Dear Parents, Pupils, Staff and Guest Readers

Welcome to this new issue of our annual publication Key Moments. Ours is a busy, forward thinking and vibrant school and it would seem that the many moments which are ‘golden’ are over quickly, with others soon following in turn. Here then is an opportunity for pupils, parents and staff of St Peter’s School and Sunnylands Nursery to savour more slowly some of the Key Moments of the last twelve months, before we set about building more special memories together in the year to come.

Yours sincerely

Maria Chapman MA(Ed)
Headmistress

School Choir

St Peter’s School Choir continues to go from strength, having a membership of well over thirty for this current academic year. We rehearse on Friday lunchtimes and are very fortunate to have Mrs Lee as an accompanist which has meant that Mrs Cruickshank can devote herself solely to conducting the Choir. This has enabled us to reach new heights as demonstrated at the Kettering and District Eisteddfod, where we gained a distinction in each of the competitions we entered. Earlier in the year, Mrs Cruickshank attended an inspirational course for choral leaders. She has been able to use the skills she learned to create a depth of tone and presence from St Peter’s School Choir which is remarkable in children who are so young.

The first performance of the academic year was given at the Carol Service. We have since learned many new songs, some of which we look forward to debuting at the forthcoming Summer Concert 2015 and at the Founders Day celebrations at the end of the academic year.

World Book Day

The camera does not lie. Fun was had by all and a love of reading was celebrated in style!
Sunnylands Nursery took delivery of some lovely new furniture towards the end of the Trinity Term. New beech wood tables and chairs with some matching storage units have given the Activity Room a warm, friendly atmosphere, whilst the Creative Room has been furnished with new, bright, and easy to clean equipment.

Our links with Kettering Library Children’s department have enabled us to display creative work based on literary themes during the year. It has very pleasing to hear library users comment upon the colourful displays and the talents of our youngest artists!

Friendship, fun, numbers and sounds, making and doing are just some of the elements of life in Sunnylands Nursery. Children enjoy finding out about each other and learning how to get along. They also find out that phonics is fun and we have many children able to blend letter sounds in preparation for reading. Mark making is encouraged, pencil grip is explored and early writing skills are supported.

More work is on display in Sunnylands Nursery. Come and see how enriching the curriculum is to our youngsters. Communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development may be the language of Early Years educators-these are also the bases upon which a wealth of learning fun is made available to pupils from the term in which they become three year old.

Oh to be three again!

Reception

September bought with it a Reception Classroom brimming with new resources, including a new wooden bookcase, a colourful rug, new drawers for the children and a fabulous interactive whiteboard! A lovely group of children, with four who were new to St Peter’s School, quickly settled into Reception routines and have since proved themselves to be kind, hard-working and creative individuals.

In our Literacy lessons we have spent time developing excellent blending skills using our exciting new reading scheme. With the help of our puppet friend ‘Fred the Frog’, the children are becoming robust readers and willing writers, learning how to use and interpret punctuation. The children have learned ‘punctuation mimes’, which they are keen to demonstrate on request!

Since September the children have grown up such a lot and it has been lovely to see them becoming increasingly aware of the needs of others and developing a growing interest and awareness of the world around them. We have had a lot of fun learning about how different people celebrate festivals and events throughout Britain and the rest of the world, including St Andrew’s Day, Diwali, Chinese New Year and Mothering Sunday.

The children made fabulous Chinese dragon puppets which they danced with around the classroom to traditional Chinese instrumental music.

They also enjoyed making paper roses with heart shaped tags for their families on Valentines’ Day.
Reception Class pupils have also enjoyed learning about how they can become good citizens; we thought about how to play fairly, how to help our parents at home and how to be responsible team players in the classroom. We talked about how to stay safe and healthy, and the children have been demonstrating excellent hand washing techniques in preparation for Mr Fountain’s delicious lunches! When reading one of the children’s favourite books ‘The Smartest Giant in Town’ we discussed how we can support charities such as The Salvation Army by donating clothes using a collection bag.

Well done on such a super start to life at St Peter’s School, Reception Class. We are very proud of you!

Year One

Trinity Term saw last year’s 1KS presenting their class assembly, all about keeping healthy. The children sang a song, reciting a poem and a rap about keeping fit and maintaining good hygiene. As part of the assembly pupils displayed some imaginative art work using the idea of germs! The lively assembly also featured a gymnastics display.

September saw a new Year One class excitedly climbing the stairs to their classroom. They soon settled into their new routines which included a weekly School Assembly - how grown up they felt! Science has been a favourite with this class and they particularly enjoyed making models of wind machines as a homework project. Looking at the finished models and listening to the children describing how they were made, Mrs Shakeshaft thinks that perhaps the parents had as much fun as the children with this particular homework! Great excitement followed when we took the models out on a windy afternoon.

The class have been learning valuable life skills such as cooperation, negotiation and sharing as they have designed and built models of playground equipment together. They have worked in pairs during maths lessons to collect data and construct a pictogram. In Science they conducted an experiment in two groups to discover which material was best suited to repair an umbrella.

Mrs Shakeshaft has been delighted to watch the confidence of the children grow as they have become much more independent in completing their work. They are developing fluency and understanding in their reading and are beginning to use their mathematical knowledge to solve problems too. A great favourite has been the games we have played on the interactive whiteboard to reinforce mathematical knowledge. In computing this year the children all produced a poster advertising the need for a new farmer. They worked on the laptops in the classroom, using the paint program to complete this colourful work. Earlier in the term the children made a card to celebrate a special occasion. As part of this project they looked on the internet for a suitable image to paste onto their card. An exciting end to Lent Term came as some of the children took part in the Kettering Eisteddfod for the first time. Year One pupils are looking forward to the Trinity Term, with lots more fun, learning and special events too.
**Year Two**

During the Trinity Term the children packed their bags and their passports and took a journey around the world. Over several weeks we visited a variety of countries from the five continents. The children were eager to learn some of the customs, a little bit of language and the famous landmarks associated with each different country. They particularly enjoyed Brazil, finding out about the different layers of the rainforest, which they presented in the form of a poem in our Class Assembly which took place that term.

With Michaelmas Term, a new academic year and a new set of pupils in Year Two, our Numeracy lessons started to get very competitive, with children battling in pairs against each other to see who could answer mental maths questions the fastest, each winning pair of the pair remaining standing to compete against the next person in the circle. This fun game encouraged children to learn many facts such as doubles, number bonds and near doubles quickly, in an attempt to beat their partner and stay in the game and try be the overall winner. Pupils love competition!

As part of the History curriculum during Lent Term, 2MW have been “time travelling” in an attempt to find out about a variety of famous people from the past and the present. We travelled back to 1820 to hear about the achievements of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. This class is truly blessed with beautiful singing voices and thoroughly enjoyed learning about Florence and her life through the use of music and song too. Our other journeys through time took us to meet a composer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, a queen: Elizabeth I and scientist and inventor, Leonardo da Vinci. The children have been fascinated by their artistry, intelligence, creativity, bravery, perseverance, selflessness and determination to succeed against prejudice. They are an inspiration to us all.

In our Lent Term PE lessons the children had great time country dancing. After our fun but exhausting weeks of work on this topic, the class was able to perform a circle dance. They had mastered different dance steps such as “promenade” and a “two hand turn” as well as counting beats in their head. In the last lesson the class was divided into two groups and they took it in turns to perform and evaluate each other’s performance. We think that within this class there are some ‘Strictly Come Dancing’ judges and dancers in the making!

**Year Two Science**

**Year Three**

Year Three settled very quickly into Key Stage Two, showing their enthusiasm and talents within the first month of the academic year when they presented the delightful cantata about ‘The Little Red Hen’ at St Peter’s School’s Harvest Festival. Their performance
included solo singing and acting. A range of props were made by them and used within the performance. The enthusiasm of that very first project has continued throughout the year with super effort being made in all areas of the curriculum. As Michaelmas Term drew to a close the artistic talents of the class came to the fore with everyone making a Christmas cushion, using a sewing machine for the first time.

Mrs Cruickshank has been particularly delighted with the science homework projects produced by the children. During Michaelmas Term we created a group of elastic band guitars and an imaginative selection of shadow puppets was made. Lent Term’s highlight was a fantastic array of research conducted by the class about volcanoes and erosion. The children even invented a board game in the style of snakes and ladder to help revise the science topic of ‘Rocks and Soils’. In History lessons we have learned about the Prehistoric Britain, the Anglo Saxons and the Romans and used our IT skills to make booklets about Boudicca, researching about all the amazing advances the Romans left for us, as well as designing and making Roman mosaic tiles and shields using Papier-mâché.

This year’s Year Four class assembly moved away from history and instead focussed upon a literacy stimulus: “The Bogey Men and the Trolls Next Door” a story in the form of narrative verse by Kaye Umansky. The text came directly from a unit in the class’s new Literacy Scheme, which even included advice, in the form of a short video presentation, on how to prepare themselves for a performance. The children began their assembly by completing the warm up exercises which they had been shown and proceeded to give a very entertaining and confident performance to the rest of the school and their families.

Year Four have been very receptive to our new Literacy scheme which gives focus on acquiring Literacy skills through exploration and discussion of content and meaning. The children have worked with different partners in a variety of different genres to produce some impressive verbal and written work.
Year 5

We like to keep very busy in Year Five! The History curriculum seems to be a great favourite in this class, year after year. A visit from Fraser Cruikshank helped bring our Victorians topic alive. He brought along some fabulous, fully working models of steam engines and explained how they were invented, how the Industrial Revolution changed the world and the way in which occupations of everyday people also were transformed.

We continued our Victorian studies in our class assembly, performing a play depicting life and work for children living at this time. In a ‘Horrible Histories’ type style, we learnt about chimney sweeps, mineworkers, housemaids and the horrors of Victorian weaving machinery. ‘Health and Safety’ was certainly not on the agenda at that time! Lent Term concluded with an enjoyable Easter cooking session with Mr Fountain, Miss Kibble and Mrs Perry.

We practised our measuring skills, both in preparing ingredients and creating bunny shaped presentation boxes for our biscuits.

We look forward to our final term in Year Five before becoming the senior class of St Peter’s School.

Year Six

In this final stretch of their time at St Peter’s School, Year Six is both a time for pupils to reflect and to look forward to the next exciting chapter of their lives.

Before moving on to the current Year Six class it is worth noting that the previous class enjoyed a very exciting Trinity Term. They were invited by the outgoing Mayor of Kettering to visit her in the Mayoral Parlour! The class was treated to a very informative presentation by Madam Mayor, dressed in her full regalia.

The Residential Trip that followed SATs in May was a new experience for the previous Year Six as well as the current class, who were then Year Five! It took place in an ‘area of outstanding beauty’ in the Shugborough Estate. Activities such as The Crystal Maze, the Nail Trail, a forest scavenger hunt, a circus tricks session, bridge building, a long walk over Cannock Chase, geocaching activities using a map and GPS, canoeing and kayaking all served to provide pupils with some incredible opportunities. During one evening, children
were shown how to build and light a fire over which marshmallows were later roasted and around which songs were sung. They had an amazing time! All pupils chose to take on all the activity challenges and a huge amount of personal growth was made. New friendships were formed, confidence was built, independence was gained and organisational skills were further developed. The experience of living in a yurt went down very well with pupils, as did the very delicious food! The weather behaved for most of the trip but even a spectacular storm provided excitement of the right sort.

This current Year Six class stands out as a group of children who not only have a love of learning but also value and pursue excellence in everything they do! In February it was wellies on and a jolly tramp through fields to the banks of the River Ise when Year Six visited the Newton Field Centre. The children had the opportunity to inspect samples of pond water they collected. Mrs Eyles reports that it was great to see their excited expressions as they used microscopes to identify and then classify various pond creatures.

A special occasion calls for a signature bake and Year Six proudly obliged when, with the help of Mr Fountain, they provided cakes for a very special birthday celebration at the end of Lent Term. Mrs Chapman was suitably overwhelmed with the gesture!

We are confident that this well rounded Year Six group possess the skills to take their place with confidence in their chosen secondary schools, and we hope that they will carry of piece of St Peter’s within their hearts as they journey through life.

**CLUBS**

**Stories and Poems Club KS1**

This club was offered during Michaelmas Term and was a popular new addition to the various club choices available that term. A favourite session with all the children was performing a drama of the popular tale of the Three Billy Goats Gruff, when some of the trolls were so scary that the story took an unexpected turn with all of the goats running away! We looked together at the popular Owl and Pussycat poem and this led to some interesting art work. The children were very proud to have their own spot in the Christmas Concert when they recited the poem “What Christmas Means”.

**All Things Magical Club**

During Trinity Term children from Reception Class had great fun exploring the world of magic! They began by watching a clip of Harry Potter choosing his wand in the film ‘The Philosopher’s Stone’, and, inspired by this, searched the grounds for a ‘wand-like’ stick to decorate with paint and sequins. In another session we wrote secret magical word messages, including ‘wizard’, using white wax crayons on white paper, which the children had fun

On the sports, music and drama front, Year Six has eagerly taken on the role as seniors of the school and they have led by example in Sports Days, the ‘Pied Piper’ production, Kettering Eisteddfod and school assemblies.
revealing by applying a paint wash. The children also made dolly peg fairies and pine cone elves, and were excited to make dens for their magical figures under the trees on the lawn.

**Football Club**

Mr Holmes has been very encouraged by the turnout for both KS1 and KS2 football clubs this year. The children from Year One and Year Two continued to demonstrate an infectious enthusiasm in Michaelmas Term and Lent Term, gaining skill and experience of moving a football around the tennis courts with only their feet, and getting used to the challenge of not using hands! The joy and excitement the children show when they get to kick the ball into the net gives anyone watching a great lift at the end of a busy school day! There has been a mixture of boys and girls attending the club. Mr Holmes is looking forward to their continued participation through the coming years.

The Key Stage Two Football Club has been attended by a wide range of children, not just members of the football squad, and they are given as much opportunity as possible to get as many touches of the ball during the sessions. Mr Holmes encourages them to get as much practice as possible if they want to improve their skills and concentrates on small sided games at the end of each session. These can generally be very competitive sessions!

**KS1 Science Club**

The Michaelmas Term saw the return of Science Club. Children investigated bridges and forces. They worked in pairs and individually to see who could make the strongest bridge out of spaghetti and marshmallows! The winning bridge was judged to be the one which could have the most pennies hanging in the envelope from the middle of the bridge. This investigation led to lots of discussion, sharing ideas, co-operating with others and thinking ‘out of the box’. Other sessions included making rocket balloons - an exploding rockets session using bicarbonate soda and empty yoghurt drink containers. Great fun was had by all!

**Tag-Rugby Club**

Once again we have had a representative from Northampton Saints leading our Tag-rugby club on Thursday afternoons after school. The children have already had grounding in the rules and practised their skills during Games lessons since Christmas. Those attending the club are exposed to a specialist in the game, which is an opportunity worth taking. The children continue to show their great enjoyment of the sessions.

**KS1 Games & Puzzles Club**

Over the weeks that this group met, a lot of different activities were covered. We deciphered paper puzzles, made our own puzzles and played card and board games. A particular favourite game was a Bonfire Night version of Pass the Parcel, which ended by putting together firework photo puzzles. Great fun was had by all!

**Cricket Club**

The representatives from Loddington Cricket Club once again led our after school Cricket club last Trinity Term and will do so this year too. With the warmer weather and lighter nights, this club is always very popular with the
children and it is a great spectacle to see so many children working with such great enthusiasm at each session.

Craft Club

Over the year, pupils have certainly had the opportunity to let their artistic juices flow. During Lent Term they have made their own doorstops in the shape of animals, robots, rockets and cupcakes. Club members have developed their pattern cutting skills and had to ensure that they chose suitable fabrics for their work. Dried peas were used in order to give weight to the doorstops. Buttons and trimmings were used to create features with super results.

Gardening Club

Thank you to all who collected Morrisons vouchers for Gardening Club. As a result, our little horticulturists in Gardening Club are all set for a planting spree during Trinity Term with seeds recently purchased. Mrs Tye has helped the children plant several polyanthus plants around the School. Pots of daffodils were placed outside the School Office just in time for Ms Hurst’s birthday! A range of vegetable seeds have also recently been sown by the children, who are very excited at the anticipation of the harvest to come.

KS1 Outdoor Games Club

Key Stage One pupils were able to make the most of the Autumnal sunshine during their Outdoor Games Club in Michaelmas Term. Mrs Ward was very impressed by the children’s enthusiasm and stamina during warm up games such as Traffic Lights and Stuck in the Mud. Several laps of the tennis courts were run very easily by our young athletes! The children also practised their ball skills in skittles, cricket and ‘piggy in the middle’. Skipping and wiggling those hips to keep the hula hoops spinning was lots of fun too!

Guitar Club

Guitar Club is now in its second year. The majority of children who started playing last year decided to continue playing during this academic year. Nine children meet on Thursday lunchtime and we are proud to say we have progressed to the second tutor book! The guitarists are able to play tunes and also strum chords. A special mention should be made of Naomi Cragg, Ruby Allan and Ashleigh Meadows who took part in the Kettering and District Eisteddfod, playing as a guitar trio. They showed their skills admirably and Mrs Cruickshank is hoping that we will have a guitar accompaniment to some of our assembly songs during Trinity Term!

Board Games

In this modern world of online and computer games there is still a place for some more traditional pastimes as proved by the excitement and enjoyment demonstrated by the children attending this club. We have purchased some new games which they have enjoyed very much. Even the most basic skill of waiting to take your turn is a life skill which is important to learn and which sole playing on hand held gadgets at home does not offer.

Art Club

VISITS & TRIPS

Geography Visits by Year Four

Year Four’s first educational visit of the year was a mix of old and new this year. The children were able to visit the landfill site at Sidegate Lane as in previous years but following this they travelled back to Kettering’s own new educational facility, at Kettering Recycling Centre, making the visit more relevant to the children because of locality. They were able to see the numerous ways in which recycling can be achieved and they gained an overall picture of just where all our household waste ends up. The highlight was probably the hawk that they were
able to see at close quarters at the landfill site, learning about its training and use.

Off-site Geography Year Four, with a visit to the village of Gretton to see for themselves just how close old village the new, modern Rockingham Motor Circuit has been built. Before visiting the racetrack, Mr Holmes and the class visited the local war memorial, as was appropriate for the importance of the day: Armistice Day. The pupils were able to relate all the work covered in school about Remembrance Day to the memorial there.

They then moved onto the racetrack itself, where the children also participated in a moment of silence for Remembrance Day. They were given a very comprehensive tour of the facility by the chief press office who was a mine of information about the building of the racetrack and the interaction it has with the local community.

**Christmas Theatre Trip for KS1 & Reception**

At the conclusion of Michaelmas Term pupils in Reception, Year One and Year Two were rewarded for all their hard work with a trip to see the play ‘Dear Santa’ by Rod Campbell at The Core, Corby. Thank you to parents for making this possible for pupils. The children were delighted to help Santa and his cheeky Elf try to decide which gift to give to a very special and thoughtful girl called Sarah. They were encouraged to participate in the story-telling and singing, and to catch inflatable balls thrown into the audience. Our very own Jude Drury was chosen to go up onto the stage to play the hand bell! We all had a fantastic time!

**Key Stage Two Christmas Theatre Trip**

The Christmas Theatre trips were greatly enjoyed by Key Stage Two pupils at the end of Michaelmas Term. Thank you to parents for making this possible for pupils. A school trip out is a vital and valued part of school life, which pupils remember for years to come. Key Stage Two saw a performance of Merlin at the Royal Theatre in Northampton. The play was impressively produced, with innovative staging, well-handled battle scenes and an interesting amalgamation of traditional legends and modern elements. Boys and girls - teachers have all commented on your exemplary behaviour during these trips. Well done!

**Key Stage One Visit to Stanwick Lakes**

It was a sunny and warm June day when Key Stage One visited Stanwick Lakes for their Summer outing. The theme of the day, which was led by the resident rangers, was Amazing Outdoor Art. There was excited discussion as the children discussed different types of art and they were astonished to discover that art can be permanent or temporary! A number of photographs that had been taken at different times of the year around the site were looked at and the children had great fun trying to decide where they were taken and which way up they were meant to be; reflections can be very deceiving!

A walk around the lake was made more enjoyable as the children gathered materials such as leaves and flowers in preparation for a group challenge to make a giant collage. Finally the collage was broken up and reused as each child made their very own Indian story stick to take home as a memento of a highly enjoyable and educational day out.
Citizenship in Action: Year 6 visit the Mayor’s Parlour

Following the visit from the Mayor to a school assembly, Year Six were eager to know more about what duties a mayor performs, how they are elected and what powers they have. The outgoing Mayor of Kettering invited our class to visit her in the Mayoral Parlour, to learn more about the history of Kettering, its twinned German town, Lahnstein and the American twin town called Kettering in Ohio. Our pupils were shown into the parlour where the mayor awaited, dressed in her full regalia, wearing the real mayoral chain! Year Six were treated to a very informative presentation – they learnt about the symbols on Kettering’s coat of arms, about the various gifts that have been exchanged between the towns and the reasons for twinning towns and cities after the war. The whole election process and various mayoral duties were also explained. Pupils were surprised to learn that the mayor also has a usual ‘job’ besides her role as mayor. They were given the opportunity to feel the weight of the chain. A highlight was undoubtedly having the opportunity to hold one of the actual volley balls that were used in the last Olympic Games! Did you know that Kettering is the National home of volley ball?

MUSIC & DRAMA

Nursery & Reception Christmas Concert

The children of Sunnylands Nursery and Reception Class delighted audiences at Christmas time with their performance of ‘Humph the Camel’, which told the story of the Nativity through the eyes of a rather grumpy camel. Austin van de Water bravely took on the challenge of narrating the play, and all pupils thoroughly enjoyed learning the words and dances for a range of songs, particularly ‘Fat Hump’ which saw the children bobbing up and down in time to the beat. Tom Styles brought the comical character of ‘Humph’ to life, demonstrating his talent for singing when he, Austin van de Water and Sidar Altunkaynak sang ‘Away in a Manger’ beautifully as a trio. It came to a happy ending when Humph, who had previously been disinterested in the world around him, was filled with joy upon gazing at the face of baby Jesus.

Celebrating Christmas with 1KS & 2SW

A highlight of the year for children and adults alike is always the joy and innocence of our Christmas Concert. This year the children performed with great aplomb and astonished the audience with their ability to memorise so many words! As part of the concert we heard musical pieces with ocarinas, as well as tuned and un-tuned percussion, displaying the talent of all our young performers. We were treated to various group speaking pieces and numerous songs describing the many facets of the season, such as the excitement of the snow in winter, the expectation of a visit from Santa and the birth of Jesus. The children reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas and created a truly wonderful start to the celebration of Christmas.

Key Stage Two Summer Concert

Our Summer Concert was held once again in the London United Reformed Church in Kettering, giving the pupils the experience of performing in a bigger venue. We were treated to selections of music performed by each pupil in Key Stage Two, taking part in class performances and also in a Key Stage rendition of a cantata based on the Edward Lear poem ‘The Owl and the Pussycat’. There were some exceptional moments within the concert. Casey Lim’s performance of a Chopin Nocturne is particularly memorable and brought a huge round of applause. At St Peter’s School every child can read music and play a musical instrument by the time they are in Year Six. This is certainly a rarity. Our Summer Concert is a spectacular showcase for the skills and talents of each of our pupils.
The Pied Piper was top quality in every sense. Acting was excellent, comic timing was perfect - particularly from children so young, and as ever, the singing was astonishing. This was an unforgettable production and we are hopeful that those children involved will always remember what they did with a sense of great pride. Well done Production Club and thank you to everyone who helped make this show the success it was!
**The Pied Piper**

At one point during the current academic year we thought we had a major vermin problem at St Peter’s School, but perhaps the excitement of the School production was just getting to us all a little bit too much! There were rats everywhere! A rat curtain created by art work from children in all year groups, some excellent clay modelled rats and an engaging wall display about the poem written by Robert Browning were just some of the ways in which our School production of The Pied Piper of Hamelin inspired work in other curriculum areas.

Words can never accurately convey the magic that is created by a live performance. The dress rehearsal we give to the pupils in Sunnylands Nursery, Reception Class and Key Stage One is always a special moment, when the hard work is first shared with fellow pupils. Seeing the excited and eager eyes of our young audience is thrilling.

The two evening performances were a sell-out which was just as well because the performances witnessed on those nights were exceptional. It is easy to forget that we are a little independent primary school when the standard of the productions given by the pupils and staff at the School is considered.

**BBC ’Ten Pieces’**

In October the BBC launched an initiative to encourage the enjoyment of classical music, using ten pieces of different genres and periods in musical history to stimulate youngsters’ interest in music. Naturally we were eager to be involved, so it was organised for Key Stage Two pupils to see the launch of the Ten Pieces film at The Odeon cinema. The excellent sound system and the huge screen presented the experience on a spectacular scale! Celebrities from CBBC introduced each musical excerpt and the music was brought alive by the fantastic animations. We have used the ideas from this initiative to play arrangements of pieces such as ‘Mars’ from Holt’s ‘The Planets’ and we have composed our own music in the style of some of the pieces we have heard.

We will be downloading our compositions onto the BBC website in Trinity Term, so log on soon to hear our masterpieces!

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**Kettering & District Eisteddfod**

Well done to our entrants this year. Thank you for representing your School, putting in so much hard work to prepare for competitions. Each and every pupil achieved a personal best by getting up on stage in a very formal yet friendly setting, showing the courage to present their music or poetry to an audience.

**Speech & Drama Competition Results**

In Verse Speaking 7 & Under, a big ‘well done’ goes to Varnikaa Sengar and Fred McCrone, and also to Agastya Ghosh, who was placed 3rd. We congratulate Jerome Birch, Hamza Nauman, Chloe Potts, Isabel Dobbs, Calypso Sellekaerts, Simone Sieunarine and also Dalitso Mlia who was placed 3rd in Verse Speaking 6 & Under.

Well done to Anna Lomas and to Casey Lim who was awarded 3rd place in the first competition of Verse Speaking 10 & Under. In the second Verse Speaking 10 & Under competition Orla Drury was commended and Esha Nath was placed 3rd. A commended certificate was awarded to Emily Laskey in the 10 Years & Under Reading at Sight competition. Emily decided to take on some additional classes too! In the second Verse Speaking 7 & Under competition well done to Bella Sieunarine, and also to James McDonald for being awarded 2nd place, with Naisha Pandey winning the competition and reciting her poem so brilliantly at the Eisteddfod Prize Winners Concert on Saturday! In Verse Speaking 9 & Under we applaud Zana Paynter, Ruby Allen and Nicola Heekin, all of whom received commended certificates. In Verse Speaking 8 & Under congratulations to Ava Brammer, Thomas Holford, Grace Irwin, Daisy Styles, Gerda Mhunduru, and also to Ali Altunkaynak who was placed 3rd and Aneesa Wickremasinghe, who came 2nd. There was a new separate competition for much younger competitors: Verse Speaking 5 & Under entered by Victor Knight, Oscar Potts and Aryan Nath, who was very proud to be placed 3rd! My thanks to class teachers for hearing children and to parents who, in requesting the School to enter children, undertake the bulk of the work required in preparation; regular practice at home.

Thank you to so many loyal parents for their support at the Group Speaking competitions on Thursday and for their encouraging comments to pupils and staff. We were placed 2nd in the Group Speaking 8 & Under and 3rd in the Group Speaking 11 & Under. Well done to all the pupils and also to their very proud teachers, Mrs Van Rensburg and Mr Holmes, who both worked hard (in between everything else they do!) to get their groups ready.
Instrumental & Vocal Results

St Peter’s School Choir achieved high scores of 87 in each of their competitions, all of which were awarded first place.

A whole series of piano competitions opened this section of the Eisteddfod. Well done to Naisha Pandey, Bella Sieunarine and Varnikaa Sengar for taking part in the first Piano Solo 7 & Under, and to Ava Brammer for being part of the Piano Solo 8 & Under competition. Grace Hillis won the second Piano Solo 7 & Under with a very high 87 marks. Reeve and Casey Lim were 2nd in the Piano Duet 11 & Under. Ruby Allan was runner up in the Piano Solo 9 & Under and Nicole Mukhtar made a super effort in the 108 & Under Piano Solo. It was a family affair once more in the Piano Solo 11 & Under with Reeve in 3rd place and big sister Casey as runner up. Casey also came 2nd in the Piano Solo 12 & Under and won the 14 & Under competition, with Reeve as runner up. Showing great courage in tackling competitions for older age ranges, Reeve was 3rd and Casey 2nd in the 16 & Under Piano Solo and to complete this feat, Casey was runner up in the 18 & Under competition!

Well done to our budding Key Stage One ocarina player, all who only started playing the instrument in September! Congratulations to Tabitha Fray, Calypso Sellekaerts, Barnabas Toth, Hamza Nauman and Simon Sieunarine. Sanjita Kurapati and Jerome Birch were placed joint 3rd, Grace Hillis was 2nd and Harriet Dunn won the competition. Made up of all our soloists and Sophie Buckenham, the Key Stage One ocarina group received a commended certificate, as did the Key Stage Two group. Our Key Stage Two ocarina players were Agastya Ghosh, Varnikaa Sengar, Finley Ward, Aneesa Wickremasinghe, James Macdonald and Thomas Holford. Well done to them all, and also to Samuel Buckenham in 3rd place, Naisha Pandey in 2nd place and Bella Sieunarine who won the competition with an impressive 86 marks. 

Well done to Tabitha Fray for entering her first ever violin competition and to Grace Hillis for winning the Violin Solo Under 8 class. Reeve Lim won the Under 10 Violin competition and Casey came 2nd in the Under 11. In recorder competitions, Sam Buckenham won the Solo 8 & Under and in the Solo 9 & Under, Alice Champion was 3rd. Well done also to Zana Paynter and Reeve Lim, who came 2nd. Naomi Cragg and Zana were joint 3rd in the Instrumental Ensemble class with Ruby Allan, Naomi Cragg & Ashleigh Meadows. In Recorder Solo 10 & Under, Esha Nath was 3rd and Casey Lim was runner-up. Reeve Lim was runner up in the String Solo 12 & Under, Casey was first in string solo 14 & Under, then in Open String solo, Reeve was runner-up and Casey was awarded 1st place.

In the 8 & Under solo vocal competition, well done to Gerda Mhunduru and also to runner up Bella Sieunarine and winner Daisy Styles. In Vocal Solo 9-10 years, congratulations to Montague MacPhee, Nicola Heekin, Anna Lomas, Thao Mi Nguyen and also to Teddy Hatlem (3rd), Casey Lim (2nd) and winner Nicole Mukhtar. In group singing, We had fantastic parent support on the day, which always encourages our pupils to give that little bit more.

EVENTS

St Peter's School Conker Championship 2014

Our annual conker championship took place on the last afternoon of our first half term. Excitement was at its usual high level and the children expressed a sensible, fair and supportive attitude throughout the competition. Class finalists were gradually whittled down to an intriguing clash between Year Six champion Casey Lim and the Year Four’s Aneesa Wickremasinghe, with the latter eventually winning, after recourse to a ‘sudden-death’ hit-off.

St Peter’s School Carol Service

Michaelmas Term concluded with the annual St Peter’s School Carol Service held at St Peter and St Paul Parish Church. The service opened with the School Choir processing in, singing a medieval carol. The Christmas Story was told through verses from the Book of Isaiah and Luke, read beautifully by children from each year group in the school, enhanced by songs and carols from each class too. The service concluded with a rousing carol
'Let the Bells Ring' which set the scene for a joyous conclusion to a very busy term.

**Encouraging E-safety**

Safer Internet Day took place in February, providing us with an opportunity to remind pupils about ‘safe surfing’ and the correct protocol when engaging in social media.

Internet safety is not just about protecting our children from those who use the internet to gain inappropriate contact with them. It is also about ensuring that when children communicate between each other digitally, they are aware of what is acceptable and ‘friendly’ communication and what can cause another child to feel worried or anxious. Inadvertent cyber-bullying can take place if children are not made aware of the ‘do’s and don’ts’ of what to text or post online.

We will continue to guide children at school. It is at home where some children have more access to text messaging on mobile phones or tablets (either their own or those belonging to older siblings) and where laptops (with built in webcams) are sometimes kept in children’s play or sleep areas. The digital age offers us so many exciting benefits to learning! There are associated risks too of which we should all be aware.

**“Dance ‘til your nose goes red!”**

With so many pupils involved in Kettering Eisteddfod on March 13th, a decision was taken to delay our involvement in Comic Relief for one week. There was no way we were going to miss out on the fun and the fundraising! We held our own disco; the challenge was to throw such a range of shapes across the dance floor in an effort to “Dance ‘til you nose goes red!” Of course, this desired state could also be achieved by the wearing of a range of Comic Relief apparel including of course, a red nose! The children donated in order to attend our event and we were pleased to send off over £100 to Comic Relief. Pupils sang, danced and posed with excellent style! What a great time all the children had. And some teachers with a propensity for fancy dress were once again able to satisfy this inclination.....Mr Holmes!

**French Fun**

While one part of the School were at the last Swimming Gala, the younger section was a sea of red, white and blue, as they celebrated a special morning with plenty of different activities. A French food tasting session opened up this event, with Reception pupils and members of Sunnylands Nursery enjoying croissants, baguette, camembert and goats cheese. There then followed a concert in Sunnylands Hall, with each class presenting to each other songs learnt during past lessons. The first part of the morning’s French Fun ended with a Key Stage One dance to the song accompaniment of "sur le pont d’Avignon". The second part of the session saw classes breaking up into four groups, taking part in French shopping board games, Lotto, a quiz about France and interactive French games on the whiteboard.

Key Stage Two French Day took place during Lent Term and launched with a mini concert involving all the children, organised by Maestro Cruickshank, who accompanied the pupils’ performance of the song ‘Lundi Matin’, which also involved piano, recorder, violin, guitar and ocarina sections being played by pupils. The judging of Year Three and Year Four Epiphany crowns brought a first ever ‘everyone’s a winner’ result to the proceedings. Year Three performed a lovely song about parts of the body. Year Four presented a rap about the seasons. Year Five and Year Six sang a traditional French song to the polka tune Gugusse. Accompanying them were two violin players, dancers and singers. Year Six had written a short Epiphany play which they acted out, providing proud moments for themselves and for all the teachers witnessing this very high quality work. Well done Year Six! There then followed a house relay race with a difference… no running, but instead heel to toe walking, with the sole purpose of passing a galette to the receiving house team member. Well done to Grafham on their win!
The afternoon was rounded off with jus d'orange and brioches, splendidly served by Monsieur Fontaine. What a great afternoon! All the children gave their best and a fantastic time was had by all. Madame Vert was particularly pleased with the efforts made by pupils during French Day this year to improve their French accents - the fun helped them relax and just enjoy the language.

Young Artists’ Exhibition at Alfred East Art Gallery

The children of Sunnylands Nursery and St Peter’s School were proud to display a collection of art work entitled ‘Our Wonderful World’ alongside other local schools, colleges and educational groups at the Young Artists’ Exhibition, at Alfred East Art Gallery. The work had been produced in class and in art clubs over the course of the year. There are many keen artists at school and the children enjoyed working on a variety of projects, using an array of materials. Our youngest children enjoyed the opportunity to experiment with colour and texture, creating pictures and models to represent some of the lovely things we see in nature, whilst the eldest thought carefully about the history of ancient art, using their observational skills to recreate and represent it. The children whose work was chosen to be exhibited were delighted to see it in the professional space of the gallery.

St Peter’s School Art Gallery

Following the excitement of having art work displayed in a professional setting, it was decided to replicate this feel more permanently at School. Mrs Haynes has become our very own gallery curator! She set up an invitation for high quality work to be submitted by teachers for framing and display in Sunnylands Hall. The Gallery displays a variety of framed pieces of artwork created by children from Sunnylands Nursery to Year Six and the collection changes throughout the school year. We are very proud of the artistic talent of our pupils.

Fair Play means Fair Trade

To tie in with Fair Trade Fortnight we had a guest speaker at our School Assembly to talk to the children about the benefits of fair trade to the world and its local communities. There was a question and answer session for pupils in Year Five and Year Six followed by a Healthy Eating activity in Sunnylands Nursery, when fruit kebabs were made using fairly traded produce.

Guarding the Safety of our Children: NSPCC Visit

Earlier this year we welcomed Kathryn Brown of the NSPCC who gave two assemblies to our pupils. Firstly she spoke to our younger children in Reception Class, Year One and Year Two encouraging them to feel confident about trusting their feelings about what behaviour from others feels safe and what does not. She also spoke to pupils in Key Stage Two, adjusting the context and language accordingly. Kathryn took the opportunity to tell the children about the work of the NSPCC and invited them to take part in some fundraising activities for the charity. Words just cannot accurately how grateful Kathryn Brown was when she came in to count the donations up two weeks later. Over £800 was raised. That is amazing! The School’s Safeguarding Policy is available for parents to read and can be downloaded from the School website www.st-peters.org.uk

Science All Around

Children love the practical aspects of Science because the understanding of scientific theory is made apparent through such activities. At St Peter’s School, Science lessons throughout the year have had firm foundations upon children’s opportunities to explore and investigate. For instance, circuits have been constructed, conditions for growth in plants have been explored, different forces such as gravity, air resistance and friction have been tested and light and sound waves have been considered. All of these hands-on activities encourage discussion, develop thinking skills and cooperation.
Towards the end of Lent Term pupils in Key Stage One took part in a Science Fun Afternoon which challenged the children to use their senses and also to learn more about forces. Mrs Shakeshaft led children in an investigation to test their sense of smell and identify a variety of aromas. Some of which were more challenging than others. Many of the children discovered that the task became a lot easier if you took a sneaky peak through the gap on top! Meanwhile Mrs McCahill challenged children to design and make a tin foil boat that would hold the most corks before sinking. The winning boat held thirty six corks! The discussion that followed about forces, which design worked best and what could be done differently next time to improve the result, was another example of how eager children are to move forward their grasp of scientific concepts following practical scientific investigations!

Our Science Fun Afternoon concluded with a Scavenger Hunt where the children had great fun exploring the field to find objects to match the given clues. Needless to say, both Mrs McCahill and Mrs Shakeshaft were kept amused by a few of the presentations to match the clues! The afternoon ended in spectacular style with Mrs McCahill launching a series of rockets; some launches were more successful than others and this too gave opportunity for consideration and discussion by our budding young scientists.

National Poetry Day

Our Harvest Festival coincided with National Poetry Day this year, the latter’s theme being ‘Remember?’

Some classes in Key Stage Two chose to look at how poetry can express the different emotions surrounding war, from the perspectives of families and from past and present members of the armed forces. Other classes chose to write poems on a Harvest Theme which were performed at the Harvest Festival.

Children were also invited to bring favourite poetry to class that day. The sharing of favourite literature is an effective way of promoting the enjoyment it holds.

Maths Challenge 2015

Pupils from Year Five and Year Six keenly competed against other school children in Britain as part of the National Maths Challenge. Every entrant received a set of questions that became gradually more and more difficult. The questions were indeed extremely challenging but everyone did brilliantly and certificates were awarded in recognition of final scores achieved during this exciting event, aimed to remind our pupils that having one’s grey matter teased with numerical puzzles and problems is a challenge to be cherished.

St Peter’s School Library Update 2015

Our Year Six librarians Casey and Nicole and an enthusiastic team of Mini Librarians from Year Five have been running our library most efficiently this year. They have made posters to promote newly released books by popular authors and have mastered the new ‘issue and return’ system in order to ensure that records are up to date and the resources are kept in order.

We are currently open on Monday lunchtimes for children to select and return their books and in addition each year-group has its own designated library slot during lesson
time. Mrs Tye and Miss Perkins have done a fabulous job this year, covering and cataloguing the books that we have so gratefully received from the PTAFA.

PTAFA News

St Peter’s School Parents, Teachers and Friends Association runs the social side of school life, whilst raising funds to support other charities and also to fund additional or special equipment for the children to use. The Officers this year are: Chairman – Mrs Rachel Furnell, Vice Chairman – Mr Tom Fray, Treasurer- Mrs Karen Cragg and Secretary- Mrs Philippa Walshaw.

Meetings are held half termly or as necessary, with elections of officers in the Trinity Term and the full AGM during Michaelmas Term. Meetings times and dates are posted on the notice boards, in the bulletin and sent out electronically. All are welcome to come along and join in with meetings. Look out for details of events. Still to come this school year: a Movie Night, Titchmarsh Treasure Trail and Founders’ Day Family Fun.

Hard work pays off with a lovely treat from PTAFA

Pupils were rewarded for a hard term’s work with a very special treat from PTAFA: a Puzzle Challenge session delivered by The Happy Puzzle Company. Pupils’ powers of deduction were teased by a variety of challenges, which required teams to work together and carefully develop strategies in order to find a solution. If the temptation to give up started to appear, our students were encouraged to persevere, put their own skills to better use as part of a team and overcome difficulties by approaching problems from different perspectives. Thank you PTAFA for giving our children the opportunity to have a Puzzle Challenge session!

We Care about Macmillan Cancer Care

Thank you to all those who attended, baked and /or bought cakes in support of our fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer care. Coffee and cakes made £94.20. Emily Laskey and Oliver Laskey also sold conkers to pupils to raise funds for Macmillan. They made £21.90 for the charity! Well done everybody.

St Peter’s School supports Children in Need

This year we had two fundraising events planned. Pupils in Reception through to Year Six joined in a whole school game of Pudsey Drive which was great fun and provided an opportunity to mix our pupils up in age range. The Pudsey Drive saw dice being thrown fast and furiously, but all with an element of fun, in a bid to find out who could get all the numbers required to draw a whole Pudsey.

The opportunity to get dressed up always seems to be welcome by pupils and teachers alike. On a certain Monday in November no one could find the Headmistress, who was mysteriously replaced on morning drop-off by Cat Woman. There was further intrigue when Bat Man turned up to teach Year Four all day. Many pupils also came to school dressed as superheroes and a fabulous £210 was raised in total!

Citizenship & British Values in Action

Our last set of School Councillors had a very special opportunity during their last school term in post, taking part in a question and answer session with the Mayor of Kettering, aimed at finding out more about the role and responsibilities of a mayor. Year Three class councillors Sam Buckenham and Alice Champion found out that Madam Mayor’s favourite engagement so far had been to pay a surprise visit to a couple who were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Year Four councillors Ruby Allan & Montague MacPhee were surprised to find that Madam Mayor had over 250 engagements throughout her year in post. Year Five councillors Alex Bowie and Orla Drury discovered that a mayor is in position for a year. Year Six councillors Amber Wickremasinghe and India Chahil ascertained that Madam Mayor had decided to try and become mayor because she liked the area she lived in and wanted to promote the good things that go on in the community. They also found out that the most important meeting she had attended during the year was the one where levels of council tax were discussed. Madam Mayor also explained to our School Council how mayors are elected and some of the duties they perform. This was a fantastic opportunity for our School Councillors to find out about the formalities of our local council.
Mindfulness Matters

Much is currently being written about mindfulness and its relevance to children. At St Peter’s School, teachers want their students to be calm, focused, alert, aware and creative, which is essentially what ‘mindfulness’ is all about. Research shows that mindfulness can help children improve their abilities to pay attention, to calm down when they are upset and to make better decisions, so mindfulness helps with emotional regulation and cognitive focus. At school we incorporate mindfulness at appropriate points to help children be aware of themselves, what they are feeling and thinking in the present time.

How can parents help their children become more mindful? To teach mindfulness to your children, you need to practice it yourself. Find ways to incorporate mindfulness into your daily activities. Notice your thoughts, feelings, bodily sensations, and anything that is around you and happening ‘in the moment’.

An example of a family mindfulness activity could be a taking a country walk and noticing together things you have not seen before, being completely silent for one minute of the walk so that you become wholly ‘mindful’ of and attentive to all the sounds you can hear. Another idea described in some online articles recently read is that of gratitude practice, when we teach our children to appreciate the abundance in their lives, as opposed to focusing on all the toys and goodies that they crave. A way of teaching this is to invite parents to send in simple low/no sugar recipes for cakes so that they can make up recipe sheets which can be emailed out to parents ahead of the Cake Stall. The date will be set soon and all proceeds from it will go to the School Council’s charity of choice- Diabetes UK.

Our current School Councillors are: Agastya Ghosh (Y3); Daisy Styles & Thomas Holford (Y4); Ashleigh Meadows & Jude Alton (Y5); Esha Nath & Nicole Mukhtar (Y6).

Past, present and future........

Past pupil Patrick Sullivan’s name may be recognisable to some pupils as the young man who visited St Peter’s School a couple of years ago, playing tennis on the new courts, when this new facility’s was official opened. Patrick recently chose to visit St Peter’s School again. As he holds a special regard for the time he spent as a pupil here, he was invited to write an article for Key Moments.

“My name is Patrick Sullivan and I attended St Peter’s from 2006 -2008. Joining the school midway through Year Four, I was very much the new student and I recall having to get used to wearing a tie and eating what felt like a Christmas dinner every lunchtime! What I always remember about those two and a half years is that the warm, friendly welcome was not just an initial welcome; this was indeed a friendly school through and through, one that felt like home. Even now, when I visit the school, years later, I retain this sense of belonging and feel sure that it will never leave me.

My new weekday home is Bishop Stopford School. The transition was a natural one, both in terms of the location and the values. There I have enjoyed the same ‘full-on’ education I had at St P’s. I have been Head Boy for the duration of this final, busy year, when I have not only been working towards Maths, Further Maths, Physics, and English at A-level, but also delivering half-termly assemblies and speeches at other special occasions, organising several initiatives as part of a team of students, and basically being an diplomat between students and staff!

I was fortunate enough to be awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship prior to my two years of A-level study, which led to a sponsorship from the Hertfordshire based company, TTP Group. It was there I spent three weeks last summer on a work placement working on an international client project in the Product Design department, testing specialist polyethylene fibres for a new industrial printer.

I will be studying mechanical engineering at university next year. I have received offers from Bath, Bristol, Imperial College, and Nottingham. Whichever university choose, I want to be sure that I can carry forward the values I have picked up from St Peter’s School and Bishop alike.

While I’m excited about what the future may bring, I often reminisce about my St Peter’s School days and urge pupils there to enjoy and make the most of every opportunity they have.”
Football Matches against Naseby

St Peter's School football team played their first game of the year when we travelled to Naseby for a friendly in early October. We are training up some new players this year and it is a steep learning curve for some of our experienced players. Despite losing, the children gave 100% effort and improved as the game progressed. Our small squad of eager footballers played the return fixture against Naseby after school in November. We had played in only two competitions so far but all the squad are developing their abilities and application at a very good pace. The final score of 8-5 to Naseby was a vast improvement from our first match against them, both in terms of the score and also in the growing confidence demonstrated by all our players.

Tennis Tournament

For the third year running St Peter's School played host to the Kettering School Sport Partnerships Tennis Festival in June. In the morning eight boys and girls from Key Stage One took part in a tennis multi skills event consisting of ten round-robin stations. Excellent skills were displayed by our young team. We are very proud of them! In the afternoon sixteen teams, consisting of Year Three and Year Four players took part in a 'mini red tennis' tournament. Eight St Peter's players were divided into two teams. After the initial playoffs, both teams came in the top two of their groups and qualified to play in the quarter finals. Our Blue team won in the quarter finals and went on to play in the semi-finals, where they won two and lost two matches. A super third place was awarded overall for our team on the day! A special mention is made of Zana Paynter and Daisy Styles who did not lose a single match!

Independent Schools Association Midlands U11 Tag-rugby tournament

On Monday 23rd March the St Peter's Under 11 Tag-rugby squad travelled to Princethorpe College in Warwickshire to take part in a day of Tag-rugby, attended by nine other schools. We played a total of five games achieving one victory, one draw and three very close defeats. All of our squad played their part during the tournament and everybody managed to score at least one try. A tremendous effort from all involved created a host of proud moments for pupils, teachers and parents alike.

Independent Schools Association U11 football 5-a-side

St Peter's School football squad travelled to Birmingham for the ISA Midlands 5-a-side football tournament. Despite a poor opening game the subsequent improvements made by all the players over the course of their remaining three matches offered great optimism for the
remainder of the year. The children gave 100% effort and conducted themselves in an exemplary fashion at all times.

**Winter Games Morning in Key Stage One**

Key Stage One children finished the first half of Michaelmas Term with a much awaited and greatly enjoyed Winter Games Morning. They participated in a round robin of activities, Mrs Ward leading a tennis session, with a real emphasis on hand-eye coordination. Another group concentrated on football skills, dribbling the ball around a course and through coloured hoops, the excitement building as they tried to score a goal past Mrs Shakeshaft! Meanwhile, Miss Perkins organised a series of games using hoops, bean bags and target nets. The final activity involved the whole Key Stage jogging around the field, further building up their stamina - before eagerly tucking into their lunch!

**Winter Games Afternoons**

Our Winter Games afternoons were blessed with dry weather this year! Despite the chill in the air our pupils were kept nice and warm by the exceptionally energetic performances they gave in the hockey, football, tag rugby and hi-5 netball played. Terrific commitment, improving skills, dedicated team spirit and super sportsmanship was demonstrated over the course of the two afternoons, providing an inspiring display for the referees and parents spectating. A surprise addition to our final afternoon was the presence of the Aviva Premiership Rugby Football Trophy, brought over on the day by our Saints Tag-rugby coach, much to the excitement our children and parents.

**ISA Regional Athletics**

In June our athletics team competed in the ISA Midlands Junior Track and Field Championships at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham, competing against athletes from twenty four other Midlands independent schools. Oliver Laskey's quick 75m time in the heats secured him a place in the final race. Joshua Nyoni and Alice Barton both won their 150m heats comfortably. The Year Six girls relay team, consisting of Alice Barton, Lydia Borbas, Tania Bizabani and Blainne Conway qualified to run in the finals and we are very proud of them for securing a superb second place overall on the day! Special mention goes to the following athletes: Millie Webb - who won gold in her 600m race and in the long-jump, Oliver Laskey won the Year Five long-jump, Lydia Borbas took first place in the Year Six rounders ball throw and Blainne Conway was placed second in her 600m race. It was with tremendous pride that we all celebrated Millie Webb, Oliver Laskey, Lydia Borbas and Blainne Conway’s inclusion in the Midlands Team. This incredible sporting opportunity for each of these pupils was well grasped by these athletes: their parents report that the effort and determination they showed on the day was noteworthy. Oliver Laskey's performance in the long jump secured him a personal best, earning him an amazing third place medal!
**Kettering Schools High 5’s Netball League**

We are extremely proud of our High 5’s Netball team who, after playing nine matches over three Tuesdays, secured an amazing second overall place in the league towards the end of the last academic year. This magnificent achievement secured our squad; Lydia Borbas - captain, Helin Altunkaynak, Joe Allan, Blainne Conway, Tania Bizabani, Joshua Nyoni, Holly Styles and Millie Webb, an invitation to take part in the prestigious Northamptonshire County School Games.

**Key Stage One Summer Games**

Our Summer Games session is a special occasion when we welcome the children from Reception Class to join in our fun. This year was no exception and the older children took great pride in helping the younger ones and demonstrating their skills to them. We worked with balls and hoops and had a competition to see which pair could keep bouncing their balls in the hoop for the longest. With Sports Day soon to come, the older children showed Reception Class the team races they had been practising and we then made new teams to allow the younger children to join in. As part of our session we split into three groups and completed a round robin of activities, including skipping around the field, which is always tricky for some, and aiming and throwing beanbags into a set of baskets, always a highly competitive activity! Football skills were also practiced, dribbling a ball around the cones and trying to score a goal past goalie Mrs Shakeshaft! By the end of the session the children (and the teachers) were exhausted…. but very happy.

**Key Stage Two Summer Games**

Our Summer Games events took place in glorious sunshine with pupils participating in rounders and kwik-cricket matches on both afternoons. Evenly matched teams made for some very exciting and closely contested matches. It was particularly pleasing to see the Year Three pupils giving it their all in their first Summer Games matches, closely watching the older players and trying their hardest to play their part for their team. At the time of writing we look forward to this year’s Summer Games afternoons, when we are certain to see the new Year Three class stepping up to the challenge, as well as witness the skills progress made by the older pupils.
Running club

After school running club sessions consist of a warm up, some stretches and strengthening exercises, a running activity/game and finish with the ever popular ‘long’ run around our wonderful school grounds! In a fun, playful environment our young runners improve their balance, stamina and running technique - skills which will help them in all sports in which they participate. The format of small group activities and games also provide opportunities for our young ‘front-runners’ to developed and enhance their leadership skills.

ISA High 5’s Tournament

During Michaelmas Term, Orla Drury, Casey Lim, Millie Webb, Joshua Nyoni, Oliver Laskey, Kiran Conway and Ruby Allan represented St Peter’s School in the Independent Schools Association High 5’s tournament at Stafford Preparatory School. The team, who had to test their skills against ten other teams, did themselves proud, finishing fifth overall on the day- a super achievement indeed!

ISA Swimming Gala

During the first half of Michaelmas Term a team of nineteen pupils from Years Four, Five and Six represented the school in the Independent Schools Association Midlands Swimming Gala in Birmingham. For our younger pupils the competitive swim over the 50 meter distance proved an arduous challenge, yet they all managed to step up and performed brilliantly on the day. The experience of our older swimmers was apparent in the results achieved, with Year Six pupils Oliver Laskey securing a 6th and Orla Drury a 7th place in their individual events. We are also very proud of our Year Six boys’ team who were 9th overall - a real achievement considering they were competing against twenty three other I.S.A schools. Well done to our team!

Brooke Priory

In October our St Peter’s School team, consisting of Aneesa Wickremasinghe, Daisy Styles, Ava Brammer, Alice Champion, Ali Altünkaynak, Zana Payнтер, Joshua Nyoni, Mille Webb and Asher Conway, took part in the annual Brooke Priory Cross Country Competition. With the challenge of running on wet, uneven terrain and numerous obstacles to content with, we sincerely congratulate our runners for embracing the opportunity to represent the School. Millie and Asher have taken part each year since there were in Year Three so it was lovely to see Millie proudly receive a medal for coming 6th in her age group. Our Year Four girls' team was awarded third place medals and Daisy Styles received a magnificent second place medal.

Kettering Old Grammar School Kwik-cricket Competition

A team of ten pupils from St Peter's School travelled to the Northants County Cricket ground for the Kettering Old Grammar School kwik-cricket competition in May. The weather held out for us during our matches and the children were extremely excited to be at such an impressive venue. Over the three games we played, the children put in tremendous efforts and were unlucky to only achieve one victory, but this was a very impressive effort for their first competition as a young team.

Sports Day 2014

It was a perfect weather day for our pupils on 25th June last year and one in which we all witnessed excellent team spirit, determination and promising athletic skills. In the morning pupils in Key Stage Two took part in the following field events: discus, javelin, shot, standing long jump, standing triple jump, vertical jump, standing ball throw and speed bounce. The school grounds were set up to provide a clear flow by small groups moving from one station's activity to the next. It was great to see so many parents managing to support in the morning.

A number of new records were set: Montague MacPhee now holds the record for Year Four Boys Shot, with a throw of 14.4m. Lydia Borbas clinched an impressive three field records: Year Six Girls Javelin (14.08m), Year Six Girls Standing Ball Throw (10.4m) and Year Five & Six Girls Shot (10.2m). Our inaugural record holders for the new field event of Speed Bounce were: Thao Mi Nguyen with 63 bounces in the Year Three & Year Four Girls, Samuel Buckenham with 58 bounces in the Year Three & Year Four Boys, Blainne Conway with 75 bounces in the Girls Year Five & Year Six and Kiran Conway with 74 bounces in the Boys Year Five & Year Six category.
There was a celebratory feel to the afternoon section of Sports Day, when our very own Key Stage Two samba band, involving all the pupils in that part of the school, paraded around the track playing samba rhythms recently learnt with Mrs Cruickshank to tie in with the World Cup. It was with great excitement that our younger pupils joined Sports Day, taking part in a variety of races aimed to provide fun and a gentle desire to do well, in preparation for the later years at St Ps, when that competitive edge is often sharpened further! Well done to all the boys and girls in Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Two for taking part, being brave, running as fast as possible, enjoying the races and learning to enjoy the personal victory of finishing, regardless of the position gained. There were lots of stickers to keep the smiles on their faces!

In Key Stage Two the track events also brought great excitement, with sprint races that had an even quicker pace than usual, sack races which certainly exercised those thigh muscles, skipping races which the pupils seemed to fly through, racquet & ball races that tested the powers of concentration and speed, hurdles that never seemed too high for our pupils to negotiate, relays that tested the all important baton hand-over and the much respected long runs, which showed off pupils' stamina combined with speed. Particular mention is made of Blainne Conway who is the new record holder for the girls 400m long run, slicing 3 seconds off the previous record, and coming in at 1 minute 29 seconds! There was excellent team effort all round and everybody was impressed to see how pupils were also keen to assist teachers in setting up and collecting equipment. The final results were: 1st place-Rutland with 513 points, 2nd place-Grafham with 488 points, 3rd place-Pitsford with 465 points and 4th place-Thorpe with 408 points. Well done everyone!

Good luck to this year’s competitors – it may be time to get out in the garden during the weekends for some extra practice, boys and girls. Sports Day 2015 is just around the corner!