



St. Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School



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Through Jesus we love, we learn and we grow together

15th December 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Hello and welcome to our Christmas newsletter. It is wonderful to be able to share just some of the fantastic creative, academic and community activities, which have been happening at St. Peter's this term.

The past few weeks have been very busy, but incredibly fulfilling, joyful and rewarding. The children have been given so many opportunities to develop their skills and talents and as a result they have all shone brightly. It has been an absolute pleasure to watch the Nativity performances, they have brought happiness to everyone who has watched them.

Our recent trip to Buckfast Abbey was a real highlight. I would like to thank all of the children, their behaviour and participation was an absolute joy. I would also like to thank our staff team and volunteers, who worked incredibly hard in the run up to the trip, and on the day. Mrs Patterson and Miss Cork, of course, kept everything organised and on track, so thanks to them too.

We continue with our Catholic Values programme and the best bit of the week for me has been hearing about the children who've won awards for representing these values. We really do have so much to be proud of our children for.

A big thank you to our fantastic Friends of School team who have worked tirelessly for the children and our families to make the Christmas Fair a very special event. It would not have been a success without the whole school community supporting each other—thank you all! Also a big thank you to our parent readers who come in each week; we really appreciate the time you give to the children.

As this term draws to a close, may I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas. **We look forward to seeing the children return on Wednesday 4th January.**

Mr Moran
Headteacher



OUR WHOLE SCHOOL TRIP TO BUCKFAST ABBEY!

We had a great time at Buckfast Abbey! Here are some photos from groups from Assisi and Romero classes. A big thank you to those parents and carers who joined us, and thank you all for your support.



ATTENDANCE

At St. Peter's we continue to improve our school for all children and as well as them coming fully equipped and in the correct uniform; we would like to raise 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**

If your child is absent, we may ask for you to supply a form of medical evidence (doctors note / medical card or copy of the prescription) to support this illness. We will also be reviewing the patterns of absence where appropriate. The Educational Welfare Officer visits our school monthly to inspect every child's attendance. If medical evidence is not provided, the absence will be unauthorised and if there are more than 8 sessions of unauthorised absences, this could result in the EWO being notified.

There are 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 and could also lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice. 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. We start our school day at 8.50 am; our school gate is opened from 8.30am, the whistle is blown at 8.40 am in order to settle children for teaching to begin at 8.50 am.

Again - we do understand that there are reasons as to why a child may be late but all children, where possible need to arrive on time from the playground entrance as lateness does have an impact on the other children in class. Many thanks for your support with both attendance and punctuality.

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

PARKING

It is clear from many conversations on the gate that parking is a real source of frustration and concern for many parents. We appreciate that not having the use of a car park, or a place to stop to drop-off or collect your children, causes issues for you. However - for the safety of your children - **please do not park on the pavement or wait in the road**. Parking on the pavement forces families, sometimes with pushchairs, out into the road and this is very dangerous.

We would ask that if there is not a place to park outside school that you park nearby and walk back. Alternatively, you could circle around and try again a few minutes later. **Please do not park on the pavement**. Thank you very much to our families who are following these rules to help keep everyone safe.

STAFFING

We have welcomed back Mrs Bishop to our Assisi class in November, everyone is pleased to see her! A big thank you to Mrs Drew who has been teaching in the class; we are very grateful to her for her contribution to the school as a teacher and colleague. We also welcome Miss Watson, our new Teaching Assistant; she will be working in Romero class from January 2023.

CLASS UPDATES:-

ASSISI:

In Assisi Class this term, we have enjoyed exploring and learning about the traditional tales of The Gingerbread Man, The Three Little Pigs and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. We have worked hard on using the sounds we are learning to write about these stories. In Science, we have explored our senses through different experiments and talked about which body parts they belong to. In Maths, we have learnt about 2D and 3D shapes, addition and subtraction within 10 and more and less number stories. We have also enjoyed practicing and performing our Christmas play The Big Little Nativity. Lots more learning to be had next term...



NIGHTINGALE:

This term Nightingale class have been working on a design technology project in which the children designed and then made a Christmas puppet. The children have had to learn new skills that helped join materials together. They worked on treading needles and a simple sewing technique called a running stitch. The children loved designing which character puppet they were going to make and were thrilled when they saw these designs coming to life. The children offered each other constructive criticism and were able to alter designs if needed. This last week the classroom has been a busy place to be with puppets being finished and the final pieces put together. Great work Nightingales.



ROMERO:

This term, Romero class enjoyed learning about Judaism. As well as learning from Deborah, our Jewish visitor to school, we were also lucky to visit Plymouth Synagogue in the centre of Plymouth.



THUNBERG:

It has been another busy term in Thunberg class and we all can't believe it's December already!

We've been especially busy learning about King Henry VIII and his conquest to remove all traces of Catholicism during his reign; we've been building on our geographical knowledge of human and physical geography as we've explored different parts of the European continent of Eurasia; and developed our scientific knowledge of rocks and living things, as we've explored the three types of rock (igneous, metamorphic, sedimentary) and how we can classify living organisms using a dichotomy (die-cot-oh-me) diagram like the famous botanist Carl Linnaeus.



A special well done to Rhys 'The Rock Hero' Thunberger, whom became our second 'Rock Hero' on Times Tables Rock Stars this year. What an achievement!

ORMROD:

Ormrod's focus for Autumn Term 1 was Victorians. We specifically focussed on the lives of Victorian children, allowing us to empathise with their experiences and the contrasts between our lives and theirs.

Our topic for Autumn Term 2 has been Earthquakes. We have been learning about the movement of the Earth's tectonic plates, what exactly causes earthquakes, and the devastating effects of natural disasters.

The children have engaged in some excellent learning across the curriculum and their efforts have been very much appreciated.



KS1 NATIVITY

Our Christmas Nativities are always special but this year's was particularly so. The children performed brilliantly and were a joy to watch. Thank you to the staff for all of the preparation and to the children for their talents!



ADVENT COLLECTION

A big thank you for the donation of food for our Christmas Advent appeal, these items will be distributed in the local community by the Parish. We are very grateful for your support; our contributions will make a difference to those in need.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST PETER'S & ST THOMAS MORE

Christmas Eve:

St Peter's 6.00 pm (carols at 5.30 pm)
St Thomas More 6.00 pm
St Peter's Midnight Mass (carols at 11.30 pm)

Christmas Day:

St. Peter's 9.00 am & 10.30 am

Boxing Day:

St. Peter's 11.00 am

Open Presbytery

Thursday 29th December

St Peter's 11.00 am—1.00 pm Everyone welcome, refreshments included.



PARENT / CARER ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Advice and support is available from our SENDCO and PSA. If you would like to arrange a meeting with Ms Caldwell, our SENDCO, please email alisoncaldwell@st-petersrc.plymouth.sch.uk or call the school office. Ms Caldwell is in school each Tuesday.

Miss Cork our Parent Support Advisor is 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 2023

Tuesday 3 rd January	Staff Professional Development Day
Wednesday 4 th January	School re-opens
13 th February – 17 th February	Half Term Holiday
Monday 20 th February	School re-opens
Friday 31 st March	End of spring term
3 rd April – 14 th April	Easter Holiday

SUMMER TERM 2023

Monday 17 th April	Staff Professional Development Day
Tuesday 18 th April	School re-opens
Monday 1 st May	School closed – Bank Holiday
29 th May – 2 nd June	Half Term Holiday
Monday 5 th June	Staff Professional Development Day
Tuesday 6 th June	School re-opens
Tuesday 25 th July	End of School Year