



Dear Parents and Carers,

The festive season is upon us, and the Christmas holidays couldn't have come at a more opportune moment. Noticing the chorus of coughs, sneezes, and wheezes during Wednesday's church service, it's clear that a well-deserved break is needed. I sincerely hope that everyone remains in good health over the Christmas period, allowing you to fully partake in and enjoy all the planned festivities. May this holiday bring you rest, joy, and a chance to make cherished memories with your loved ones.

Carol Service 2023

The school term concluded with a splendid event at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, and it was heartwarming to see such a fantastic turnout. Our children truly excelled themselves, showcasing their talents and confidence. They sang melodiously, articulated their words with clarity, and performed with a sense of pride. The congregational hymn of 'O Come All Ye Faithful' was a highlight, providing a harmonious and memorable finale to both the service and the term. Photographs from the service are available on our website (below).

This Term in Pictures

Enjoy a look through the thousands of photos taken this term. Simply click on the links below:

- Michaelmas 1 - <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/mich123>
- Michaelmas 2 - <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/mich223>
- Preschool Michaelmas - <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/preschoolm23>
- Carol Service - <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/carolservice23>
- Year 1 & 2 Production - <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/y1y2production23>
- EYFS Nativity - <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/eyfsnativity23>

Key Dates for Your Diary

- First Day of Lent Term - Wednesday 3rd January
- Nursery Parents Event - 11th January, 7pm
- Year 6 Class Assembly - Monday 29th January
- Reception Class Assembly - Monday 5th February
- Share Your Work - Monday 5th February
- Half Term - Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February
- Year 5 Class Assembly - Monday 26th February
- World Book Day - Thursday 7th March
- Red Nose Day - Friday 15th March
- Lent House Matches - Wednesday 20th March
- Last Day of Lent Term - Wednesday 27th March

House Points

- Barnwell - 21/pupil
- Brigstock - 23/pupil
- Stanwick - 22.5/pupil
- Sywell - 23/pupil

Term Dates

Our school's term dates are readily accessible on our website (<https://www.st-peters.org.uk/parent-information/term-dates>), and you can also find them in our school calendar, which can be synced from the website for your convenience. Additionally, I've attached a PDF of our academic year term dates for 2024 to 2025 for your reference.

While we try to set the most reasonable term dates, aligning them with other schools, especially in the North Northamptonshire area, can be challenging due to the absence of a local authority. We recognise that other schools, including local ones, may have different holiday schedules. In our planning, we try to align as closely as possible with these local schools. Our school operates for slightly fewer days compared to local state-maintained schools, but more than other independent schools in the area, such as Pitsford, Maidwell, Kimbolton, Wellingborough, and Laxton. External factors also influence our calendar. For instance, in 2025, Easter falls exceptionally late due to the lunar cycle! We are committed to balancing the needs of parents who prefer holidays during non-peak times with the convenience of those who have children in different schools, ensuring a harmonious schedule for all.

Age Ratings and Security

I'd like to remind everyone about the importance of checking age ratings on games, apps, and films. The holidays often bring new gadgets into our homes, such as phones, tablets, and gaming consoles, and it's crucial that we set these up safely for our children. When helping them get started with these devices, make sure that all content is age-appropriate, and that filters and monitoring tools are in place to ensure their online safety. National Online Safety offers an extensive range of helpful resources (<https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety>). To assist you, I've uploaded several of their 'What Parents Need to Know' posters on our website (<https://www.st-peters.org.uk/onlinesafety>). These are excellent guides for understanding and managing the digital environment for your children. Additionally, with the array of family films broadcast during Christmas, it's important to be aware of their content and ensure that what your children are watching is suitable for their age. It may surprise you that even family favourites, like Love Actually, are actually a 15!

We've certainly had a busy term but the school gates aren't closed yet. We have builders onsite this week and local residents may be interested in seeing the front wall be dismantled. We've also been busy preparing for January and, I can assure you, it will be just as jam-packed!

On behalf of all the staff, I'd like to say thank you to everyone who shared cards with warm wishes, and even presents, for Christmas. We are all very grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Have a fabulous Christmas everyone and a wonderful New Year.

Regards,

Mr Thomas

Headteacher