



Dear Parents and Carers,

*"A new school year means new beginnings, new adventures, new friendships, and new challenges. The slate is clean and anything can happen."*

Welcome to the academic year 2022-2023 and the Michaelmas term. I hope you have all had a lovely holiday. I'm sure many of you will be keen for the term to start on Monday and I'm also sure you will have many questions. I hope this letter is useful and will help prepare you and your child for the exciting weeks ahead, especially for the families who are joining us for the first time. Believe it or not, this is my first 'normal' back to school letter, without any trace, of the word COVID. Yay!

All parents are invited to a PTA Welcome Coffee Morning on Tuesday 6th September at 8.30am.

Nursery parents are invited to a Nursery Parents event on Thursday evening at 7pm. This is an opportunity to meet staff, ask questions and meet each other.

### **How do I contact the School?**

The School Office is open from today and I'm sure you can appreciate that the first days of term are always very busy. Email is the best way to communicate with us. Please direct your questions to the School Office email account (STPSOffice@st-peters.org.uk). We anticipate a busy start to the term and we appreciate your patience. Mrs Hunt is our new Office Manager, joining us from Trinity Aldwincle School. You can order uniform as normal via ParentMail and you will be advised when it is ready. There is a large back order from the Summer but we will do our best to get these to you as soon as possible. The School Office will be sending out pupil data sheets for you to check we have the correct details on file. Please ensure all of your information is correct and inform us promptly of any changes.

### **What are the morning drop-off arrangements?**

We continue to encourage parents to use the permit parking arrangements (forms are available in the School Office) and the one way vehicle drop off (down the Crescent from Headlands) which is the safest way to deliver children to School. If walking isn't an option.

Nursery - parents or carers enter with their child on the right hand side of The Crescent gate and walk around to the Nursery entrance. Staff will receive the children at the entrance door.

Reception - In the first week of term, Reception parents should walk through the middle of the Crescent gate and walk behind the Lower School building to drop-off their children at the Reception door. A member of staff will be there to greet you. We prefer it if parents do not enter any of the buildings.



Parents of children in Year 1 to Year 6 should drop-off at the Crescent gate. Staff will be at the Crescent gate to receive children and direct them to their teachers. All parents are encouraged to drop-off swiftly to avoid congestion. Parents are welcome on site and you can visit the School Office but we request that you do not go in any of the buildings. Children arriving after 8:20am will be directed to their playground and will be met there by a member of staff. School starts at 8:45am so there is a 45 minute window for all families to arrive at school safely. Parents dropping off by car are asked to take extra care during this period as there will be more hazards around. I would like all children to arrive at school safely.

### **What are the end of day collection arrangements?**

At the end of the school day, parents wait outside the school gate and the children will be escorted, by a teacher, to be dismissed:

Nursery - the end of Nursery is 3.30pm and you may collect from the nursery door between 3.15pm and 3.30pm. The gates will open from 3.15pm.

Lower School (Reception to Year 2) end of day finish time is 3:15pm and dismissal is from the Crescent gate.

The Upper School (Year 3 to Year 6) day finishes at 3:30pm. Year 5 and 6 are dismissed from the Cedar Hub (Late Club) gate and Year 3 and 4 are dismissed from the Crescent gate.

We appreciate your patience in keeping to these times. At 3:40pm the Crescent gates will be closed and children not collected will be taken to Late Club.

When clubs restart, collection will be via the Crescent Gate, usually at 4.15pm.

To summarise:

- Whole school early drop off 8am-8:20am - children will go straight to Early Club;
- Whole school drop off 8:20am-8:45am - Nursery turn right, Reception straight on, rest of school dropped at gate and turn left or straight on;
- Nursery pickup - 3:15pm-3:30pm;
- Lower School pickup - 3:15pm;
- Upper School pickup - 3:30pm.
- Clubs - 4.15pm (except US Dance, and cookery when running)

Extra Curricular Clubs start the week commencing 12th September.

### **What do children wear?**



Children should wear full Summer uniforms unless it's their PE or Swimming day when they should wear their full school sports kit. Reception children should wear full Winter uniform. All children should wear their coats and hats to school.

Your child should come to school in their Sports kit on the days they have PE and swimming. Your child's days this term are (N.B. THESE HAVE CHANGED):

- Reception - Tuesday\* & Friday
- Year 1- Monday\*\* & Friday
- Year 2 - Thursday & Friday
- Year 3 - Thursday & Friday
- Year 4 - Wednesday & Friday
- Year 5 - Tuesday & Friday
- Year 6 - Monday\*\*\* & Friday

\*Reception to bring PE kit with them on a Tuesday and get changed in school as this is an Early Learning Goal.

\*Year 1 come to School in Sports Kit on their Games Day and PE Day (no swimming)

\*\*\* Year 6 can wear their full school uniform on the first Monday if you'd like the 'Back to School' photos, but they should bring their sports kit with them to get changed.

Children should bring their Sports kits with them if they have Games, a fixture or a Sports Club after school. They will get changed in small supervised groups at lunch times.

Games Days are:

- Year 1 & Year 2 - Monday
- Year 3 & Year 4 - Tuesday
- Year 5 & Year 6 - Wednesday

### **What's happening with hats?**

Unfortunately, there has been major disruption to the supply chain of many hat manufacturers, which are predominantly made outside the UK. This means that our suppliers have been unable to fulfil our hat orders. We are working on replacements and alternatives, but until then, our hat stocks remain low. Hats are therefore not compulsory for Reception or new starters. Those in school who already have hats should wear them and we will communicate with you when we have a long term solution for the hat shortage. We do have a very small selection of hats which can be borrowed (by the front door) for the first day of school photos on Monday if you'd like them.



**SOMETHING NEW** - Before and after school on Monday (8am-8.30am & 3.15pm-3.45pm) the Headlands gate will be open for you to bring your child to the front door of the Sunnylands building for a 'first day of term/St Peter's photo.' This will only be available on Monday - don't forget to tag us online @stpetersschoolkettering #firstday

### **How does Early and Late Club operate?**

Early and Late Club will operate as normal from Monday. Early Club is open from 8am until 8:30am. Late Club will operate after school until 5:45pm with collection from Late Club being via the Cedar Hub gate. This gate is situated further up the Crescent towards the Headlands/Hawthorn Road junction. There is a telephone link to Late Club. On arrival, you will use the buzzer to tell Late Club that you have arrived, telling them your child's name. The gate will then be opened by the staff and you can wait underneath the Hub canopy and your child will be brought out. Please don't enter the Cedar Hub or any other school buildings. Please leave using the same gate ensuring that it's closed behind you. Late Club is charged for each half hour slot used.

### **What lunches are available?**

Normal school lunches will be available from Monday. Each day there is a hot main meal with a vegetarian option. All religious and medical needs are catered for. Please ensure that any changes to dietary requirements are sent to the school Office ASAP. All children eat in the dining hall in House groups, family-style dining. The weekly menu is available on the school website and a link to this is shared on my weekly Head's Update. There is also a copy in the School Office window. We have a number of new staff in the kitchen from Monday, all of whom are trained in food hygiene and allergen awareness. Welcome Kitchen Assistants Mrs Morrison and Mrs Lewis. Unfortunately, we said goodbye to Chef Chris over the Summer who has returned to industrial catering. We do have an Interim Catering Manager in place, joining us from Kettering Buccleuch Academy, whilst we appoint a permanent Catering Manager.

### **What if my child is unwell?**

We want your children in school every day... unless they're properly poorly! We will also send home any children who are unwell. We know there will be colds, sniffles and sneezes but children with high fevers and persistent coughs should not be in close proximity to other children. I urge you to follow national advice and best practice for managing illness in your own homes. There is no requirement to test or self-isolate at the moment, but I would urge you all to take a common sense approach if anyone in your family falls ill. We also ask that all medications are delivered to and signed for at the School Office. No medication will be given without prior parental consent. If your child is too unwell to be in school, please complete the ParentMail form to inform the School Office of their absence. This can also be done on a green form in the Office.



### **What does my child need to bring with them?**

We will provide all children with a pencil and the basic equipment they need. However, some children (Year 1 to Year 6) may want to bring their own named pencil case which they are responsible for. Children should bring in a clearly named school water bottle and any reading books that they may require. School children may also bring in a healthy snack for break time - no nuts or eggs please. Fruit is ideal in a wrapper that can be put into the bins. Nursery snacks are provided.

Children from Year 3 to Year 6 will need to bring gumshields, shin pads and boots (no blades please) on their Games Days or relevant Sports Clubs - it's hockey and rugby season.

I'll give more detail on other new staff in future Head's Updates under 'Staff Spotlight', but I'm pleased to welcome Mr Slough, our new Site Manager, joining us from Bishop Stopford School and Mrs Colwill, an experienced Nursery Practitioner, joining the Sunnylands team.

I hope this letter helps you and your child prepare over the next few days. We will continue, as always, to communicate regularly with any updates.

I'm really looking forward to welcoming everyone back next week. Have a wonderful weekend.

Regards

**Mr Thomas**