



# 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. 1 : 6 Sept 2024

## DIARY DATES



w/c 9 Sept After School Clubs start  
Mon 16 Sept School Photographs (with pre-school age siblings from 8.45am by arrangement)  
Tues 17 Sept 9am Phonics/Reading Parent Information session for Ladybirds' and Dragonflies' parents in school hall  
Wed 18 Sept 9am "Meet your Teacher" and Welcome session for Busy Bees' parents in school hall  
Tues 24 Sept 9.15am School Tours for Prospective Parents Sept 2025 Entry  
Fri 27 Sept 9-10am Macmillan Coffee Morning in School Hall—All welcome

\*\* Please continue to check the [school website](#) regularly for updates to the calendar \*\*

**New is the year, new are the hopes, new is the resolution, new are the spirits**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to wish you all a very warm 'Welcome' or 'Welcome Back'. We hope you have had a truly wonderful summer with lots of amazing times and memories made. It was so lovely welcoming our new Busy Bees children and parents into school through this week. The children have been truly amazing and have bowled us over already with how well they have settled into school. They have been fabulous, joining the rest of the school in Collective Worship and at lunchtimes. Mrs Vaquinhas has also said that amongst other things, they are fantastic at tidying up! I know that many of them will be extremely tired after their first few days, so I do hope they all (and everyone else) has a great rest over the weekend. The Ladybirds and Dragonflies have been equally brilliant. I can't actually believe how much they have grown over the summer – what have you been feeding them? They all look so grown up and have also been superb when settling into their new class routines.

## TOPIC WEBS

At the start of each half term we send out topic webs for each class so that you know what the children will be doing and the focus of their learning for the half term. These were discussed with the KS1 parents yesterday but they can all also be found on the school website. As always, we love the children to bring in additional learning from home if they have any to support their topics in school. This half term the topics for each class:

Busy Bees "All About Me"  
Ladybirds "Awesome Autumn"  
Dragonflies "My Wonderful World"



## MEET YOUR TEACHER

As a school we know that one of the keys to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents. We are very proud of our strong school community and are grateful for the support we have from our families. As you know, our doors are always open should you have any concerns and/or news to share with us.

Year 1 & 2 parents have already had an informal 'Meet your Teacher' session this week. If you were unable to attend please don't worry; the Topic Webs, class newsletters and any important information will be sent via email. For the Busy Bees parents, we will hold a session on Wed 18 Sept for you to have a catch up and ask any questions that may have cropped up. The meeting will be held in the school hall at 9am. Again, if you are unable to attend we will also send any important information via email. In the meantime if you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Mrs Vaquinhas on the gate, your class reps or email the school office.

## THE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Like all schools St Peter's has a very clear vision for the future which will move the school forward in an ever-changing world and present excellent teaching and learning opportunities for our children. As you will appreciate this is a very concise document setting out the strategic intent of the school. A short summary of this document will be emailed to you today and can also be found on the school website.



## DIARY DATES

Each week we will highlight events and dates happening within the next couple of weeks in the newsletter. Additional and longer term dates are available on the school website for your information and for forward planning. Please do regularly check these as we wouldn't want you to miss out on anything.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are a nut free school. We have several children and staff members who are allergic to eggs, dairy and nuts and the reaction can be severe. It would be greatly appreciated if you would not put anything containing nuts or sesame seed into your child's lunch box or send anything containing nuts or sesame seed into school. This applies to after-school snacks for clubs as well. Thank you in advance for your continued co-operation.



## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS : MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

The children will have their school photographs taken during the morning on Monday 16 Sept. Please ensure they are correctly dressed in full school uniform (summer or winter) with tidy hair and cheesy grins. If you would like a photo to be taken of your child before school with their pre-school age sibling please email the school office. This is by prior arrangement only please. If your child has a sibling(s) in the school a joint photo will automatically be taken as well as individual photos and does not need to be pre-booked. Copies of the photographs will be available for you to order in due course if you wish.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION: ATTENDANCE

Please may I remind you that under no circumstances will family holidays and other events that involve children being taken out of school in term time be authorised unless they are to attend another educational establishment, or are for medical reasons. The absence will be recorded as unauthorised, as per the new attendance guidance that came into effect from August 2024.

The changes to guidance include unauthorised absence, holidays and persistent absentees. The issuing of a Penalty Notice has changed, and the fine has increased. The circumstances where a fine may be given has also been updated. For example, please see below:

**The Inclusion Service, acting on behalf of Surrey County Council may issue a Penalty Notice as an alternative to the prosecution of a parent/carers for their child's unauthorised absence from school and requires the recipient to pay a fixed amount.**

**If a parent/carers has not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00 per parent/carers per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against the parent/carers in the Magistrates Court.**

**If a parent/carers has incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00 per parent/carers per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court.**

Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.



## OUR CHRISTIAN VALUE:

### FAITH

This week we have introduced our new Christian Value for the term "FAITH" in Collective Worship. The children have been very thoughtful and have reflected beautifully on their understanding and meaning of the word so far.

This is a lovely value to think about especially at the beginning of the school year when children are starting anew and we as parents may have our own fears and anxieties. Let us remember that we have faith in God to help and guide us along our path, that we should have faith in ourselves that we can do things even when they feel a little overwhelming or daunting and that we must have faith in others that they will help and care for us as we would for them.

If you have a moment, take time to reflect on your own understanding of faith and perhaps have a chat with the children, it is always so insightful to hear what they have to say. We all learn something new every day!

### WRAPAROUND CARE

We have an arrangement with St Mary's Primary School in Oxted for our children to access their on-site wraparound care run by Rising Stars with transport to and from St Peter's provided by East Surrey Rural Transport (ESRTP formerly Buses4U).

St Peter's children may book onto before school, after school and/or "Wraparound" sessions at St Mary's directly with Rising Stars. For enquiries re: wraparound care contact Melissa from Rising Stars at: [melissa@pleiadesleisure.com](mailto:melissa@pleiadesleisure.com) and/or on 07981 164250.

### ST PETER'S/ST MARY'S BUS SERVICE

If you need your child to be transported to or from St Mary's please also **book this directly with ESRTP and ensure that the school office is informed of any arrangements you make.**

If you feel the wraparound care is not required it is possible that ESRTP are able to still provide transport for your child allowing you to drop them/meet them at St Mary's before/after school.

Places are extremely limited so you are advised to book early.

For ESRTP transport contact [rtg@esrtp.org.uk](mailto:rtg@esrtp.org.uk) and/or on 01883 701270. There is a minimal charge of £1 per journey for this service.

### THINGS TO CHECK THIS WEEK:

- Full PE Kit in school at all times
- Named wellies in school
- All items of uniform, coats, etc **clearly named**
- School Office is notified of any changes (contact details, school lunch arrangements, pick up/drop off arrangements)
- Y1/Y2 : Book After School Clubs—there are still places available in all clubs
- Medicines/Inhalers in school where needed
- Signed up for School Milk



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Elsie (age 6), Marnie (age 7) and Noah (age 7)

I know the children, (and staff) may be fairly tired after their first week back at school, so I hope you all have a very relaxing and gentle weekend.

God bless, *Lenia Greenaway*

### 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"**

## REMINDERS:

### PARKING

I fully understand that parking can be tricky here at school especially during our 'rush hour' times but please also respect our neighbours and do not park in the bays at the top of the school. Some of the residents are disabled and use these bays for easy access to their houses rather than the car park at the bottom. If using the car park please ensure that you do not block the "circulation route" and remember to leave enough space for cars to move in and out of the car park. There should be **no parking on the zig zags** in front of school **at any time** as this obstructs the line of sight for those crossing the road and puts our children in danger. Cars exiting the car park must give way to those entering from the road (for safety there should not be anyone reversing back up the drive). Thank you very much for your co-operation.

### CLASS DOJO—YR1 AND YR2

Please may I remind parents that Class Dojo is a wonderful platform that we use to upload homework and for pupils to submit their home learning. This channel will be used for **homework communications only**. Please ensure **ALL** other communications to teachers are emailed to the school office, who will then pass on messages in the appropriate way. Teachers will not respond to any messages sent on ClassDojo. Thank you.

### FIRE PROCEDURES

A fire drill is held at least every half term. When the alarm sounds children and adults go out of the nearest exit and assemble on the playground. Teachers stay with their classes and all other adults go to the office staff (on the playground) who will make sure all are accounted for. If you are in, or in the vicinity of, the building when the alarm is raised please go to the playground immediately. It is imperative that, if you are helping in school, you sign in and out and, equally if your child arrives late or has to leave early you must sign them in or out at the school office.

### SCHOOL DINNER

Please may we remind you that if there are any changes in packed lunches/dinners/dietary requirements that you email the school office straight away as all catering goes through the office to the kitchen. If this is not done the number of meals prepared for the children may be incorrect.

### WELLIES AND SUNHATS

We will be continuing to get the children outside as often as possible. Please make sure your child has a pair of wellies and a sun hat to keep at school (if possible) – then they are ready for any weather we

Dear Father God,

We ask that you surround students with peace as they begin a new year of classes.

Give them a passion for learning new things and bless their hard work over the coming months. Surprise them with unexpected moments of joy.

Guard their hearts and help them to be a light to those around them.

We ask that you bring new friendships to light.

Bless each person with kind and encouraging friends who reflect your character and are a good influence.

We thank you for the gift of friendship and we ask you to bless each of these relationships over the next year. Amen



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

01883 712439

[hello@stpetersinfant.org](mailto:hello@stpetersinfant.org)

[www.stpetersinfant.org](http://www.stpetersinfant.org)



Southwark Diocesan Board of Education  
Supporting Christian Education





# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Change can be hard for children to manage. Going back to school after a long summer break might cause them to feel uncertain about their friendships, school routines and relationships with new teachers. However, trusted adults play an important role in providing both practical and emotional support.

## 1 LEARN WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU NEED

Figure out a list of all equipment needed for the start of the school year, so you can comfortably get your hands on the necessary items in time. If children have any financial issues and receive free school meals, the school may be able to provide some monetary aid or offer other support.

## 2 COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL

If you notice that a child is feeling anxious about a change of teacher or school, arranging a one-to-one meeting with their new teacher can be a good way to alleviate some of the anxiety. Just knowing that they understand the child's worries and will be able to help them if the need arises can build the foundations of a good working relationship. Knowing that you can contact them with any queries can also be reassuring.

## 3 CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

There will be plenty of information about the start of term on the school's website to keep you updated. Furthermore, you should be able to find other useful information such as contact details for staff, important school equipment, clubs, and news about any special events on the school calendar for the year. It could be helpful to look through this with children for anything which might reassure them.

## 4 HELP TO MANAGE FRIENDSHIPS

If a child is feeling anxious about making new friends – especially if they're moving up to secondary school – it can be a good idea to remind them of what they could do or say when meeting new classmates. Investigating the extracurricular activities available could be a good way to open a conversation about their hobbies and pastimes, and joining such clubs could allow new friendships to be built on this mutual interest.

## 5 PLAN SELF-CARE

Talking to children about how they can manage their self-care can be an effective way of helping them understand its importance. This might involve playing a computer game they love with friends, a weekly visit to the library, getting to bed at the same time each night, or a range of other activities that support their wellbeing and provide the familiarity and safety of a routine that works for them.

## 6 MANAGE TRICKY FEELINGS

Explain that it's okay to have difficult feelings around returning to school. This can help reduce any shame or embarrassment a child might be feeling over these emotions. Emphasise that other children – even some of the teachers – will be feeling the same way. Consider practical ways to manage these feelings and help children feel more in control of their emotions. Some examples include fidget toys, breathing exercises or a notepad for doodling.

## 7 SECURE A SCHOOL UNIFORM

Parents and carers should try to buy a child's uniform for the new academic year well in advance of the new term (although allowing for potential holiday growth spurts) and give them time to adapt to any changes. Make sure they can comfortably change into and out of it for PE lessons. Double check the requirements for PE on the school's website, as some schools will also have requirements for PE kits.

## 8 PREPARE FOR TRANSITION DAYS

Ensuring that children attend transition days is a vital step in preparing for the new year. Some schools also have transition evenings for parents and carers to attend, offering extra opportunities to reach out for any additional support.

## 9 READ THE MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

If a young person struggles with their mental health, it's important to understand their school's mental health policy and provision to know what support is available. This should be on the school's website. A range of aid is typically on offer – from individual timetable amendments to group sessions on emotional wellbeing. You can then discuss these options with the child to reassure them that help is there if they need it.

## 10 LEARN ABOUT SEN SUPPORT

If a child has SEN and receives help in school, try to confirm exactly what support is available, to ensure they'll be having their needs met. If they're moving up to secondary school, it's a good idea to meet with the SENCO to ensure that all teachers receive the most relevant, up-to-date information about the child's needs and have a contact to liaise with if these change over time.

### Meet Our Expert

Amy Sayer is a freelance mental health trainer for schools, an author and a content writer. She is an Associate for Diverse Educators, a fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and ITT wellbeing coach. Amy has previously been a SMHL coach, helping many different settings audit their mental health provision and support them to create and implement a strategic plan based on the specific needs of each setting.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-going-back-to-school>



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