vocabulary related to capacity and size and also beginning to describe the properties of shapes. We also revisited addition and subtraction, with some fun practical games in our outdoor area to help us! This half term our RE topic is Christmas, we have been learning all about the Nativity story, the characters in the story and why they are important and how Christians celebrate Christmas. The children are making great progress in phonics, they are beginning to recognise a range of letters and can recall the sound they make, some children are now beginning to blend the sounds to read some words! Please continue to encourage your child to read their book at home, we love listening to them read to us in school!



Year 1 News

We have had an exciting half term in Year 1! In RE, we have been learning about parables from the Bible and expanding on the Christmas Story. We have been exploring the scripture that tells us all about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and diving deeper into what this means for us in our lives. In history, we have been learning all about life in the past and discovering how lots of objects and possessions were different for our grandparents. In DT, we have been looking at moving picture books and creating a variety of moving pictures. In science, we have been continuing our learning on materials and carrying out lots of exciting experiments. We have also been going on a fantastic trip to Legoland to support our science topic. In maths, we have been working on addition and subtraction and our number bonds to 10. In English, we have been practising basic sentence structure and starting to use a range of adjectives. We have also been looking at rhyming poems and reading Harvey Slumfenburger's Christmas Present. During this half term, we have been continuing to focus on developing the pupils' phonics knowledge. Please ensure you read with your child at home and complete all phonics activities and homework sent out during the term. Please keep looking at the school website for information and dates for your diary.



Year 2 News

We have had a lot of exciting things happen this term! In maths, we have been focusing on doubling and halving. Later in the term, we will begin to think about telling the time. Do you know what time it is now? We have also been doing weekly 'MAD MINUTES' sessions, where the children are timed whilst completing their times tables. Ready, steady, get practising! In English, we have been focusing on the book 'The Cherry Tree Farm' by Enid Blyton. The children have been making predictions, exploring the front cover, and making inferences based on what they have read. Towards the end of this half term, we will look at a non-fiction text all about Guy Fawkes. In History, our topic has been 'Why do we remember the fifth of November?' Throughout this topic, we have been exploring the events that led to Guy Fawkes' plot to set the Houses of Parliament on fire. Have you heard any fireworks lately? Was his plan successful? The children have also been making and tasting their very own Black Peas, a traditional bonfire night dish. Our Science topic continues to be 'Materials Matter'. We have been focusing on materials that are used to make different balls and the reason why these materials have been used. Which ball was the bounciest, the football or the bouncy ball? In RE, we have been focusing on the topic 'Christmas - Why was the birth of Jesus so important?' Our learning has been focused around many 'Big Questions' and we have been discussing how to spread the good news of Jesus' birth.





Year 3 News

We are now near the end of the Autumn half term! The children impressed us very much since moving up to Reception Stage 2, and we hoped this would continue for the next 8 weeks – and it did! In RE, we moved through our topic 'What is it like for someone to follow God?' We focused on God's presence and how it can impact people's lives, as well as the instances we feel God's presence and the emotions and challenges it helps us with. In Maths, we focused on Place Value, applying mental strategies to work out calculations for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. We asked that the children practise their times tables at home. They were given logins for the website/app Times Table Rockstars, and they could use this to secure their understanding of this very important knowledge. In class, we focused on the 4x, 8x, and 3x tables; the children should have been secure in the 2s, 5s, and 10s from Year 2. In English, we explored Adventure Stories by reading Stone Age Boy and Stig of the Dump. Moving on from adventure stories, we looked at poetry and some nonfiction texts, concentrating on the format and features of both. Our new Science topic this term was Light – we looked at different kinds of light sources and how they are incorporated into our everyday lives. We expanded our knowledge in Science by visiting the Catalyst Museum in Widnes, where the children took part in a Light and Rocks workshop. This was an exciting trip we enjoyed very much and learned lots, whilst having fun too!



Year 4 News



This half term, we looked at the successes of the Ancient Egyptians in History. In science, we had the electrifying topic of Electricity. The children got stuck into practical work, building their own circuits and lighting up mini-light bulbs, as well as understanding the importance of being safe and thinking about conserving resources. We were pleased to announce that this year, once again, Year 4 took part in Rochdale's Linking Network Programme. This involved visits with and to our linking school in Heywood. This year, our first meeting with the children and staff from Hopwood Primary was at the M6 Theatre, where we watched a show together. In English, we looked at some Japanese poems that involved lots of syllable counting! We moved onto a book about Tutankhamun and another one about a very clever black cat. Place value continued to be a big focus for the start of this half term. This knowledge underpins everything else we learn about in maths. Further to this, we looked at addition and subtraction with 4-digit numbers and started to develop our skills in multiplication. Later on, this half term, we explored the four operations in depth. In RE, we have been exploring what Hindus believe God is like, exploring Aum and Brahman. Swimming continues on Monday mornings and we continue with Games in PE on Thursdays. Please can we remind you that swimming kits need to be brought in every Monday morning and PE kits should be left in school for lessons! Black pumps or black trainers are the only acceptable footwear for outdoor PE lessons. Thank you all for your support – it is always greatly appreciated.

Year 5 News

What an amazing half term we have had in Year 5! In English, we began the term by looking at the narrative text, Goth Girl. We then looked at travel writing, focusing our attention on relative clauses, and ended our term with the poetry unit, The Walrus and the Carpenter by Lewis Carroll. In Maths, we looked at multiplication and division facts. We learned about factors and prime numbers. We also learned how to use short division and used our knowledge of times tables to help us. We then moved onto negative numbers in their real-life contexts! In Science, we looked at our very exciting topic of Earth and Space! We learned all about the planets, their distances and rotations, as well as other celestial phenomena! We headed to Jodrell Bank to explore the telescope and learned so much more about this in their awesome Space Dome. For RE, Year 5 explored 'What Does it Mean to be a Muslim in Britain Today?' We explored The Five Pillars of Islam, how Muslims worship, how this changes their lives, and features of mosques. We visited a local mosque to see these things in lived out. Our History topic explored the world of the Maya, and especially why most of the Maya seemed to disappear around 900 AD. We looked at their culture, religion, food, etc., and compared these to how the remaining Maya still live today. In D&T, we explored musical instruments, discovering how they create sound and how that sound can be altered. We then moved on to planning and making our own. In Computing, we looked at the unit of 'We are cryptographers,' exploring different methods of code and understanding their uses. We worked to crack the codes and design our own! We would like to thank you for your continued support.



Year 6 News



What an exciting half term! In English, we focused on different genres of writing where the children had the opportunity to edit and redraft their work, ensuring each piece of writing showed their true potential. We started by looking at blogs and reports, thinking about formal and informal writing. We then moved onto A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. We read the story in class and based our writing around it. We used the thoughts and feelings of the characters to produce our writing. We then moved on to looking at narrative poems, referring to The Highwayman. In Maths, we began with fractions, thinking about equivalence and ordering. Then we moved onto looking at shapes, identifying the properties of shapes and calculating the area and perimeter. Children took part in Freckles, answering questions that were marked automatically and then tested at the end. We continued with the competition between the classes on TT Rock Stars, and we will see which class wins just before the end of the term. In Science, we looked at light. Children had the opportunity to observe how light travels and how shadows are formed. In History, we looked at Ancient Greeks and thought about why we should thank the Ancient Greeks. We learned about how the Ancient Greeks have impacted the world we live in today. The Christian Value we explored was 'Compassion'. This half term, we explored why some people believe in God and some do not. The children answered Big Questions and posed their own. We looked forward to another exciting term with Year 6 after Christmas! Thank you!



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On the week of 11th November, the whole school participated in different events linked to Armistice. On Tuesday 12th November Year 6 went to the Imperial War Museum North in Manchester to look at the history behind war and conflict, and how it has affected the world we live in today. On Thursday 14th, Year 6 children started the day with a very moving class assembly for the whole school all about Remembrance.



The children also attended a very moving service on Monday 11th November where Mr. Law, who served in the Royal Navy for 23 years came in to do a reading, and this was followed by 2 minutes' silence. All the children showed real empathy. The School Council went around the classes to sell poppies to the children to raise money for the Royal British Legion charity.

Pantomime
Thursday 19th December

PETER PAN

Christmas Dinner Day

Wednesday
18th
December

Christmas Party Day

Friday 20th December

Non-Uniform Day

Christmas Shows

Nursery
'Twinkly Nativity'
Monday
16th December
10am (AM Nursery)
2pm (PM Nursery)

We are excited to announce our Christmas Shows for this year. We hope you can come in and see your child perform and get yourselves into the Christmas spirit!

We look forward to seeing you!

Key Stage 1
'I'm Gonna Shine!'
Wednesday
18th December
1.45pm

Reception
'The Nativity'
Wednesday
11th December
1:30pm

Key Stage 2
'Nativity Sing-a-long'
Thursday
12th December
1:45pm

Anti-Bullying Week

Bullying affects millions of lives and can leave us feeling hopeless. But it doesn't have to be this way. If we challenge it, we can change it. And it starts by *choosing respect*.

This year Anti Bullying Week had a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

CHOOSE RESPECT
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

ATTENDANCE

How's your class doing?

Our attendance target is: **96%**

Nursery	90.5	Rec S	92.6%
Rec P	94.8	Year 1KW	96.5%
Year 1CW	92.8%	Year 2B	96.6%
Year 2K	97.9%	Year 3J	97.1%
Year 3B	94.3%	Year 4R	96.3%
Year 4H	95.2%	Year 5H	95.9%
Year 5C	97.2%	Year 6R	96.4%
Year 6H	96.8%	Whole School	95.5%

Well done to classes: 1KW, 2K, 2B, 3J, 4R, 5C, 6H and 6R for achieving the attendance target!

Attendance Matters, Every Second Counts!

If attendance is between 90-96% (8-20 days absence per year) it means that during primary years your child will miss 2 or more terms of education!

Headteacher Message

I hope you enjoy reading the latest edition of our school newsletter. Remember the school website is regularly updated with news and gallery pictures, so please take a look. Now we have 'X' too, there will be even more updates with what's going on in school. We are now well into Advent and Christmas is nearly here. I'm really looking forward to the children's Christmas Shows. It will be lovely seeing you all there!

Now that the cold mornings and dark evenings are here, please remind the children about road safety and stranger danger. As usual, we will be doing our bit in school to pass on the 'stay safe' message. As always please feel free to speak to me if you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education.

Mr A Whelan