



Head's Update Michaelmas 1, Week 5, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The dark nights and bad weather are definitely closing in but that hasn't dampened our spirits in school. St Peter's remains positive in the face of adversity and I hope many of the announcements in this update will also cheer you up.

Nursery

This week, children have been driving their role play GREEN tractor and exploring things they might find on a farm. Pigs, cows, sheep and even scarecrows, which they enjoyed dressing up as for Scarecrow Day! They shared scarecrow stories, action songs and learnt where their fruit and vegetables come from as well as sampling lots of different and tasty varieties! The children have learnt different positional language from Daisy the Cow as she hid under the table, next to the box and even on top of their heads! In French they have been learning Frere Jacques and we hope to share a performance of the traditional French Nursery rhyme on our facebook page today.

PTA

St Peter's PTA continues to be fantastic and I met with the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary (socially-distanced of course) this week to work out how to move forward this term and this year. Ordinarily, you'd all be invited to an AGM at the start of the year but we have postponed that until a group can safely meet in school. This doesn't stop our current dedicated PTA from putting on events for you and your children. There will be 3 events before Christmas:

Spooky Spoons

You can purchase wooden spoons through ParentMail which will be delivered to your child's classroom before half term. They then have one week to decorate them as ghosts, ghouls, witches or pumpkins and bring them back on the first day of term to be judged to win a prize. Each spoon is £2 and you can decorate as many as you like.

Virtually a Family Quiz Night

We'll be hosting a Family quiz at 6.30pm on Friday 20th November via your child's Google Classroom. Family tickets are available through ParentMail, £5 per family.

Socially-distanced Santa

Father Christmas will be visiting us in school on 11th December. A grotto will be set up where children can visit Father Christmas, listen to a Christmas story and receive a present from one of his Teacher Elves. Tickets to see Father Christmas are available on ParentMail for £5. This will take place during the school day. Children will not be able to sit on or near Father Christmas.

The PTA not only provides social opportunities for you and your child, but they also give back to the school in many wonderful ways. Last year the PTA helped provide a defibrillator, a chick



hatchery, a Greek Day, cricket nets and equipment and of course a donation towards our stunning Nursery canopy. You really do help make St Peter's an amazing place. If you have any ideas for the PTA or you'd like to be involved, the PTA has a new email address to make it easier to get in touch during these difficult times. Simply email stpspta@st-peters.org.uk I know that the committee would love to hear from you. This account isn't monitored by school staff or the school office.

The PTA will also be selling raffle tickets this term as part of the big Christmas hamper draw. If you'd like to donate to the raffle, please bring in prize donations to the school gate where I'll have a box. All items will be quarantined for 72 hours! If you'd like to purchase any Christmas raffle tickets please do so via ParentMail. Santa Claus will be using a random number generator, live, online, to select the winning e-ticket! I definitely wouldn't have imagined that sentence a year ago. Sadly, the Christmas Fayre and market won't be able to happen this year.

Upcoming Events

There are many other events this term which will happen in some way and in accordance with the guidance at the time. Unfortunately, Harvest Supper couldn't happen this year but I hope you all got to see and hear the children's 'Let's Harvest' song and sign produced by Mrs Palmer.

Share Your Work (Reception to Year 6) - Monday 19th October

Share your work will happen this year, but we're going digital. Your child and their teacher will photograph and video work they're proud of and it will be uploaded to Google Classroom just for you to see. Any group or class work will be put on the Classroom feed and amazing work will be put in the Hall of Fame. For new parents, Google classroom is a virtual space for teachers and children to share work and all of your children have login details. Make sure they show you at home what they've been working on and enjoy looking at their work. When it's safe to do so we'll invite you all in to see their classrooms and all the lovely new displays.

Parent Teacher Consultations - (Reception to Year 6) Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th November

These will be via video call on Google Meet this term. A usual ParentMail form will be sent to you for you to indicate a day and time that works well for you and teachers will then schedule an online meeting.

Year Group Assemblies - Year 6, Monday 16th November, Year 5, Monday 23rd November

Subject to guidance, I hope that we'll be able to invite a limited number of parents to a Year group assembly where you can be socially-distanced in the hall wearing masks. Your children can then perform for you in person and online to the rest of the school watching in their classrooms. We'll confirm more details nearer the time if we feel it's still safe to do this.



Open Day and Tours

Open Day was due to be next week and for obvious reasons this won't be taking place in its usual form. We are offering personalised, COVID-safe tours to parents who would like to look around the school. These are limited in size and number and must be booked in advance. These tours don't enter classrooms and masks must be worn if anyone is on-site. If you know anyone who would be interested in St Peter's School or Sunnylands Nursery please ask them to get in touch with the school office and we'll arrange a visit at a suitable time.

Swimming & Games Kit

We've now had a second week of successful swimming and the children are growing in confidence. If, for any reason, your child is unable to swim please email the school office in advance. We are no longer able to take non-swimmers to the pool as spectators and your child's class and teacher won't be in school, so alternative plans need to be made. If your child is too ill to swim, they shouldn't be in school. Swimming is part of your child's physical education and it's important that they attend each week. Also, children from Year 3 upwards must remember their Games kits on Games afternoons. This includes football/rugby boots, tracksuits and shin pads. We know that children are currently coming into school in their PE kit on these days but they may be on the grass playing games in the wet.

I've heard rumours of the infamous School Conker Championships happening soon. I hope you've been helping your children prepare? I was reliably informed that pickling, varnishing, cooking or tampering with your child's conkers in any way is strictly prohibited. Maybe it'll affect the House Points standings...

- Girls 210
- Boys 165
- Barnwell 92
- Brigstock 101
- Stanwick 81
- Sywell 101

Have a lovely weekend, don't forget to send your child in their winter coats next week. It's due to be a wet and cold one.

Regards,

Mr Thomas

Headteacher