



Head's Update Michaelmas 1, Week 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a busy week in school and on several occasions it felt like the new normal was almost back to the old normal. We've remained vigilant though and have adapted many of our activities and events to be as COVID-friendly as possible. The PCSO visited Reception class with his Police Car, a photographer came and snapped all of the children and we had the eagerly anticipated School Council and Eco-Committee elections. And let's not forget the return to swimming! All of these were socially-distanced, sanitised and safely within the guidelines.

Nursery

Nursery children have enjoyed exploring colours, this week looking at the stories 'The Colour Monster' and 'The Colour Monster Goes To School'. They've been talking about how the monsters' colours represent a feeling and about how we feel. The children have shared with us what makes them happy, sad, calm, loved, angry and scared. They've been very calm doing some relaxing on the carpet after our movement session; also thinking about how our hearts beat fast when we move and slowly when we relax. The children have enjoyed exploring all things green and creating an almost lifesize tractor ready for our new role play area.

Curriculum

Teachers have been working hard to create an exciting and engaging curriculum. We've started uploading parent friendly Learning Journeys onto our website so that you can see what we're working on in school. We're adding a subject each week so keep an eye on this page; it shows just how much we cover in school. We'll add French and Nursery curriculum maps next week. <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/page/?title=Curriculum&pid=118>

School Council & Eco-committee Elections

Last week was Pupil Voice week in the UK so it seems appropriate that on Thursday our Year 4 Poll Clerks made sure that we had a fair election. The school hall was turned into a Polling Station and everyone got to vote. The children learnt about democracy and how voting works. The votes have now been counted and ratified and I'll announce the results on Monday in the (outdoor) whole school assembly, weather permitting. Please remind your children that they'll get an opportunity next year and every year to be part of the school council. Year 6 already have increased responsibilities and will be busy this year if they don't get voted in. There's no winning or losing, although the children may not see it like that.

Individual and Class Photos

On Tuesday we welcomed Bentley Photographic into school to take individual and class 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 and we haven't seen the proofs - everything is done through Bentley Photographic. Please don't contact our school office with enquiries, you must contact and order from the company



directly. The photographer worked really hard during the morning, especially considering he couldn't go near the children or touch anything! I hope you have a memento of your child in school in 2020, something some schools won't be able to do.

Baseline Results and Standardised Score

All baseline assessments are now complete and analysed. All parents from Year 1 to Year 6 should have received a summary of your child's achievements in these tests. Teachers will be using the strand analysis to plan their lessons, inform their teaching and help setup intervention and extension groups. I'm pleased to tell you all that, in general, we've performed really well as a school. The evidence shows that those children who engaged with St Peter's Home Learning have continued to make good progress, even whilst not in school and that our children, on average, are working above that of their peers in other schools. I've attached to this Head's Update a whole school summary of the results with a brief outline by me. I've also recorded a short YouTube tutorial on Standardised Scores for parents, which is on the school YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBeVh7X0HiE>). I hope this is useful in understanding the information. I must emphasise, though, that there's much more to St Peter's than our children's scores in reading, writing and spelling. We give children the opportunity to be musicians, artists, dancers, athletes but most of all well-rounded human beings who care for each other and the world around them. There's no score for that!

Swimming

We were thrilled to be back at Kettering pool today and the smiles on the children's faces made it all worthwhile. It was obvious that many hadn't been swimming in over 7 months but whether your child is a strong or a weak swimmer I could tell they loved being back in the water. It was also the warmest I had been all day as the pool has a new heating system. I look forward to more areas of the Kettering pool being completed as it'll become a fantastic facility for the town.

Lastly, the children have been working hard to earn House Points so I'll continue to keep you updated:

- Barnwell 68
- Brigstock 59
- Stanwick 58
- Sywell 66

Maybe the new School Council can decide on some House events to earn more points later in the term?

Despite the rain, the negative news coverage of university students stuck in their dorms and world leaders isolating, have a lovely weekend. This is my favourite month: Halloween, Strictly, log fires and the first glimpses of the 'C' word (Christmas). Please keep safe everyone.

Regards,

Mr Thomas