



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a great week it's been! We kicked off with a roaring win at the Rugby World Cup. Every turn of the page was special as we dove into the whimsical world of Roald Dahl, celebrating his birthday. Not to be outdone, our Year 6 superstars strapped on their helmets and showcased their incredible cycling skills in Bikeability.

### **Preschool Press**

'Understanding the world' has been at the heart of our activities in preschool this week. The children have been listening to stories about Elmer the patchwork elephant who learns that although he looks very different to all the other elephants he is loved by everyone. This led to lots of discussion about how we are all unique and we are all special. The children then practised their fine motor skills whilst creating their own Elmer using recycled milk bottles, lots of gloopy glue and a rainbow of coloured tissue paper. In French, the children met Pierre, our little French bear. They learnt how to say 'Bonjour', and the names of some French foods, although they didn't like the idea of eating 'les escargots' (snails!) Taste testing marshmallows dipped in melted chocolate during our cooking session was much preferred. The children learnt that chocolate melts when heated up and practised the 'm' sound for marshmallow, melted and mmmmmm! At circle time the children shared their Treasure boxes for the first time, taking turns to talk about their families. Our family tree display is well underway! And everyone enjoyed experimenting with the interactive smart board in order to practise drawing circles. The children's learning this week has been aMazing!

### **PTA AGM**

Thanks to those who came to the first PTA meeting of the academic year this week. It sounds like it's going to be a busy and productive year. The PTA website is always filled with the latest news and events [www.st-peters.org.uk/pta](http://www.st-peters.org.uk/pta). I have included the Chair's report at the end of this update. I know they're always looking for help and support. It will soon be Christmas!

### **School Uniform**

Don't forget that we will be in winter uniform from **Monday 18th September**.

Also, we are more than happy to exchange items that are purchased through the ParentMail shop but please ensure that the items are in their original packaging, with labels and hangers. Items should be returned to the School Office with a clear instruction of the exchange and we will then usually give the new item directly to your child to bring home as soon as we can.

### **Clubs Start Next Week**

Clubs restart from Monday and they're as popular as ever. Your child should have brought home their clubs lists, please keep an eye on the dates. To check you've read it, there is a deliberate spelling mistake for you all to find! Thank you to all of our teachers and TAs for offering such a wide variety of extracurricular activities. Golf started last week and was a huge hit!

### **Staff Spotlight**

We're thrilled to shine this week's Staff Spotlight on a fantastic new addition to our school community, Mr Day, Year 4 Class Teacher. The moment you meet him, you'll realise he perfectly complements our vibrant team. A former Stamford schoolboy, he brings with him not just the knowledge of the independent school sector but also valuable experiences from a variety of schools. A maestro in the making, Mr Day graduated from Durham University with a degree in Music. The melodious strings of the violin are close to his heart, a passion he shares with Mrs Palmer. And if that's not enough, he also boasts of his skills with the trombone! Continuing his academic journey, Mr Day pursued his PGCE at Homerton College, Cambridge – the same path as our very own Mrs Butler. Prior to joining us, Mr Day spent several years in the maintained sector, shaping young minds as a Year 4 and Year 6 class teacher. Mr Day is a keen sportsman, playing hockey and cricket. He is also attempting to train for a half marathon in October, although he

claims he will need a lot of support with this! His sporting and musical prowess is already making waves here, and we're pleased to witness the myriad of ways he'll inspire our students. If you've noticed a towering figure around, that's Mr Day – already fondly dubbed as the "Big Friendly Teacher" (BFT) due to his impressive height and even more impressive warmth. Outside the classroom, Mr Day has settled into a quaint village outside Kettering, where he shares his life with his lovely wife, Mrs Day- who, in his words, just about copes with his regular Toy Story trivia! We wholeheartedly welcome Mr Day to our community.

The upcoming week promises to be bustling with activities; we'll also be diving deep into the digital realm with National Coding Week and stretching our muscles on National Fitness Day. Add to this the excitement of the return of fixtures, and it's clear we have another great week ahead. Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Regards,

**Mr Thomas**

Headteacher

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

### PTA Chair's Report 2022/23

This academic year has been both busy and productive for the PTA as we continue to pride ourselves on being a small but active committee. Our sole purpose being raising funds for treats and enrichment for all children at St Peters.

Firstly, I wanted to speak about what we've been up to behind the scenes. This year after the disruption of the Covid pandemic we formed a new and full committee. Which gave us the opportunity to write role descriptions, re visit our constitution and elect the newly appointed Class Year Reps and we reintroduced teacher reps. These are a valuable group who help keep everybody fully informed of all things PTA. We have our own space on the school website which we keep up to date with our events both old and new. We have developed a Nearly New Uniform Shop, giving everyone the opportunity for a good clear out. We have been kindly given an indoor storage area, despite our efforts with re-felting the shed roof, the weather has beaten us. We added a donation button onto the school shop which has proved popular and a valuable source of donations which parents have found helpful.

The year started with the long-standing tradition, which is The Harvest Supper, although it has evolved over the years. This allows us the valuable opportunity to welcome new parents to the school community. We all enjoyed the fabulous feast cooked for us by our kitchen team whilst we listened to seasonal entertainment from the children. I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all staff members involved, helping us to make this event so successful. Michaelmas term is also jammed packed with lots of new and traditional events. In the last few years, we have introduced a Halloween disco and a quiz night. So much effort is made at all these events whether it is imaginative costumes, well-rehearsed dance moves or creative quiz team names. We value every family that takes part in these events, for the support they provide us, the fun they are contributing to and the community they are helping strengthen. We also produced a leaflet pack for advertising our school families' businesses and we started planning for our Forest School.

Christmas time always creates a buzz around school. We recently introduced a Christmas wrapping event, to help prepare for Santa's visit yet disguised as a pizza party. This year's Christmas fayre came back bigger and better. This year's stalls were occupied by some independent local companies, allowing the school to engage with and support our local community. Plus, there was lots to do such as games, arts and crafts, face paints, Alpacas and plenty of festive food and drink. Towards the end of term, the children had the opportunity to listen to a story from Father Christmas and receive a gift all whilst getting in the Christmas spirit wearing their Christmas jumpers. We even managed to squeeze in making Christmas cards.

The new year brought with it some new events. We had a Bake-Off Cake Sale and a book sale for WBD, we were overwhelmed by the generosity and effort the families made at these events. We also had bingo, the Easter bunny drive, raffles, and a Mother's Day scavenger hunt. All events were warmly appreciated by both pupils and parents. An unexpected event that also took place was The Coronation Celebration, which was a joint effort with our school staff. It was a memorable afternoon that even the rain couldn't spoil.

As we progressed into Trinity term we did not slow down. We held an EGM to elect a new committee as we sadly say goodbye this year to two of our longstanding members. We broke ground on our Forest School project with our big clear up and I'm pleased to report that already this is a newly loved area of the school grounds and is being well used. Our pop-up shops have proved popular this year with a sellout sweet shop. This term we held our annual rounders day 'parents vs children' game in honour of Father's Day. Then we also managed to squeeze in a parent only curry night which was held at local restaurant The Raj, another great profit-making success, and an enjoyable night for all. All year groups were offered the opportunity to work with us and raise money for their class, Year 3 stepped up and organised a swap the rules day which was enjoyed by the whole school.

The school year ended with the Founders Day Garden party, which was an afternoon filled with refreshments, a raffle, bubbles, face painting, glitter tattoos, princesses and a disco.

I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank all the past and present parents, staff and friends of St P's who roll up their sleeves and support whatever is needed to make all our great events possible. It must be remembered that if these events are to be continued then your ongoing support and help is greatly needed.

All these activities have allowed us to contribute to the school, the education and environment of the children during their precious time at St Peter's. This year we have contributed significantly. We have purchased hi-vis vests, a Science day, a travelling theatre production, house sports flags, coronation badges for all staff and children, the Oundle Literature Festival, Year 6 day out, a microscope and a willow weaving lesson.

I would like to take this opportunity to make a special note of thanks to the committee, whose help and support is greatly appreciated. Finally, I offer a warm welcome to our new parents and encourage them to get involved with our very active PTA. It's a great way to make new friends and gives so many opportunities to get involved as a family with all that St P's has to offer, whilst having fun and raising funds allowing us to give the children fantastic experiences and contribute to the enhancement of school life.

