



HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY BULLETIN

"For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future"

Jeremiah 29:11

ISSUE NO. 5 : 6 Oct 2023

DIARY DATES

Tues 10 Oct 5-6pm Open Evening for Prospective Parents September 2024 Entry
Wed 11 Oct 9.15-10am Open Morning for Prospective Parents September 2024 Entry
Tues 17 Oct Parent Teacher Consultations by appointment
Thurs 19 Oct Parent Teacher Consultations by appointment
w/c 6 Nov St Peter's Book Week **** NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS ****

THINGS TO CHECK THIS WEEK:

- ☐ School Photograph Order placed
- ☐ Appointment for Parent Evening made
- ☐ Full PE Kit in school at all times
- ☐ Named wellies in school
- ☐ All items of uniform, coats, etc clearly named

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week seems to have zoomed by and feels a bit of a blur. We have been extremely busy rehearsing for our harvest festival and engaging in lots of outdoor learning looking at how autumn affects the trees and other plants. As we move fully into the season of autumn, we have been reflecting on Harvest and the true meaning of this time. Harvest festivals are believed to date back to ancient Britain. Lots of different religions celebrate a similar form of festival, as it was a time where people would have the most food from the plants they grew.

Farmers gave thanks for a good harvest during the full moon closest to the autumn equinox, it was important to them because it meant they could store the food and eat well through the hard winter months.

Here at St Peter's we have been thinking about the Christian Festival of Harvest as well as Harvest around the world. On Wednesday the children were treated to a wonderful morning when they went into Strawson's Field to see two types of tractors that are used on the 200 fields around this area. Alistair and Claire Roberts, Sally Nicholls (Adeline's mummy) and Zoe, who have the two nearest farms to us very kindly came along with not only tractors but buckets of wheat, maize, corn and beans to show the children. The children were shown a tractor with a seed drill and 'Colin the Fifth'. The enthusiasm for this was delightful to see and the children asked really interesting questions. Later in the afternoon the whole school was treated to a 'Harvest Live' event put on by the National Farmers Union, with over 180,000 pupils joining the live stream. As part of this, the children were invited to cook a special recipe of Palak Paneer and see where all the ingredients had come from. The Busy Bees participated in this part, all joining in to prepare the ingredients before having a great tasting session. I have to say they were amazing, and it smelled and tasted delicious! Well done Busy Bees.

Following this we had our beautiful Harvest Festival at St Peter's Church today. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers attend church with us. The children were absolutely brilliant. Although we can prepare for this, you can never quite predict what will happen, especially for our youngest members of school, many of whom have not been to St Peter's Church before. We couldn't have asked for a better service with them.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Alice (age 6)



The Lord will indeed provide what is good; and our land will yield its harvest Psalm 85:12

CLASS NEWS

BUSY BEES

This week our Busy Bees have been extremely busy!!! We have learned new sounds during our phonics sessions, how to write those sounds and how to apply them to read new words. In Maths we have been mastering number 5, learning to count to 5 using the counting principles developed during the last few weeks and represented numbers up to 5 in concrete and pictorial ways as well as linking an amount to the numerals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. We have also celebrated Harvest in a very special way; some local farmers came and visited us with their tractors in the morning and we have learned so much about farming and the life of a farmer. Collective worship took place on the field with a very special prayer related to Harvest from Reverend Ashton. In the afternoon we joined online with thousands of other schools in England for a session of Harvest LIVE where we cooked a special Indian food called Palak Panner. All the Busy Bees helped, and they all ate their share of this amazing food.



LADYBIRDS

Ladybirds have really enjoyed this week. We have been working hard for our church service, practising all the songs. We really hope you enjoyed it. We thoroughly enjoyed our collective worship on Strawson's Field on Wednesday, seeing the amazing tractors. In English we continued looking at 'Lila and the Secret of Rain', thinking about using adjectives to describe a setting and a character. In Maths we have been learning about 2D shapes and whether they have lines of symmetry or not. In History we have continued to learn about Ruby Bridges. We created fact files about her life and her achievements for Black Civil Rights in America.



DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies have had a very scientific week! We have focused our science by creating healthy, unhealthy and balanced meals. We investigated the properties of foods to find out which contains protein, carbohydrates etc. We used this as a base for our first proper experiment in Year 2—we are investigating what different drinks do to our teeth. We are using eggs to represent our teeth and testing the effects of coke, juice and water on the 'enamel' (shell) over time. We will share our results with you next week. In English this week we have been using imperative verbs to help Paddington navigate life in London. In Maths we have been looking at 'greater than' and 'less than' a number and how to show this mathematically.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

A polite reminder that the closing date for free delivery back to school is **Thursday 12 October** – we are unable to accept any order forms in school after this date. Please hand your order forms in to the school office.



Online orders need to be placed by Sunday 15 October if you wish to benefit from free delivery to school.

HOUSE TEAM POINTS



We do understand that this is a long first half term for the children, so hope you have a very peaceful weekend and are able to enjoy the warmer weather that has been predicted. Enjoy!

God bless, *Lenia Greenaway*

ATTENDANCE: ABSENCE IN TERM TIME

We have updated our Absence Request form to reflect changes made in government this year. If you require your child to be absent from school during term time, for **any reason**, this form should be filled in correctly with as much supporting evidence as possible, and submitted to Miss Greenaway for authorization as appropriate. We will be meeting with our new Education Inclusion Officer next week, so will share any other legal updates with you after this time. The officer will be looking at all attendance and any patterns in absence so that systems can be put in place to support those families, where necessary.

The Absence Request form should be used to request all/any planned absence from school including medical appointments, early collection, and holiday request. Planned absence taken without having completed this form in advance may be recorded as unauthorised.

The form can be downloaded from the school website : <https://stpetersinfant.org/letters-home/>



HOMEWORK

Busy Bees: Handwriting practice sheets

Ladybirds: Number Bonds

Dragonflies: Adding using partitioning



Netball Trials

We are recruiting new players for the 2023-2024 season. Are you looking to join a friendly, social & competitive netball club? We are looking for enthusiastic netballers age 5-16 to join our Junior Player Development Program.

Trial dates: Oct 7th & 14th 2023
 Saturday 9-10.30am at Oxted School, RH8 0AB (entrance via Park Road)
 Register for your **free** trial online www.girlsattack.net
 For further information email Maggie-Lynn@girlsattack.net

ST PETER'S CHURCH, TANDRIDGE



SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER

11am Family Communion
 4.30pm Café Service @ St Mary's Church, Oxted
 6.30pm Evensong

Diary Dates:

Sat 7 Oct Harvest Supper at St Peter's (Tandridge Village Hall)
 Sat 14 Oct Christmas Fair in The Space in Oxted Community Hall
 Sun 5 Nov Memorial Service at St Mary's Church
 Sat 25 Nov Trivia Quiz evening at Oxted Community Hall

Phone: 01883 714263
 Email: stmaryoxted.stpeterandridge@gmail.com
https://stpeterandridge.uk/Groups/343723/St_Peters_Church.aspx

Dear Father God,

Each season brings us something new to enjoy,
 With sunny days and rainy days our crops grow larger,
 Fruit and vegetables ripen ready for us to harvest.
 Thank you for all the food we have to eat.
 Let us remember people who do not have enough.
 Help us to be kind to others, in our thoughts,
 words, and deeds.

Amen.



CHILD PROTECTION CONTACT CENTRE

At St Peter's we take the safety and well-being of every child very seriously. If you are ever concerned about a child please speak in confidence to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Greenaway or our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mr Atterton and Mrs Vaquinhas.

If you feel you have not had a satisfactory response from us to any child protection issue, please phone the contact centre on:

Tel: 0300 200 1006

"Safeguarding is Everyone's Business"

Emergency information regarding the school
 will be announced on HEART RADIO 102.7FM

01883 712439 hello@stpetersinfant.org www.stpetersinfant.org



Southwark Diocesan Board of Education
 Supporting Christian Education



EXCLUSIVE BASKETBALL TICKETS



Sunday 22nd October, 16:30
Copper Box Arena
Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

Tickets £10
Open to friends & family



ALL proceeds to St Peter's School

Book NOW - email: friends@stpetersinfant.org

A FANTASTIC WAY TO START THE HALF TERM HOLIDAY!

"Hoops, there it is!"

London Lions vs Surrey Scorchers

St. Peter's is delighted to have been offered an amazing opportunity to see the London Lions basketball team take on the Surrey Scorchers at the iconic Copper Box Arena in the Olympic Park!

Taking place on Sunday 22 October at 16:30, students and families can enjoy the game without worrying about getting up for school the next morning as it's half term!

Tickets are £10 each with all proceeds going to St Peter's School!

We're against the clock, here's THE BUZZER BEATER... As the end of term is nearly upon us we need to be quick to arrange and distribute the tickets before the holidays. Please email friends@stpetersinfant.org

With the number of tickets you require and send the relevant payment to the friends account: Friends of St Peter's C of E School, a/c 63275183, sort code 20-76-55 (reference bball + surname) **by 10am on Monday 16 October.**

This was an incredibly fun event last term with fantastic feedback from all who attended of all ages (even the really little ones!). Please feel free to share with friends and family.

We call that a SLAM DUNK!

You can join
the main school
From age 5
and upwards

SHOWTIME
Performing Arts for Children and Teenagers
www.showtime.london

We have some great news!

Showtime Performing Arts classes are back in Oxted on Sunday mornings, in the drama studio.

9am to 10am for Tinytime, ages 3+ to 5+ and 10am to 1pm for Showtime (5+).

Showtime is made up of three 1 hour sessions covering dance, acting, singing and everything in between.

Our classes are fun, professional and motivating. Our aim is to bring out the best in each of our students, and we do this in a creative and inspiring manner.

Come and see what Showtime is all about, your trial class is **free**.

Register on our website, www.showtime.london, like our facebook page and follow us on instagram.



HALF TERM TENNIS CAMP

Mon 23rd - Wed 25th Oct



CLICK THE LINK TO JOIN IN THE FUN THIS HALF TERM

Book a place in our 3 day camp where your child will experience high energy coaching, match play and team competitions, all guided by our enthusiastic and highly qualified team of professional coaches

FUN SKILLS TRAINING AND MATCH PLAY.



Nethall & Hockey half term camps!

What? Inspiring coaching, technical skills training & lots of match play!

When? Mon 23rd & Tue 24th October 2023

Who? Players aged 6+. All abilities welcome

Where? Hazelwood School Astro and Courts, Oxted, RH8 0QU

Also Minis netball: Oct 1st, Nov 5th, Dec 3rd

Book online@ www.girlsattack.com/sessions

Early bird and sibling discounts available!



ONE OF THE GIRLS

www.girlsattack.com
girlsattack@gmail.com

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATting

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same Wi-Fi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday

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