



Head's Update Michaelmas 2, Week 1, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of Michaelmas term. I hope you all had a great half term with family and loved ones. It has already been a busy week, not just in school and in the UK but across the globe. From lockdowns to elections there's lots to read and try to understand. I hope this update explains any guidance changes for you and also gives you an insight into our busy school.

Nursery

It's been wonderful to welcome the children back and see some new faces after what sounds like a fun-filled half term for them. It's been lovely that the children have shared with us their holiday fun, typically filled with family time, pumpkins and sweets! The children have been exploring colour this week by painting pumpkins, making giant splatter paintings and exploring colour mixing. They have been talking about fireworks, making some pretend explosions and enjoyed watching a display on the Nursery screen. They have been using a dice to count spots and paint the correct number of fireworks, which they really enjoyed. Everyone has been enthralled with the story of 'Room on the Broom'.

Fortnite

St Peter's School is now a proud member of the National Online Safety community. They produce a huge number of resources for teachers (some of which are used in school), parents and children. With the increase in device usage and screen time for younger children it's important for us all to remain up to date in this rapidly changing digital world. I have attached their guidance on 'Fortnite' which seems to be more prevalent with younger children at the moment. Please take a moment to read the parent guide if your child is playing this game online.

Poppy Appeal

Our Year 6s have been manning the Poppy Appeal stall every morning this week and they will continue to do this until Wednesday. Can I remind everyone that the merchandise should be taken home and the poppies should only be worn during November. Thank you.

Swimming and Class Assemblies

Unfortunately, the latest lockdown means that we can't swim for the next few weeks as the government restrictions mean that the leisure facility has had to close for now. I hope we can return to swimming as soon as this restriction is lifted. We've also made the decision to postpone the Year 5 and Year 6 class assemblies until a suitable time when parents can come in and be part of the experience. Technically, they can be recorded but that's not quite the same as showing parents all their hard work in person. Unfortunately, we've also had to postpone next week's Tudor Day until the Spring term.



Parent Teacher Consultations

Reception to Year 6 Parent Teacher Consultations are on the 16th and 17th November. Rounders, String Ensemble and Tennis will continue on those evenings as normal. Nature & Wildlife Club, Drawing Club and Science Club unfortunately won't be able to happen on the 17th to allow the teachers to meet with parents.

The School Office will email out your confirmed slots on Monday and class teachers will be sending you the link to your consultation via your child's Google account. You'll be able to access the consultations via your child's Google Calendar, the link sent to their Gmail account or via Google Meet. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch next week. If you requested a phone call instead you won't need the meeting link.

Children in Need

The School Council have decided that next Friday, on Children in Need Day, everyone should try and dress up in spotty, stripy or bright clothes and donate £1 to the Children in Need appeal. This includes everyone in school, from Nursery to Year 6. Reception to Year 6 will also be taking part in the National Duck Race, broadcast at lunch time on the day. Children can buy ducks for 50p each. We'll be hosting a party for each year group with music, games and fun. We know many children haven't been able to have a birthday party this year so we're going to throw them all one! Donations to Children in Need can be made to help those youngsters who are less fortunate. I've already got my light up trainers on charge! Please send any money for these events into school in a clearly labelled envelope to the Class Teacher. A letter from Mrs Burrows is attached with more information.

New Guidance

As you're aware, England is under increased lockdown restrictions from this week. We'd like to ask for your support for some small changes which should help keep our community safe as well as contribute to the national effort.

Where adults are able to wear a face covering at drop off and collection times, we kindly ask you to do this. We're mindful that some of you have to wait in the street and wearing a face covering will provide a measure of protection, especially for those who are more vulnerable. We'd also like to remind adults of the need to maintain 2m social distancing wherever possible.

Out of school activities (including after school programmes and extra-curricular activities) can continue, provided they're reasonably necessary to enable parents to work, search for work, or undertake training or education. School will continue as 'normal', as will all after school clubs which form part of our school provision that you rely on. We'll continue to assess all of our activities as the situation evolves and we receive additional government guidance.

Car sharing between families should be avoided where possible from now. Gov.uk says: "If it is necessary for a childminder to pick up or drop off a child at school and walking is not practical, then a private vehicle for single household use is preferable. Use of public transport should be minimised". Parent drop off and pick up should be by one parent to minimise risk. Thank you for your support with these additional measures.



Have a great weekend everyone. Don't forget to sign up for the PTA Quiz in two weeks time!

Regards,

Mr Thomas

Headteacher