

HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

DIARY DATES

ISSUE NO. 26: 28 Mar 2025

Tues 1 Apr 9am "How we teach reading at St Peter's"—Busy Bees 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. Please take your child directly to the church from 8.45am

Tues 22 Apr INSET Day—school closed for staff training

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR LOVELY ST PETER'S MUMMIES

Dear Parents and Carers

We are hurtling towards the end of the spring term already, and I do wonder how we got here so quickly. The children have been working extremely hard, growing in all senses of the word: socially, emotionally and academically. I hope you have also seen this as you have talked with class teachers at your parent consultations this week and then been able to celebrate these achievements with your child[ren]. It was lovely to catch up with many of you while you were looking over your children's books.

I think the many plants that the children have been growing as part of their learning must have taken inspiration from the children as they too are flourishing. The Dragonflies tomato plants have absolutely shot up. This week the children have been eagerly investigating the different flowers and plants growing around the school, and exploring which trees are deciduous or evergreen. The classes have produced some lovely work including fantastic nature books in Ladybirds. What a wonderful time they have had, especially with this fabulous weather.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

As you are all aware, this weekend is a special one for our mothers, carers, grandmothers and, indeed, great grandmothers whether they are with us today or in our hearts. We would like to wish you all a very Happy Mother's Day for Sunday and hope you are all thoroughly spoilt over the weekend.

We hope, for those of you who could make it, you enjoyed the assembly the children presented to you on Thursday. They certainly worked their socks off rehearsing for it! For those of you who could not make it, we have made a recording which we will send by email and hope you all enjoy watching it.

Amother's love is whole no matter how many times it's divided

Mother's Day in the UK has its origins in the 16th-century custom of 'Mothering Sunday', which fell on the fourth Sunday of Lent. That's three Sundays before Easter, and the tie-in with the church calendar is why the date changes each year. The tradition was that you paid your 'mother church' a visit – either the church where you were christened, your parish church, or the nearest cathedral – and you were said to be 'going a-mothering' when you did so.

On this day, which came to be known as Mothering Sunday, servants were given the day off to go back to the parish in which they were born, with children and other family members also joining in. Because this occasion was a rare opportunity for a family get-together, the focus of the day gradually shifted to visiting not just the mother church, but one's own mother.

On the way to the church, people gathered wildflowers to leave in the church and to present to their mothers. And, although the day fell during Lent, the austerity was relaxed for Mothering Sunday and people treated their mothers to edible gifts such as Simnel cake, 'mothering buns' or fig pie.



"A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place noone else can take" - Cardinal Mermilloo

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

As a mother protects her children, watching over them day by day, so you Lord protect, your arms constantly encircling us, your hands delivering us from harm. For the intensity of your love, Lord Jesus we thank you. Lowing God, we thank you for mothers

— for all they mean or have meant, for the love they have shown and the care they have given.

We thank you for the qualities of mothers

— their patience, their kindness, concern and understanding. We thank you for the part they play in our lives, and we thank you for this day of saying 'thank you' this opportunity to say what we so often mean to say but so rarely do.

For mothers and motherhood, for children and families we bring you this day our grateful praise.

IMPORTANT MESSAGES:

TREE CLIMBING:

Children should **not** be climbing trees/bushes on school grounds at any time. This is a safety issue—the trees are not appropriate for climbing and we do not want any child hurt trying to do this, or indeed, our lovely plants damaged in the process. We appreciate that tree climbing can be an exciting activity, but please may we ask that parents have oversight of their children when playing outside of school in the field areas. Thank you.

There are NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS next week!



EASTER BONNETS:

We are looking forward to seeing lots of lovely Easter Bonnets on Thursday. Please may the children take these to their classrooms on Thursday morning where the teachers will store them safely ready the parade on the playground at 3pm.



CLASS NEWS

BUSY BEES

This week Busy Bees have been busy trying to make Mother's Day a very special day this year. We made special gifts and cards and wrote lovely messages to show our mummies how much we love them. It was so heartwarming to see their commitment and perseverance to make the Mother's Day Assembly a very special event for their mums. In the classroom we have created a 'Love and Kindness' board to explain how Christians can show kindness and love in the same way Jesus showed love to

Homework: Read a little every day



LADYBIRDS

Ladybirds have had another lovely week making beautiful gifts for our mummies for the Mothers Day assembly. We worked really hard on these and are very proud of them! In Maths we have been looking at subtraction from any number up to 100. We have continued our castles topic in History learning all about a knight's armour and how it was used for their job to protect the castle. We had to label all the different pieces of armour and think about the sorts of things a knight might need to do to keep the castle and its community safe. We have continued to work hard with our reading and have been looking at answering comprehension questions in detail as part of our guided reading sessions.

Homework: Subtraction

DRAGONFLIES

In English this week in Dragonflies, we have been finishing off our own versions of 'A Walk in New York'. The children then self-assessed their work against a success criteria before doing the same for a friend, 'peer marking' their work. In Maths we have used an array to help us understand how to multiply. We picked this up quickly which allowed us to move on to include division questions, testing our knowledge of which method to use per operation. In History we moved forward, chronologically, to investigate the US Civil War 1861-65 and created a profile for Abraham Lincoln. In Science we added to our 'plant diary' by investigating the growth and change in our lemon and tomato plants. One tomato plant is already 11cm!

Homework: Multiplication

FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S NEWS



for a stall at our Summer Fete!

If you have a local business or hobby and would be interested in having a stall at our fete on Saturday 21st June, please email friends@stpetersinfant.org and we'll send you the information pack.

Priority for school parents where possible Application deadline 4th April.



Thursday 3 April 2025

hursday 3 April, the children of St F will be taking on the Bunny Hop, a eggstraordinary Easter challenge!

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/st-peters-bunnyhop





CHURCH NEWS



Our services this Sunday:

Family Service 11am 6.30pm **Evening Prayer**

The February/March St Peter's Church & Tandridge Village Parish Magazine is now available. It includes some wonderful articles and upcoming local events. Please let Louise Jones (Editor) know if you have any feedback and suggestions/articles for the future. We hope you enjoy reading it.

>> St Peter's Church & Tandridge Village Magazine

The current and previous publications can be accessed via the St Peter's Church Website.

Heavenly Father, on this Mother's Day. we thank You for our mothers through whom your gift of life begins and through whom we are nurtured into great human beings. We lift up all mothers to your love and care. We pray for them, for their needs of strength and support to continue to nurture a family of love,

in honour and love for you, our God. Lord Jesus Christ, we call upon your blessed name to bless all mothers today and every day. Extend your hands of grace over them. Amen.



Don't forget that the clocks spring forward this weekend

which means we lose an hour of sleep but gain more daylight. Interestingly Dragonflies cheered at this news....I'm not so sure it will be welcomed by parents! So on that note, enjoy every minute of your weekend!

God Bless, Lenía Greenaway



Every day we see wonderful acts of kindness here at school. One such act this week, that I promised I would mention in the newsletter, was when the whole of the After School Street Dance Club helped put away ever single chair after the Mother's Day Assembly vesterday.

They were all so keen to help and instigated this themselves that it blew myself and Mrs Vaquinhas away.

Thank you all so much everyone.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Camilla and Poppy J. (age 7)



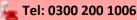




CHILD PROTECTION CONTACT CENTRE

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:



"Safeguarding is Everyone's Business"

Supporting Christian Education

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







What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

ALCOHOLD 7

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or expossed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real game.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact—checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction — or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE



Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform, in an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH



At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social setworks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has ecently been adding as many as a million users ser day, and if that continues, there'll be more impleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant provincement Bluesky is currently known for

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settlings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is mutting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

mpersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a oppular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to fficial domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right low, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

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as with an social media platterms, incorrection and content littles can only as a much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



Wake Up Wednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app







