



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been an emotional week as we have said our goodbyes and our see you soon. It's also been a busy week for children, teachers and parents alike. I hope we can all now have some time to relax, recuperate and regroup ready for September.

### **Nursery News**

This week, Sunnylands Nursery children have been busy playing with their favourite toys and games for the last time, and although the damp conditions curtailed some of our usual outdoor activities they've still had fun. As the end of this unusual term draws to a close we wish all our children much love and success in the future. The school year has finished with a slightly different 'teddy bears picnic' than usual! The children, instead of sharing their much loved bears from home with us, have made decorated ones and joined virtual storytelling on YouTube.

### **Beginning of Term Assessments**

I've had several questions about knowing where the children will be in September, academically. When we do return to greater normality, we'll use baseline assessments across the school to help us plan, intervene and accelerate pupils as necessary. The government is calling it a recovery curriculum. We have a huge advantage; our small class sizes and experienced teachers will be able to plug the gaps swiftly and effectively through informed assessment.

### **Wonderful Sounds**

As all of the staff are preparing for the new normal, they've been researching new ideas and new initiatives in education. Learning from schools across the globe and keeping up-to-date with the safest ways to teach during a pandemic. One of the articles I read this week was on the benefits of the Ocarina as a musical instrument in schools. It appears that playing the Ocarina is even safer than speaking, as breath and droplets are contained within the instrument. At St Peter's, I would like to make school as rich and fulfilling as possible and that includes ensuring we can offer numerous sporting and musical opportunities. Today, Mrs Palmer led a three-bubble, paper-plate, Hungarian dance performance with 38 pupils socially distanced on the school field. And it was as great as it sounds.

### **Fairytales and Get-togethers**

It was absolutely fantastic to see our Reception Class in our beautiful school grounds dressed as Kings, Queens, Knights and Princesses this week. They certainly are a fun class and I couldn't stop smiling after seeing them enter the gates in full armour and floor length sparkles as part of their Castles topic. It was also marvellous to see some of the Year 4s and 5s on Thursday and despite the rain, we enjoyed our get-together. It was an ideal opportunity to give out books, awards and celebrate a birthday with cupcakes. Thank you Mrs McCahill for organising this. You have been the queen of teaching online and I know that the Year 4s and 5s, despite wanting to be in school, have been in very capable hands with their virtual learning.



## Google Classroom

All of the virtual classrooms will remain 'live' over the summer. There are lots of resources, lessons and ideas still on the platform which you and your child may want to access. The teachers however, will not be online and won't be marking work! I know that having these classrooms active may be useful for some parents over the summer break and the back catalogue of work is available to all. No new work will be set. We calculated this week that through 62 school days of lockdown, our children have submitted over 5000 maths and english activities, learnt over 9,000 spellings and we have hundreds of art projects, recorder recordings and a whole host of valuable learning experiences saved in these classrooms. We have all of this work secure and it won't vanish when the children move up a year group; teachers will still be able to access this amazing bank of work.

## Reports

This week, we sent out all our end of year reports. I hope you enjoyed reading them as much as I did. It's clear to see the dedication and commitment of our teachers in such detailed and personal reports. I hope they provide you with a comprehensive list of your child's achievements and targets and they're a useful tool for you to talk to your child about school. I know these reports were a labour of love and it's clear to read the connection our teachers have made with every child, even when we've been apart.

## Spread the Word

Nationally, all independent schools have seen a decline in pupil numbers. Sadly we're no exception, although we've also noticed that recently many parents are looking for a school, like ours, that's offered a quality, dedicated and personable experience during the last months. I've been offering tours, both virtually and socially-distanced, and all of these parents have been impressed at our offering, especially for such a small school. I'm immensely proud of what we've all achieved. For St Peter's to thrive, we need to tell people about what we've been doing. Please tell your friends, colleagues and neighbours about us. Invite them to get in touch; I would love to show them around the school. Lots of independent schools, such as St Peter's in Northampton, have unfortunately not survived the pandemic. We'll continue, stronger than before, but we're thankful for your help to make sure our little community continues to thrive.

## A Fond Farewell

It's the time of year we must say our fond farewells to our Year 6s and to those who are relocating. I wish you every success in your educational journeys. Your experiences at St Peter's will stay with you, as you will stay in our hearts and minds. Good luck, although you won't need it. Please stay in touch and visit at any time. It was lovely to welcome our Year 6 parents into school at the end of the day to get one final, socially-distanced photograph. Aryan, Daniel, Donnell, Jessica, Mushana, Oscar, here is a message from the Prime Minister for you.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-WsDuO6Gmw&utm\\_source=10%20July%202020%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-WsDuO6Gmw&utm_source=10%20July%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)



Thank you, everyone, for your support. Our community has pulled together during this difficult period and I'm humbled and happy to be part of it. Someone asked me, "if you knew this is what it was going to be like, would you still have taken the job in January?". The answer is easy. Absolutely. I've come to know each child in a way I never would have otherwise. I've spoken to so many parents and felt the passion and care you have for our school. And I couldn't be prouder of my new colleagues who I've worked so closely with. I miss having a class, but I now have a whole St Peter's family.

I hope you have a happy and healthy summer.

Warmest regards,

Mr Thomas