



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we kick off this new academic year, I want to extend a warm welcome back to all our students, staff, and parents. The return to school has coincided with some noteworthy events – today marks both Literacy Day and the commencement of the Rugby World Cup. I hope you all had a rejuvenating summer break. It's been an unusually hot week, but it's undeniably wonderful to have the buzz of students and educators back in our halls once again.

### **Preschool Press**

It has been a pleasure to welcome all our children and their families to Preschool this week. The children have all settled in really well and are becoming familiar with our daily routine. Everyone has enjoyed exploring the many different activities on offer both inside the Preschool rooms and in our outdoor areas. Investigating the new water tray and pipes, washing the babies, role playing at the ice cream shop and playing 'What's the time Mr Wolf?' have been particular favourites! Every morning we have timetabled additional activities on offer. On Thursday the children had a wonderful time in their first music lesson with Mrs Palmer and on Friday during our first outdoor learning session the children explored our little forest area and collected leaves. Thank you to all parents who attended our information evening. We hope you found it helpful. Please do not worry if you couldn't make it as the presentation slides are attached to this ParentMail.

### **PTA Welcome, Coffee Morning and AGM**

Thank you to everyone who came to the Welcome Coffee morning; it was lovely to see some new faces. Here's a message from your Chair for the year, Mrs Aldwinckle:

*"Every family that joins St Peters automatically becomes a part of the PTA, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our community. The PTA helps bring together the school, parents, teachers and children as we work together raising money and supporting the school.*

*As a PTA we work hard throughout the academic year raising funds to enhance the children's education and school experiences. We buy the treats, the luxuries and lots of enrichment. We rely on our parents to help us in any way they can. This can be paying for your child to attend an event, buying a raffle ticket, making a donation, helping at an event, attending a meeting or putting forward an idea. The support from our parents is invaluable and we appreciate it in any form. It's also an excuse to meet new people, develop friendships and socialise with people who you have something in common with. I hope you will get involved in some way throughout the year."*

There are PTA activities coming up soon, although the precise details are yet to be confirmed. The new PTA will meet next Thursday 14th September after school; all are invited.

### **School Uniform**

It's lovely to see the children looking smart as they return to school. We'll all be in Winter uniform from Monday 18th September. All children should wear regulation sports kit, which includes the full tracksuit. Hoodies are available from Year 3 but these do not replace the tracksuit. Shin pads are required for Games from Year 1 upwards. Gum Shields are required from Year 3. Here's the link to our school uniform page on the website: <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/uniform>

### **Parking Reminders**

I must insist that you drive and park carefully around the school. One of our neighbours' drives was blocked and they were late for work one day this week! There have been a number of complaints and issues and for the safety of our children you must follow the following guidelines:

- Drive down the Crescent, slowly
- Park considerately of neighbours and other road users
- Apply for a permit (forms available from the school Office) if you intend to leave your car
- Do not mount the curb or verge and do not attempt to turn in the road.

Please help me keep our community safe and happy.

## Music

- Children in Year 2 need an ocarina in school every Monday for their class music lessons with Mrs Palmer.
- Children in Year 3 need their ocarina in school on Wednesday.
- Year 4 are learning PBuzz which has been provided by the School
- Year 5 have their recorder sessions on Monday.
- Year 6 won't need their recorders in school until Lent Term as they will be learning the ukulele.

If your child does not have a recorder or ocarina, you can purchase these via Parentmail. Individual peripatetic music lessons start next week. Please make sure your child has their instrument and music on the correct day:

- Monday 11th - Vocal and cello lessons
- Tuesday 12th September - Violin lessons
- Wednesday 13th September - Woodwind, Ballet and LAMDA lessons
- Thursday 14th September - Piano and Drum lessons plus tennis coaching

There is a waiting list for instrumental lessons and LAMDA. If you're interested, please contact the School Office ASAP.

Ballet lessons also start next week; if you're interested please contact the School Office.

## Clubs

We continue to work really hard to create an exciting and varied set of clubs for the Michaelmas term. If you've requested a space at a club the confirmation will be sent to you next week. Some club numbers are capped but we've done our best to give you all the choices you asked for. Unfortunately some are full and some are split into two groups. Please read your clubs sheet carefully.

## School Council

As most of you know, I believe that School Councils are integral to a successful school. Children should have a voice. Therefore, next week, we will be launching this year's School Council campaign. Last year, our councillors were involved in many events and got their say. Each class will elect a representative and all children will have a forum to put forward their ideas and opinions. Older children will need to prepare a manifesto; this can be a poster or a short presentation. Younger children will be guided through a series of questions and a class discussion. We will then have an election where everyone will get a vote. This process is always exciting for the children and it offers learning opportunities in supporting classmates, being humble in victory and gracious if not elected this year, the latter being a hard lesson to learn. Class teachers will support all of the children in the process and I look forward to sharing School Council news with you in the future.

## Dates for your Diary

We've added key dates to our calendar which you can see here,

<https://www.st-peters.org.uk/calendar>. You can also subscribe to this calendar on your phone or device to get the latest dates and details. The most up to date events can always be found on the front page of our website. Below are some of the key dates for parents for your diaries:

- Monday 4th September - First Day of Michaelmas Term
- Wednesday 6th September - PTA Welcome Coffee Morning and Cake
- Thursday 7th September - Preschool Parents Event
- Monday 11th September - Peri Music lessons, Ballet, LAMDA and Tennis start this week
- Thursday 14th September - PTA Meeting
- Monday 18th September - Michaelmas After School Clubs Start
- Monday 18th September - Pupils to Wear Winter Uniform

- Thursday 28th September - School Council and Eco Committee Elections
- Monday 2nd October - PTA Lower School Harvest Supper
- Monday 16th October - R-Y6 Share Your Work
- Friday 20th October - PTA Halloween Disco TBC
- Friday 20th October - Last Day of Michaelmas Term 1
- Monday 6th November - First Day of Michaelmas 2
- Monday 13th November - Year 2 Class Assembly
- Friday 17th November - PTA Quiz TBC
- Monday 20th and Tuesday & 21st November - R-Y6 Parent Teacher Consultations
- Monday 27th November - Year 6 Class Assembly
- Wednesday 29th November - Reception and Preschool Nativity
- Thursday 30th November - Y1 & Y2 Christmas Production
- Thursday 30th November - PTA Christmas Wrapping and Pizza Party TBC
- Saturday 2nd December - PTA Christmas Fayre
- Wednesday 6th December - Y3-Y6 Michaelmas Games Afternoon
- Friday 8th December - PTA Christmas Jumper Day & Santa Visit
- Wednesday 13th December - Christmas Carol Service (morning)
- Wednesday 13th December - Last Day of Michaelmas Term 2 (Half Day)

*All dates are subject to change and do not include fixtures or trips.*

I also attach these dates as a printable sheet for your fridges!

### **Timetables**

Please use the link attached for a copy of your child's timetable:

<https://www.st-peters.org.uk/timetables>. Upper School will receive a copy in their school diaries next week.

As we bask in the warmth of these sunny days and look ahead to some exciting events, including England's Rugby World Cup match against Argentina tomorrow, we're keeping our fingers crossed for a spectacular performance. Here's to a vibrant and successful academic year ahead!

Regards,

**Mr Thomas**

Headteacher

Here is next week's menu: [www.st-peters.org.uk/menu](http://www.st-peters.org.uk/menu)