



Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies for the later than usual update this week; I've only just returned from Wales with the Year 5 and 6 children and we've only just finished sorting all the lost property, which is in the Hub ready for Monday morning collection! This week has been particularly stressful for children and teachers in maintained sector schools across the country due to SATs. Fortunately, in our independent school, we are neither required nor encouraged to sit these exams. Many of you are aware of my personal views on SATs, so it will come as no surprise that we chose to make the most of this week with enriching trips and events. We've had an exceptional week both in and out of school, providing our children with valuable experiences and challenges that go beyond the limitations of exams.

### **Preschool Press**

Literacy and mathematics has been at the heart of the children's learning in Preschool this week as they have participated in a range of activities from mark making in paint, cornflour and shaving foam on the tuff spot to exploring the 'hard' and 'soft' sounds of the letter 'g' whilst sharing treasure boxes, writing on the interactive board and making banana giraffes in their cooking lesson and decorations for the garden during outdoor learning. 'Baking' playdough birthday cakes encouraged the children to work their muscles as they kneaded and rolled the dough and to use a pincer grip as they added quantities of candles to their big and little cakes. Creating patterns with the 'tap a shape' involved holding hammers and pins and selecting a variety of different coloured shapes. Sorting vehicles by colour and mode of transport enabled the children to practise subitising and cardinality as they continue to develop a deep understanding of numbers to 5. Outside the children drew treasure maps and guided each other along the routes in search of buried treasure and then recounted their stories at group time.

Preschool Parents evening is on **Thursday 23rd May at 7pm** in the Hub. We will be discussing how the Preschool curriculum supports the children to get ready for Reception.

### **PTA News**

It was lovely to see some parents at the Uniform Shop yesterday, they were able to pick up a bargain and it helps to keep our pot topped up! We still have lots of items, including some 'old style' brand new sports uniform – please get in touch if you need anything.

Father's Day rounders tickets are on sale through Parentmail – if you would like to attend this event then please purchase your tickets - £3 per person. There will be a stall selling drinks and spectators are more than welcome to bring a picnic and watch the fun!

The Smartie Challenge is all set up and ready to go for the half term week – Smarties/alternatives will be distributed next Friday. If you do need an alternative please make contact - [stpspta@st-peters.org.uk](mailto:stpspta@st-peters.org.uk).

Part 1 of the AGM is taking place on Thursday 13th May at 4.15pm. This is where we start the process of electing roles for 2024/25. If you have ever considered being part of the PTA then please do come along and find out what it's all about.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that EVERYTHING the PTA does is for the children at the school. We try to organise a variety of different events to help make the children's time at school more enjoyable. We understand there is a fine balance between putting events on and raising money and we truly appreciate every penny that is donated. All events are completely optional and there is never pressure on anyone to take part in any activity.

### **Govilon Residential**

Tonight, we warmly welcomed back our intrepid explorers from their week-long residential trip in Wales. They've had an incredible adventure, engaging in activities like canoeing, waterfall walks, beach days, bowling, and mountain walks, and they were absolutely brilliant throughout. The valuable lessons they've learned are truly remarkable. I hope you haven't missed them too much; I'm sure they'll all sleep soundly this weekend. Once I've unpacked, I'll put together a photo album for everyone to enjoy. A huge thank you to Mrs McCahill, Miss Kirby, and Miss Thacker for spending the week with me and Upper Key Stage Two in the Valleys.

### **Upcoming Events**

Next week, we have the Year 1 Class assembly on Monday, Reception to Year 6 parent-teacher consultations on Monday and Tuesday (there is no Upper School Chess Club or Lower School Eco Club), there are two athletics fixtures and next Friday is the eagerly anticipated Year 2 to Year 6 Swimming Gala. Parents are welcome to spectate at the gala.

Have a fabulous weekend. I need to unpack from our week's adventure and prepare for a Bridgerton marathon! 'Cael penwythnos bendigedig.'

Regards,

**Mr Thomas**

Headteacher