



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. 23 : 7 Mar 2025

DIARY DATES

Wed 12 Mar	Dragonflies visit to Big Wood Estate
Mon 17 Mar	3.15pm Ladybirds Friendship Teatime in Tandridge Village Hall—all welcome
Wed 19 Mar	Ladybirds visit to Big Wood Estate
Fri 21 Mar	Comic Relief Red Nose Day / Odd Socks Day for Downs Syndrome
Tues 25 Mar	Parent Teacher Consultations by appointment
Thurs 27 Mar	2pm Mothers Day Assembly Parent Teacher Consultations by appointment
Tues 1 Apr	9am "How we teach reading at St Peter's"—Parent info session in school hall
Wed 2 Apr	FOSP Cinema Evening
Thurs 3 Apr	Sponsored Bunny Hop 2.45pm Easter Bonnet Parade—Parents welcome to watch
Fri 4 Apr	9am Easter Service at St Peter's Church—All welcome
Tues 22 Apr	INSET Day—school closed for staff training

"And he said to all: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" Luke 9:23

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week the children have been thinking very carefully about Lent. We held our Pause Day on Wednesday to mark the first day of Lent. The day began with a lovely Collective Worship led by Reverend Ashton explaining the name Shrove Tuesday and asking everyone if they enjoyed pancakes the night before. Needless to say, everyone agreed that they had, and the mix of toppings would certainly have made your mouth water!

The children created lots of fantastic pieces of artwork and prayers throughout the day. They could talk freely about Lent and its importance to Christians, which was wonderful to hear. Each class also thought about acts of kindness as Lent isn't simply about giving things up but also giving back to others. They came up with their own '40 Days of Lenten Kindness.' These included sharing their toys, giving someone a hug or giving someone a huge smile, as well as helping someone. Or even, as Luca in Busy Bees said, "Keeping someone safe". They all shared and celebrated their creations together in a special Collective Worship in the afternoon.

Ladybirds led their own interactive Collective Worship yesterday which followed on beautifully from our Pause Day. They clearly spoke about Lent and what it means for Christians and asked children what they might be giving up for Lent. We had some interesting responses which included giving up watching television - without being sceptical, I'm not sure how long that one will last! Thank you Ladybirds for a lovely worship.

WHAT ARE THE ORIGINS AND MEANING OF LENT?

Shrove Tuesday is a Christian festival celebrated in many countries across the globe. It falls on the Tuesday before the beginning of Lent – a period of around six weeks leading up to Easter. During Lent, Christians give up luxuries to remember when Jesus went into the desert for 40 days to fast and pray.

The exact date of Shrove Tuesday changes from year to year. But one thing stays the same — it's always 47 days before Easter Sunday.

The name comes from the old word 'shriving', which means to listen to someone's sins and forgive them. In Anglo-Saxon England, Christians would go to church on Shrove Tuesday to confess their sins and clean their soul.

In the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia and Canada, Shrove Tuesday also has another name... Pancake Day! Traditionally during Lent, Christians would give up rich, tasty foods such as butter, eggs, sugar and fat (some Christians continue to do so, in fact). Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to eat them – and what better way to do so than with a delicious pancake! In many of our children's case – with chocolate spread on top!

ORIGINS OF ASH WEDNESDAY

The true beginnings of Ash Wednesday are unknown. Many Christians believe that it has been observed since the 4th century. But why is it called Ash Wednesday?

The oldest and most traditional part of Ash Wednesday is the 'Imposition of Ashes'. This ceremony involves churchgoers receiving ashes drawn in the shape of a crucifix on their forehead. The priest or other leader of a church congregation will typically be the person to paint the ashes on each worshipper's forehead. The ashes used are often the burned palm leaves saved from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations.


As they draw the sign of the cross, the priest or person responsible for giving the sermon may say, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". This second quotation is taken from Genesis 3:19, and it refers to God ejecting Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. The ash symbolises death and repentance for our sins.





A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,
 During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.
 Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and
 solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a
 prayer-full life.
 Help me to fast from those things that threaten the
 well-being of body and soul and remind me of the
 grace of simplicity.
 Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in
 so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and
 generosity.
 May this season be a grace-filled time to
 rekindle my love for and faith in you.
 Amen.




As Jesus entered Jerusalem the palm branches were placed in his path

IT'S OFFICIAL, THE KIDS CLUBS FAMILY IS COMING TO ST PETER'S C OF E INFANT SCHOOL FROM SUMMER 2025

The Kids Clubs FAMILY
 Wraparound Care

BREAKFAST CLUB
 7.30-8.45 AM £8

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
 3.15-6 PM £15.95

FOR CHILDREN OF ST PETER'S ONLY

A safe and stimulating environment with a range of fun resources to keep the children entertained before and after a busy day at school.

ACTIVITIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 EMAIL: INFO.TEAM@THEKIDSCUBS.COM
 TEL: 01760472281 / 07793740242

THE KIDS CLUBS @ St PETER'S



Our new on-site Wraparound Care programme in partnership with The Kids Clubs Family

Available daily during term-time, from 7.30 am before school until 6 pm after school. For more information and/or to book your sessions please visit <https://www.thekidsclubsfamily.com/st-peters-club>.

- Breakfast Club** 7.30am to 8.45am
- After School Tea Club** 3.15pm to 6pm

Please note, our current After School Extra-Curricular Clubs programme will continue and run alongside this service, subject to sufficient numbers. The Buses4U shuttle will also continue for transport to St Mary's after school.

CLASS NEWS



BUSY BEES

Busy Bees have been looking at the book "Leaf" by Sandra Dieckmann—a story about a polar bear who drifts away on a small iceberg and washes up on the shores of a forest. The story focuses on the initial fear of the forest animals and their inquisitive nature, as 'Leaf' has an interesting habit of collecting leaves. It also explores the camaraderie of the animals in their quest to help return the polar bear home and touches on the issue of climate change. The children have very much enjoyed the story and have continued their learning and knowledge by investigating facts about Polar bears. In Maths we have looked at comparing, estimating and ordering numbers up to 20. On Wednesday we shared 'Pause Day' with the rest of the school. We made crosses which we decorated and placed a heart with our personal prayer on. We drew and wrote an act of kindness.

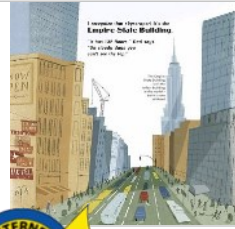
Homework: Numbers to 20



LADYBIRDS

Ladybirds class led the school collective worship yesterday, telling everyone all about the period of Lent. We learned our lines really well and spoke very clearly and loudly. We enjoyed taking part in the Lent Pause Day this week, thinking carefully about the sacrifices Jesus made and we created some lovely art work which is on display in the classroom. In Maths we have been looking at numbers to 100. We have partitioned them into tens and ones as well as looking at the order and formation of them. In English, we have been looking at the book 'The Knight Who Wouldn't Fight' by Helen Docherty. We have been using this story to help us with adjectives, using adjectives to describe a shield that we designed as well as our own dragon. We would like to say a big thank you to Simon Quincey (Reuben's daddy) for coming in and teaching us such an engaging RE lesson on what Christians believe.

Homework: Numbers to 100



DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies have started looking at a new History topic about explorers, with a focus on the USA. We began by investigating Christopher Columbus: using information sources to decide what our opinion is of the famous explorer. We then moved forward in history and looked at the original 13 colonies. In English we have started the book 'A Walk in New York' by Salvatore Rubbino. The children used this to explore famous places in New York City and find out facts about them. They then placed them on a map of the city. In Maths we have had another look at doubling, but using this to focus on partitioning - thinking about 10s and 1s. In Science we took our learning outside to look for particular plants on the school site. This will help next week, when we start our new topic on plants.

Homework: Maths problems



WATCHING AND BROWSING ONLINE - INTERNET MATTERS

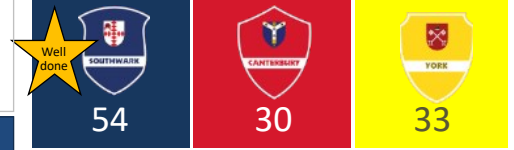
According to Ofcom, 90% of children are watching online videos and browsing the internet regularly. Children may love to stream videos and look up information, it's a fun way to learn and relax after all, but they must be guided. The E-Space is filled with inappropriate content and dangerous material.

It is important that parents are able to steer their youngsters towards the right places when online. Internet Matters has published a guide dedicated to supporting adults in setting digital boundaries for children, so that they can make smart choices and build healthy online habits. In the Internet Matters guide you'll find practical tips on managing content access, the use of safety controls, advice on setting boundaries and ways to educate children on how to stay secure online. For more information, please follow the link : <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/watching-and-browsing-online-a-parents-guide/>

EARRINGS IN SCHOOL

There are some children who are wearing fake, dangly earrings into school. This is not part of our school uniform policy (which can be found on the school website). If children are seen wearing these they will be confiscated and handed to parents at the end of the school day. On a similar note, please may we remind you that nail polish should not be worn in school either. Thank you for your support.

HOUSE TEAM POINTS



FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S NEWS

Quiz Night
Save the date and get your teams together!
Friday 25th April, 7pm
Tandridge Village Hall
£15pp, tables of 8
Cash Bar
BYO Food/Drinks
Further details and booking link to follow

easyfundraising
Book with TUI this month and we'll receive a £100 donation!
CLASSROOM COMMITMENT

THINKING ABOUT A 2025 HOLIDAY?

Until 31st March, every holiday booked with TUI via easyfundraising will raise a £100 donation for our school. So, if just 6 parents book a TUI holiday, that's £600 raised!

To find out more, visit:
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpeterstandridge>

or scan the QR code >>



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Floss (age 6)

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, or telephone Surrey Child Services contact centre on:



Tel: 0300 200 1006

"Safeguarding is Everyone's Business"

CHURCH NEWS



Our services this Sunday:

11am Family Communion
6.30pm Evening Prayer

>> [St Peter's Church & Tandridge Village Magazine](#)

God our Father, you guide and direct us on our journey through life. Be with us as we begin our Lenten journey of faith and love. Help us to grow closer to you during this special holy season. Help us to do your will each day during Lent. Amen.

I hope you have the most fantastic weekend, enjoying the sunshine. God Bless, Lenia Greenaway

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

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



Southwark Diocesan Board of Education
Supporting Christian Education



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUpWednesday

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