



Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been one of those classic autumnal weeks. It's been full of events, visits and activities all whilst dodging intermittent rain showers and leaves are covering the playgrounds! We're talking about Strictly (wasn't Chris amazing?!) and Bakeoff in the staff room and Christmas planning has started. Two important reminders first:

1. Don't forget the EYFS and Lower School Harvest Supper on Monday night, more details below.
2. Please bring in any harvest donations for Kettering Foodbank.

Individual and Class Photos

On Tuesday we welcomed a photographer into school to take individual, class and team photos. The Hub was turned into a photo booth with stands, lights and backdrops, and children came in small groups to have their pictures taken. We don't have copies of the photographs yet but when we do, we'll get the proofs to you. It's a logistical challenge to get everyone looking the right way with a smile at the same time, especially the younger pupils, but I hope you'll have a nice memento of your child looking smart in school.

Student Elections

The School Council elections were this week and the hustings were fierce. There are manifesto posters around school and every child from Reception to Year 6 got the opportunity to vote. The Year 6s did a brilliant job of poll clerking. The results are close, very close, and the children will find out who's representing them on the School Council and Eco Committee on Monday when they receive their new badges. Everyone who presented their ideas, made a poster or presentation should be congratulated. ALL of their ideas will be presented at the first meeting and EVERYONE gets their voice heard.

We are recruiting Wellbeing Ambassadors ready for their training and launch on World Mental Health Day so there's more opportunities to have a voice throughout the year.

Uniform

Please make sure that your child has all of the correct uniform and equipment in school. Why not leave blue socks, gum shields and shin pads in your child's bag? Uniforms are available to order through ParentMail. Children will be much more comfortable in a uniform that fits them properly. Thank you for your support. For clarity, the sports kit for Year 1 to Year 6 includes shorts/skort, PE top, tracksuit bottoms, tracksuit top, Blue socks for games, White socks for PE, boots, trainers, shin pads and a gumshield. Children also need a House top for House games afternoons, a house swimming hat every week for swimming and school swimming costume.

Harvest Supper - Monday night

Monday night is the EYFS and Lower School Harvest Supper. All Preschool to Year 2 children must be in school from 5pm until 6pm (unless you have told us that they can't). There will be a harvest meal in the Sunnylands Hall for those who have booked tickets followed by harvest songs and poems. I look forward to seeing you there. All children should be in full winter uniform. Don't forget, we're collecting harvest donations for Kettering Foodbank. Please bring any remaining food donations into school on Monday to be put on display.

PTA Update

A huge thank you to the 2023/24 PTA Committee, especially Mrs Aldwinckle, Mrs Howes, Ms Blackhall and Mrs Jones. We are still benefiting from their hard work last year with new keyboards for music technology arriving last week, an Africa Day planned for the whole school in a few weeks and a few other bits still in the pipeline. The PTA did so much last year they were able to provide so much. Below this update is the Chairs report for last academic year. Sadly, no volunteers came forward at the PTA AGM and therefore the PTA is taking a break. If you would like to volunteer to help organise an event, either for fundraising or just for fun, please get in touch with the School Office. Because they have no volunteers that means that the second hand uniform shop is temporarily closed and the annual Halloween disco may not happen. It is your PTA, and it benefits your children. I'd love to hear from you if you'd like to get involved, even if it's only in a small way.

School Nurse Dop-in

As well as the Police paying a visit to Reception Class, we also welcomed the School Nurse team for a drop-in coffee morning this week. Unfortunately, not many parents were able to attend but there was useful information for those that came including:

- Allergies;
- Flu Jabs (which are later this year if you're wanting to get them done privately);
- Wellbeing support;
- Useful links for parents;
- Cake!

Please come along and support these events if you can to ensure they continue.

The final huzzah of last year's school council was to introduce metal water bottles to replace the school plastic bottles (we had run of stock of plastic bottles and parents had also requested we review the style of bottle we use). These are now available through ParentMail. They are double skinned aluminium with a carry handle and straw type top - all of the children's design.

Finally, two of our parents are getting married this weekend; we hope they have the most magical day. Have a lovely weekend.

Regards,

Mr Thomas

Headteacher

Next week's menu can be found here: <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/menu>

PTA Chairs Report 2023/24

This academic year has been a constant hive of activity for the PTA. Being a brand-new committee didn't hold us back and we hit the ground running. As always, we pride ourselves on being a small but active committee with our sole purpose being raising funds and enriching the lives of children at St Peter's School.

We wanted to make this year, the year we tried as many new things as possible, to make every family feel included and to raise the most money possible. All the money we raise goes directly back to the children of St Peter's, and nothing makes all the hard work more worthwhile than seeing the children rewarded.

This year we tried to celebrate every family's culture and religion in some way. We celebrated Harvest, Diwali, Christmas, Hanukkah, Chinese New Year, Holi, Easter, Eid, Mother's Day, Father's Day and even the leap year. We had colouring and design competitions; we gave out gifts and held events. We had a Bunny drive, games of rounders and even a lovely tea and cake afternoon. We have had many other new events this year as well. We sold Wonka bars on World Book Day, a sponsored singalong, each class made time capsules for leap year, we asked the children to design us a new logo- which is incredible, and we even asked the children to fill tubes of smarties with 20ps.

Then we have our traditional events, our Halloween disco, raffles, the nearly new uniform shop and it wouldn't be Christmas without our Christmas fayre. Which this year was bigger and better than ever. We had games, food, drinks, market stalls, crafts, face painting, tombolas, a raffle and a giant snowman. The children had visit and present from Father Christmas, thanks to some wonderful elves that helped us wrap.

From all these events we have managed to purchase many things including new games for the Christmas fayre, small celebration gifts for every child, music stand banners, keyboards, a Trunk

Theatre visit, the literature festival, a whole school trip to the aquarium, An African Workshop to celebrate Black History Month, a Holi celebration workshop, Year 6 visit to the Aqua Park. On Founders Day we hired a horsebox bar, a sweet van and an ice cream van, we booked princess visits and a disco and did facepainting and games. I'm almost positive I have forgotten something, but it's been an incredible year. Plus we still have one big surprise on its way!

I would like to extend my thanks to the staff, so many of you stay late with us, help us at events when we're running low on volunteers and roll your sleeves up and get stuck in with us, moving tables, putting up gazebos, hoovering to name a few. It does not go unnoticed, and we are very grateful.

We have had so many wonderful parents help us in so many ways as well this year. Thank you too each and every one of you. Whether you gave your time, made a donation or paid for your child to attend one of our events. It means a lot to us and the children and really does make a massive difference. I also think it has helped build a beautiful school community this year, which is exactly what St. P's is all about.

Finally, I would like to say that this has been one of the most innovative and hardworking committees I have had the pleasure of working with. Therefore, it is with a heavy heart I have decided to step down as Chair along with my fellow committee members. While the PTA takes a break, I still have hope for the future and the happy return of the PTA.