



St. Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School



Brentford Avenue, Whiteleigh, Plymouth, PL5 4HD

Tel. 01752 217010 Email: admin@st-petersrc.plymouth.sch.uk

www.st-petersrc.plymouth.sch.uk

Through Jesus we love, we learn and we grow together

19th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our 2024 Christmas newsletter. It brings me such joy to share with you some of the wonderful highlights of the autumn term, and what a busy term it has been! The children have had so many opportunities to develop their skills and talents throughout the term, and as a result they have all shone brightly.

From the Reception/KS1 Nativity and whole school carol service; children have worked so hard, rehearsing diligently and using their talents to convey the Christmas message of hope and joy. Our Pupil Chaplains have also taken the Christmas message out into the community, volunteering at the local Salvation Army. We have also been supporting St Luke's Hospice as a whole school.

Throughout the term, we have maintained a strong emphasis on the catholic virtues and values in school. As such, children are confidently able to articulate their understanding of these virtues, and know the importance of making good choices, and of having an awareness of how our choices affect others.

As always, we say a huge thank you to our fantastic Friends of School team who work tirelessly for the children and our families in so many ways, and made the Christmas Fair and Discos such a success. We extend our gratitude too to all of our parent helpers; we really appreciate the time you give to the children and the difference you make.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas. We look forward to seeing the children return on Monday 6th January.

Mrs Archer
Headteacher



ATTENDANCE

We would like to bring your attention to attendance and punctuality.

As a school, we expect a minimum of 95% attendance to enable the children to make good progress both academically and socially. **Good attendance at school is not just beneficial it is essential.**

We review patterns of absence on a weekly basis. If your child is absent, we may ask you to supply a form of medical evidence (doctors note / medical card or copy of the prescription) for our attendance records. There are, of course, always exceptional circumstances, including long term illness and bereavement, and we will continue to take these into consideration on a case by case basis.

LATENESS

Did you know that being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing two weeks of school over the year. Lateness is just as serious as non-attendance. The start of the school day is an important time for children to develop their social skills with their peers, as well as preparing them for their learning. From January, the gate will open at 08.30 am and children will go straight to their classroom.

We do understand that there are sometimes reasons as to why a child may be late but all children, where possible, need to arrive on time via the playground entrance. Lateness not only affects the individual child—is also has an impact on the other children in class.

Many thanks for your support with attendance and punctuality.

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

STAFFING UPDATE

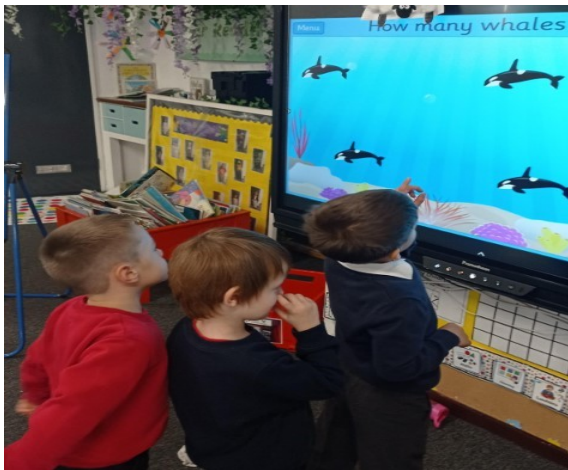
After over 12 years at St. Peter's, Mrs Bishop is leaving us at the end of this term. We give a huge thank you to her for her contribution to the school; she will be greatly missed. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

We will inform you of a replacement teacher, once finalised.

CLASS UPDATES:

TURTLE

The children have been learning through stories, painting pictures and enjoying exploring our outdoor environment. They worked together on an activity to build dens whilst using resources to problem solve. Well done everyone!



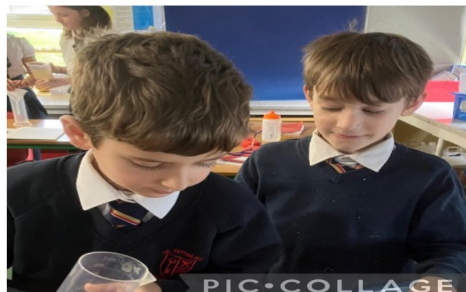
SEAHORSE

Seahorse class have enjoyed bringing in their Reading Buddies for our morning reading sessions. The children are encouraged to bring in a buddy, just for the first 15 minutes of the day. This assists in a lovely quiet, calm start and an incentive to enjoy reading and sharing stories.



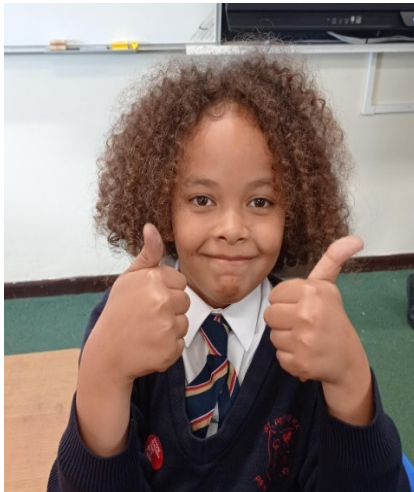
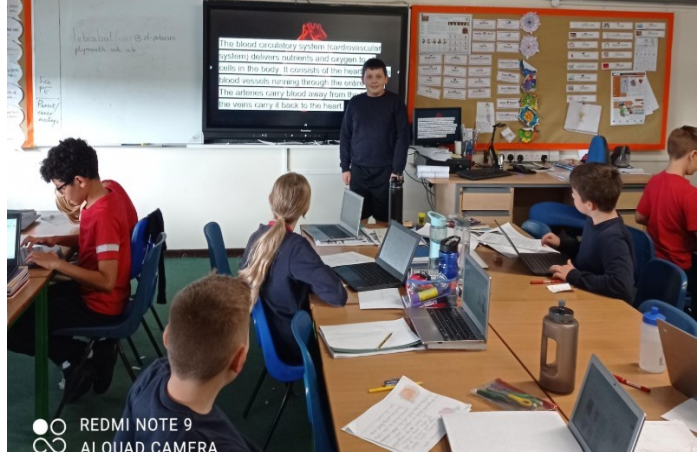
CATSHARK

Catshark class have been super busy this term learning all about the ancient Greeks. They have tried Greek food and made some amazing Pandora's boxes. In addition to experiencing what life was like as an ancient Greek, we have learnt all about how to become an Olympic athlete and what democracy is. Within science, Catshark class have been focusing on sound and properties of materials. With both of these subjects they have experienced a huge range of experiments, such as seeing soundwaves and observing how different materials dissolve in water.



DOLPHIN

The children have been taking part in lots of different activities throughout this term. From 'showing racism the red card' to exploring the art technique of chiaroscuro, and learning about the circulatory system in science! There have been many 'star moments.' Good job Dolphins!



ST LUKE'S HOSPICE PLYMOUTH

We are supporting St Luke's Rudolph Run 2024! A festive, physical and educational activity for us to get together and get creative! Thank you for all of your donations, they are very much appreciated.

For further information:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stlukesrudolphrun2024>



PUPIL CHAPLAINS

The Pupil Chaplains visited the Salvation Army in Whiteleigh to help with their Christmas toy appeal. The Salvation Army have donations of Christmas presents which are then distributed to more than thousand children across Plymouth. The Pupil Chaplains were selecting gifts which were appropriate for different age ranges. They were very helpful and showed how we can put our faith into action helping others who are less fortunate.



CAROL SERVICE

We all enjoyed our annual Carol Service at St Peter's Church last week. It is wonderful to hear the children read and sing. Thank you to all who contributed, and all who joined us for this joyful and meaningful service – what a wonderful way to usher in the Christmas holidays.



**CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST PETER'S &
ST THOMAS MORE**

Tuesday 24th December (*Christmas Eve*)

6 pm Christmas Mass at St. Thomas More

6 pm Christmas Mass at St. Peter's
(Carols at 5.30 pm)

Midnight Mass at St. Peter's
(Carols at 11.30 pm)

Wednesday 25th December (*Christmas Day*)

9.00 am Mass at St. Peter's

10.30 am Mass at St. Peter's

Thursday 26th December (*Feast of St. Stephen*)

11.00 am Mass at St. Peter's

Friday 27th December

11.00 am-1.00 pm Open Presbytery.

All welcome to join the clergy for drinks and snacks



PARENT / CARER ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Advice and support is available from our SENDCO and PSA. Our SENDCO is Miss Goddard. Miss Goddard is in school on a Monday and Tuesday, her contact email is: gracegoddard@st-petersrc.plymouth.sch.uk or call the school office.

Miss Cork our Parent Support Advisor is also available daily by calling the school office, or by email: scork@st-petersrc.plymouth.sch.uk

COLD WEATHER

Please ensure your child has a warm, waterproof coat to wear each day with their name clearly marked.



Please check Class Dojo on a daily basis.



A lot of information is communicated through the app to ensure parents/carers are updated regularly.

Please ask your child's class teacher if you need any assistance with Dojo.

TERM DATES

Gate opens at 8.30 am / whistle 8.40 am / gate closes 8.50 am

SPRING TERM 2025

Monday 6 th January	School re-opens
Friday 14 th February	Staff Professional Development Day
17 th February – 21 st February	Half Term Holiday
Monday 24 th February	School re-opens
Friday 4 th April	End of spring term
7 th April – 17 th April	Easter Holiday

SUMMER TERM 2026

Tuesday 22 nd April	Staff Professional Development Day
Wednesday 23 rd April	School re-opens
Monday 5 th May	School closed – Bank Holiday
26 th May – 30 th May	Half Term Holiday
Monday 2 nd June	Staff Professional Development Day
Tuesday 3 rd June	School re-opens
Wednesday 23 rd July	End of School Year