



# 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. 9 : 8 Nov 2024

## DIARY DATES

w/c 11 Nov	St Peter's Book Week & Anti-Bullying Week
Wed 13 Nov	World Kindness Day
Fri 15 Nov	9am—10.30am "Bring Your Grandparent To School" - please book your place Book Week Dress Up Day & Children in Need
Tues 19 Nov	5-6pm Open Evening for Prospective Parents Sept 2025 Admissions
Wed 20 Nov	9.15am Open Morning for Prospective Parents Sept 2025 Admissions
Thurs 21 Nov	2.30pm Open Classroom



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back for the second half of the autumn term. I hope you all managed to have some rest and relaxation over the half term break and are raring to go as we lead up to a very magical time for the children. The term is going to be a busy one as we have a plethora of activities planned for the children, but we hope it will be hugely enjoyable for everyone.

The children have settled straight back into the swing of school beautifully and it has been lovely hearing about their half term adventures, as well as seeing their eagerness for learning. Their enthusiasm is limitless and the buzz around school is delightful to feel and see. We have already started our Christmas play casting and rehearsals, which the children have dived into with gusto, so I apologise now if your child[ren] starts singing songs at home that then creep into your heads!

## FIRST STEPS TO LEADERSHIP

This week we have seen our first half of the Dragonflies Class have a brilliant practical session on 'First Steps to Leadership' where they were able to explore what makes a good leader and how to make sure everyone is taking part in activities whilst having fun. They looked at why teamwork is important and how to ensure everyone is engaged and having fun. They explored the importance of warming up the body and the mind ready for physical activity with an understanding of ways to improve activities by using the 'Mr NEDD' principle (name, explain, demonstrate, deliver). They then had to lead a game for the rest of the group. Finally they were set 3 challenges, all to be completed at school using their newly learnt leadership skills.

The rest of the class will also complete this training in the next few weeks. These skills will definitely support them in their own personal development as responsible and considerate individuals throughout their school life and beyond.



## CLASS DOJO: Ladybirds & Dragonflies

Please be considerate when using Class Dojo to send your child[ren]'s homework. Please upload homework and pictures to your child's profile and send these between the hours of **8.30am – 5pm on week days only**. This will enable teachers to have more of a work-life balance—it can be difficult to ignore messages 'pinging' through even out of hours. Thank you.

## BOOK WEEK w/c 11 November

We will be introducing both Book Week and Anti-Bullying Week to the children next week with our first Collective Worship on Monday to be led by the Anti-bullying team; which we are very excited about. We will be having lots of wonderful reading and friendship activities concluding in our fantastic 'Bring your Grandparent to School' morning on Friday.

### COMPETITION TIME

Reminder: **Entries should be submitted by Friday 15 November** (named originals handed to class teachers or emailed to [info@stpetersinfant.org](mailto:info@stpetersinfant.org)).

## BOOK FAIR Monday 11 November—Thursday 14 November

Throughout Book Week we will have a Book Fair and Pop Up Book Shop running in the library before and after school. The children will visit the Book Fair with their classmates on Monday to look at all the wonderful books available and maybe choose a book they would like to purchase. We would be grateful if you could take some time to look at the [website](#) over the weekend with your child and choose any book or books you might like to purchase. With Christmas just around the corner you may even find some ideal gifts for Father Christmas to bring. If you wish for your purchase to be put aside and not given to your child to bring home please email the school office and we will make sure it is kept to one side to collect.

The school receives great commission on the value of books sold, so the more books that are bought, the better! We will then be able to supplement our growing reading scheme and library with up-to-date and exciting new books using the commission earned.

The Book Fair is open at drop off and pick up Monday afternoon to Thursday afternoon.

## DRESS UP DAY Friday 15 November

The children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character or author on the last day of Book Week. Please bear in mind that the children will still be taking part in classroom activities and outdoor play on this day so costumes should be practical please. If you do not have a costume or your child does not want to dress up, a t-shirt with an image of their favourite book attached is more than adequate! Princesses and superheroes are also usually very popular! Friday is also Children In Need so we will be collecting donations on the gate. If you are able to make a contribution, however small, that would be greatly appreciated. I have realised this may leave some children with the dilemma for their costume choice and we are looking forward to seeing if anyone can combine the two themes—book characters AND spots!?! – 101 Dalmatians, Minnie Mouse, Chloe from Bluey..... ??

## BRING YOUR GRANDPARENT TO SCHOOL Friday 15 November 9am—10.30am

We are looking forward to welcoming our lovely grandparents in to school next Friday morning (please go directly to the school hall at drop off). Please remember it is **one grandparent** from each family only and they should be signed up in advance via this link <https://forms.office.com/e/2jriwJQRu>. Please encourage them to bring in traditional board games, books and stories that take us back to childhoods past if possible. Grandparents are very welcome to dress up as book characters too if they wish!!

Please share the school parking guidelines with grandparents so that we are not unnecessarily inconveniencing local residents and other users of the car park. We would also like to remind you of our safeguarding policy and in particular, no mobile phones in school. We will take lots of photographs and share them with you, so grandparents should not be taking their own please. Thank you.

# CLASS NEWS

## BUSY BEES

Busy Bees came back ready for learning and what a week we have had! We learned about Bonfire night and created an amazing fireworks display painting using a new technique. We have introduced "The Drawing Club" sessions which is a new approach for creative writing in EYFS, and, this week, Busy Bees explored "The Goldilocks & the Three Bears" story during the sessions. In Maths our focus was on mental addition and subtraction, finding number pairs to 5, and addition number sentences to match each one. We also introduced simple subtractions using number pairs and learned to recognise that addition and subtraction are inverse operations. In RE we spent some time thinking about the celebrations we have and why. We created a picture to represent a special celebration and explained what was the most important thing about it. Ahead of Remembrance Day on Monday we have been learning about the meaning of the poppies and Remembrance Day and we made our own poppies to display in the classroom.

**Homework:** Handwriting practice sheets



## LADYBIRDS

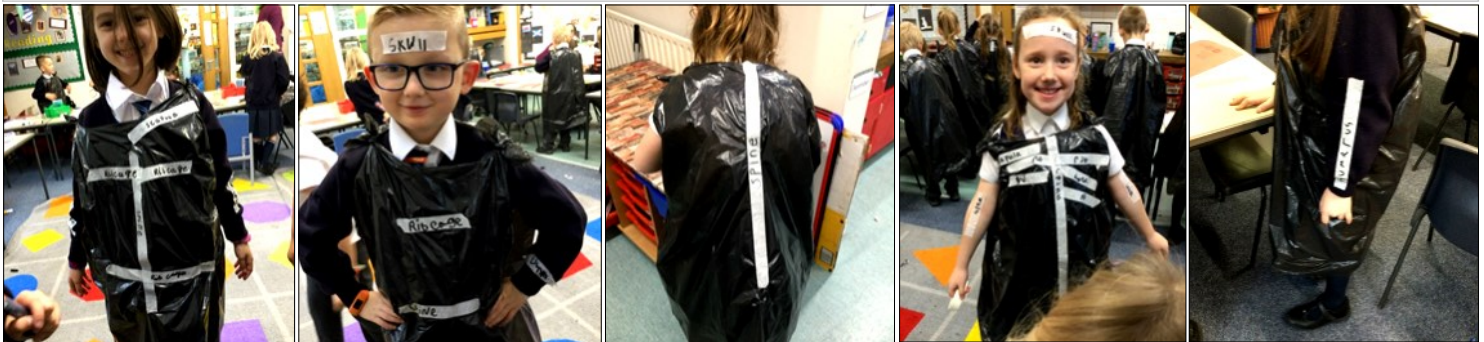
Ladybirds have had a great first week back. We started our new "Guy Fawkes" history topic, learning all about Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot. We looked at the story, what happened and how things are different now. As part of our outdoor learning, we created bonfire pictures using leaves and sticks—these are great! In English this week, we have been looking at 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson. We planned our own version of the story and have begun writing it. We had some brilliant titles, for example 'The Caterpillar Who Was Afraid of Change' and 'The Dog Who Was Afraid of Other Animals'.

**Homework:** Teen Numbers

## DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies have had a great start to the new half term. In English we started looking at the book "Dirty Bertie" by Alan MacDonald and we tried describing the main character using 'adventurous adjectives'. We then ordered the story using time conjunctions to do this. In Maths we have been investigating how to add and take away 10; a concept they picked up really quickly. We then moved onto look at ordinal numbers, where we had to be detectives and work out codes. In Science we had a look at the skeleton and we used bin bags and masking tape to label all the bones in our body. Did you know, children have 300 bones, adults have 206!?

**Homework:** Start practising and trying to learn your Christmas Play lines



# CHURCH NEWS



Our services this Sunday:

**8am** Holy Communion  
**11am** All Age Worship  
**6.30pm** Evening Prayer

### THE BEST STORY EVER TOLD

We thank God for the gift of words—the way they can stir our imaginations with tales of talking lions and wicked witches. Through books, we can explore new worlds that are built meticulously from brains God knit himself.

We get to know different people, different cultures, and different points of view—all without actually leaving the page (or our bed).

The best thing about the best stories is that they're retellings of the truest one of all—reminders of what it means to be brave, to be loved, to be known, to be redeemed.

As you crack open the pages of your book today— whichever one it might be— use this prayer to invite God to meet you there.

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Philippians 4:8).



### ONLINE PARENTING COURSES - FAMILY LIVES

Being a parent has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for. The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families existing hundreds of miles from what may be called a 'core unit'. The rapid pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents may find themselves lost in a maelstrom of contradictory advice. For adults, time has never been more compacted. Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested please follow the link: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses>

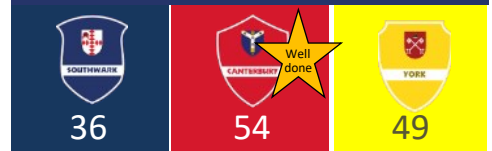
Family Lives offers a confidential and free\* helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on 0808 800 2222 for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice. (\* Free from landlines and most mobiles)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Theo C. and Eliza (age 7)



## HOUSE TEAM POINTS



### Library Information

- Joining the library is free - just provide proof of address
- Under 5's can get a 'Pebble' card
- No late fee on children's books borrowed on a child card
- Return books to ANY Surrey branch or consortium library
- Audio books are free of charge to borrow
- Borrow up to 25 books
- Reservations for children's books on a child card are free

### Get in touch

oxted.library@surreycc.gov.uk  
 Phone: 0300 200 1001  
 Twitter: @oxtedlibrary @SurreyLibraries  
 Facebook: @oxtedlibrary @SurreyLibrariesUK  
 www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries  
**Under 5's Events**  
**Pebble Rhymetimes**  
 Fridays at 10.30am  
**Build a Story**  
 Thursdays at 2.15-2.45pm

### Children's Events

Check out our website, follow us on social media or posters in library for all the most up to date events including Lego, crafts and workshops



### Welcome to Oxted Library

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	9:30 - 5:00
Wednesday	9:30 - 5:00
Thursday	9:30 - 5:00
Friday	9:30 - 5:00
Saturday	9:30 - 5:00
Sunday	CLOSED

There is a dropbox located by the entrance of the library for books to be returned outside of opening hours. Please note your book will not be returned until the next working day

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. God Bless, Lenia Greenaway

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  
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# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

## 1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

## 2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

## 3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

## 4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel..." or "I think..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

## 5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

## 6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

## 7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

## 8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each other.

## 9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

## 10 REFLECT AND LEARN

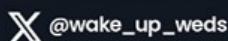
After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

## Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/choose-respect>



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