



Dear Parents and Carers,

We've reached the penultimate week of this half term and I've been reminded many times this week of the positive news and events happening within our community. I've got to spend lots of time teaching your children in the real world and online this week; they're all amazing. I commend their perseverance, adaptability and resilience. Their positivity is what's keeping the teachers going and I hope we can make it smoothly to half term. We do have some plans to push through the 'Zoom Fatigue' next week which I'll explain lower down.

### **Nursery News**

We spent the beginning of the week enjoying the book Frozen, exploring icicles and the word 'snow'. A silver tent has appeared in Nursery so the children can pretend they're at the North Pole or in an Ice Palace. Unfortunately, as a precautionary measure, the children weren't onsite at the end of this week. Whilst we know this is frustrating, our priority is your child's safety and that of our staff. We'll be back soon.

### **Screen Free Day**

We're becoming more aware of children's (and parent's) tiredness and the increased screen time is definitely draining for everyone. So, in an effort to make the last week of term the best yet, we're having a screen free day on Wednesday. Don't worry! Home Learning will continue. We're planning a day full of activities, just not on the screen. On Tuesday evening, we'll post ideas, activities, resources and suggestions for your child on their personalised screen free day; from eco projects to sporting challenges. Teachers will also send paper based exercises and resources for those who don't have access to a garden or the outdoors (or in case it rains!). We'll be setting a week-long music and art activity which can be completed at any time but is ideal for your screen free day. Any pictures or work created can be shared with your class teachers on Thursday. Teachers and children in school will also be having a screen free day and will be completing the same activities as those at home. We hope this short break will help our tired children thrive in this last week of term.

### **PTA Virtual gathering**

Mr Aldwinckle, Chair of the PTA, invites all school parents to an online meeting on Tuesday 9th February at 7pm. The link to this meeting will be in your child's Google Classroom one hour before the open meeting. I hope you'll be able to join us and support the PTA.

### **Snow Warning**

We're expecting more cold weather and snow over the weekend. We'll monitor the situation carefully and let you know if there's any impact on the school opening. The decision to close schools isn't an easy one and we'll only do so if it isn't safe for the children and staff. If you feel it's too dangerous to travel to school from where you live, please keep your child at home and access Home Learning. Please inform the School Office on a daily basis if your child isn't attending and we're expecting them.



## Staff Spotlight

This week, the spotlight is on our Year 1 Teacher and SENDCo, **Mrs Ward**.

“I joined St Peter’s in 2004, which is 17 years ago now! The time has gone in a flash, probably because every day is a joy and I LOVE it here. Prior to working at St Peter’s I taught at a large Prep School called Arnold Lodge, an Independent School in Leamington. I adore teaching and all I’ve ever wanted is for my children to love learning, like me. I’m a local(ish) girl. I went to school at CTC, now Brooke Weston, and went on to study Primary Education at Middlesex University following my work experience at Meadowside Primary School. I originally wanted to be a physiotherapist, but quickly fell in love with teaching. I had a busy and active childhood. I enjoyed Girl Guides, flower arranging and being outdoors. My hidden talent is that I’m a National Award-winning ballroom and Latin American dancer and spent several years travelling up and down the UK on a coach competing in competitions. My favourite dances are the Tango and the Jive! I can play the flute too, but I’m a little rusty so I won’t be joining the school orchestra. I’m thrilled that I get to share my love of magical St Peter’s with Molly, my daughter, who’s now in Year 3.”

Finally, it feels like there may be light at the end of this tunnel. Vaccinations are being delivered, the ‘r’ number is coming down, the days are getting longer and brighter and I hope, soon, we can add schools reopening to this list. Several of our parents are involved in the vaccination programme locally; thank you for being part of this community effort. Some of you are facing challenges this week, some are self-isolating or shielding and some are lonely; we send our thoughts and prayers to all of you who need extra support at the moment.

Regards,

Mr Thomas

Headteacher

This week’s menu can be found here <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/page/?title=Weekly+Menus&pid=11>