



Dear Parents and Carers,

The dark nights are definitely closing in and it's still dark when my alarm goes off in the morning but that hasn't dampened our spirits in school. For those who are already tired and on countdown to half term, I hope many of the announcements in this update will cheer you up. It's a comprehensive one this week...

### **Nursery**

The children are still enjoying exploring lots of Dinosaur activities; especially making dinosaurs with 2D and 3D shapes! We are making sure they can recognise and name the shapes; circle, square, triangle and rectangle and have been exploring more complex shapes too. We've also been thinking about Autumn and Harvest this week and celebrated with our Scarecrow Day today! It was so wonderful to see the children dressed up, enjoying sharing and trying new foods; making bread and soup. We've explored sequencing, looking at the order bread and soups are made and also enjoyed our outdoor area in the cooler, Autumn air. There is a new publication out called 'What to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage: a guide for Parents 2021' which is incredibly useful. This is available online.

### **Kettering Small Schools Football**

Our fabulous footballers took part in the Kettering small schools football tournament this afternoon and won every game. They've qualified for the county finals after Christmas. Well done team!

### **Lower School Harvest Supper**

It was wonderful to welcome parents back into Sunnylands Hall tonight. We all enjoyed a Harvest stew and Harvest loaf and we were treated to songs and poems from our Reception to Year 2 children. We also welcomed Jane from Kettering Foodbank to receive our harvest donations. Kettering Foodbank is a brilliant organisation, helping hundreds of families in Kettering put food on the table. Your donations will make a real difference. I will be taking some pupils to the Foodbank next week to see what they do first hand.



## **Other PTA Events**

### *Pumpkin Design Competition*

This is completely free of charge. Children will be given a pumpkin template to decorate in any way they choose. These should be handed in by the last day of term and the winning designs will win a prize.

### *Virtually a Family Quiz Night - 19th November*

We'll be hosting another Family quiz at 6.30pm on Friday 19th November in the real world and online! Family tickets are available through ParentMail, £5 per family.

### *Christmas Fayre - Saturday 4th December*

It's back! Put the date in your diaries as it's going to be an amazing family event.

The PTA will also be selling raffle tickets 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. If you'd like to purchase any Christmas raffle tickets please do so via ParentMail. Santa Claus will hopefully draw the winning ticket at the end of term!

If you know anyone who runs their own business and would like a stall at the PTA Christmas market, please get in touch with the PTA ASAP.

## **Upcoming Events**

### *Share Your Work (Reception to Year 6) - Monday 18th October*

School will be open for Reception to Year 6 parents after school on Monday 18th October and your child will be able to take you to their classrooms and show you their work. Children will be dismissed as usual at the end of school and the end of clubs etc. and children will then be in your care. Share Your Work is optional and the teachers will be in their classrooms until 5pm for you to talk to. This is not a formal parents evening so please don't take up all of the teachers' time; make a separate appointment if you have specific things to discuss. If your child attends Upper School Dance Club then you should collect at 3:30pm instead of going to Hockey. If your child is in Lower School Dance Club you should wait until after the Club. If you can't make Share Your Work, please contact your child's Class Teacher and they will try to share some photos of their



work on Google Classroom. We will be encouraging behaviours from the government's Winter plan (see Appendix)

*Parent Teacher Consultations - (Reception to Year 6) Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th November*

These will be a hybrid event, in the real world, via video call on Google Meet or by telephone call. 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 a meeting in the format you prefer.

#### *Year Group Assemblies*

- Year 2 - Monday 8th November
- Year 6 - Monday 22nd November
- Year 5 - Monday 29th November

Parents of each class are invited to join the school for their own year group assemblies. Assemblies start at 10:30am and refreshments are available before.

#### **Autumn Open Day**

Next Wednesday will be our first Open Day post-pandemic and we're really excited to show new parents our beautiful school. It's different from previous years in format in order to make it as safe as possible. Visiting parents will be escorted around the grounds, they will remain distanced from all children and all necessary control measures will be in place. We will be encouraging behaviours from the government's Winter plan (see Appendix). If you know someone who would like to come into school, the Hub will be open from 9am until midday for refreshments where they can meet some of the team and walk around the grounds. Children will be taking part in an exciting carousel of activities to showcase what we do: Science, Art, Sport, Computing and Music. For this reason, children may need to be in different clothing to normal (sorry!):

- Reception - Full School uniform
- Year 1 - Full School uniform
- Year 2 - Full **Sports** Kit
- Year 3 - Full **Sports** Kit
- Year 4 - Full **Sports** Kit
- Year 5 - Full **Sports** Kit
- Year 6 - Full School uniform

If children have Games or Clubs and are arriving in full school uniform they should bring their sports kit with them. Thank you.



## School Photos

<https://orders.online.bentleypics.com/accessCode?username=DiqHyS86&password=jgkV4ufC> Here is the link to the group and class photos. Orders should be placed before 21st October. If you require any assistance please contact the dedicated team by email - [support@bentleyphoto.com](mailto:support@bentleyphoto.com) who will be able to help.

Have a lovely weekend. Sunday is World Mental Health Day; ensure you take good care of yourselves.

Regards,

**Mr Thomas**

Headteacher

Here is next week's menu: <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/page/?title=Weekly+Menus&pid=112>

## APPENDIX

The best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 is to get fully vaccinated. People that are fully vaccinated should continue to follow behaviours and actions set out in the guidance on how to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Response – Extract from the government's Winter Plan:

- Let fresh air in if you meet indoors. Meeting outdoors is safer. Meeting outdoors vastly reduces the risk of airborne transmission, however, it is not always possible, particularly through the winter. If you are indoors, being in a room with fresh air (and, for example, opening your windows regularly for 10 minutes or a small amount continuously) can still reduce the airborne risk from COVID-19 substantially compared to spaces with no fresh air. Some evidence suggests that under specific conditions high levels of ventilation could reduce airborne transmission risk by up to 70%.
- Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed settings where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- Get tested, and self-isolate if required. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate and take a free PCR test as soon as possible. Anyone who tests positive must self-isolate. Anyone who is notified they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive should also take a free PCR test as soon as possible and self-isolate if required. The data on symptoms associated with COVID-19 is continuously being gathered and kept under review.
- Try to stay at home if you are feeling unwell.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day.