



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

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

Jeremiah 29:11

ISSUE NO. 6 : 5 Dec 2025

DIARY DATES



Tues 9 Dec	9.30am and 2.20pm Busy Bees Christmas Nativity
Wed 10 Dec	2pm KS1 Christmas Play
Thurs 11 Dec	2pm KS1 Christmas Play
Fri 12 Dec	FOSP Reindeer Run
Mon 15 Dec	Elfridges Christmas Shop and Class Parties
Tues 16 Dec	3.15-5pm FOSP Cinema Night
Wed 17 Dec	School Christmas Lunch
Fri 19 Dec	9am School Christmas Service at St Peter's Church—All welcome
Mon 5 Jan	INSET Day—school closed for staff training
Wed 7 Jan	9.15am Open Morning for Prospective Parent September 2026
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Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy but fun time we are having in the run up to Christmas! Only 20 days to go and now the festivities are really beginning!! Our Christmas tree was delivered on Monday and now takes pride of place in the school hall. We would like to say a massive thank you to Knights Garden Centre for donating this, to Victoria Warne who was totally 'on it' making sure we received it in time for the children to appreciate it and for the Nativity performances, and also to Michaela McCarthy for her fabulous delivery services.

In the space of two weeks so much has happened.

Dragonflies Friendship Teatime : The Dragonflies children held their Friendship Teatime in the village hall. They had made some delightful felt penguins and salt-dough Christmas decorations, while the Yr 2 parents organised super Christmas activities for the children including refreshments, which always go down a storm. We know that many children have activities after school, but it would be really lovely if more parents could put these teatime dates in their diaries to support all the classes. Although organised by an individual class they are open to families in every year group. There are only 3 a year: the next one being hosted by Ladybirds on Monday 16 March 2026. All the money raised goes directly to the classes to buy the little extras for the children's learning.

Ladybirds Lead a Thoughtful Time of Collective Worship : Ladybirds delighted us all by leading our School Collective Worship, taking everyone on a journey through the Bible and exploring a range of stories from both the Old and New Testaments. The children spoke confidently and thoughtfully as they shared what they had learned, and it was a joy to see their enthusiasm and understanding shine through.

A particularly lovely moment was hearing the children talk about their favourite parables and explain why these stories were special to them. Karina shared that she thoroughly enjoyed 'The Good Samaritan' because it teaches us about caring for others – something she said she wants to do in her own life. Cassia chose 'The Lost Sheep', explaining that she liked it because it is all about kindness.

Ladybirds should be incredibly proud of the way they led worship with such confidence, reflection and maturity. Well done to everyone involved and thank you for a truly meaningful and inspiring assembly.



Advent Pause Day – A Time to Reflect and Prepare

Last Thursday we came together to celebrate our Advent 'Pause' Day, offering everyone a special opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Advent. The day began with Reverend Ashton leading a special Collective Worship, thoughtfully setting the scene for the day's learning and reflection. Throughout the day, the children considered the importance of Advent and the preparations Christians make in the lead up to the birth of Jesus. Each class took part in a range of meaningful and creative activities, including making Christingles, Advent wreaths, calendars and stained glass windows. At the end of the day, the school joined together to share their learning and experiences, celebrating the thoughtful work produced across the classes. It was a calm, reflective and enriching day that helped everyone pause and truly appreciate the significance of the Advent season.



Please could your child[ren] have a spare pair of jogging bottoms in school if they are prone to having little accidents, as we do not always have enough uniform to fit children who may require it. This will also make it less distressing and more comfortable for the children. If you would like to put spare uniform in a bag to be kept in school, that is also fine as long as it is **clearly labelled**. Thank you.

CLASS NEWS

BUSY BEES

Our Busy Bees have had an exciting week! They loved taking part in our Advent Pause Day activities, creating some beautiful Advent candle holders and stunning stained-glass windows using tissue paper in the traditional colours that represent the Advent candles lit in church during this special season. In Maths, the children have been exploring 2D shapes, learning about their characteristics and using new vocabulary to describe them. They have also enjoyed revising the days of the week and the months of the year, helping to strengthen their understanding of time. It's been a wonderful week of creativity and learning! They are very excited to be sharing their nativity with you all next week and we look forward to seeing you there.

LADYBIRDS

Ladybirds have had a very busy couple of weeks, rehearsing lots for our nativity as well as lots of other exciting activities. In English we have been looking at the John Lewis advert from 2019 'Excitable Edgar' and we have used this to inspire our writing. We used adjectives to describe Edgar and we have also been sequencing the story using beginning, middle and end. We have also been doing lots of art activities, which you will see at the end of term! In Geography we continued to study human and physical features. We had images that we had to sort deciding if we thought they were human or physical features.

Homework: Last push for learning lines—louder and clearer !

DRAGONFLIES

In Dragonflies our Christmas play is coming along wonderfully – after practising all week, we were able to record the show yesterday. The children's expression and use of volume have improved greatly, and their confidence continues to grow. In English, we have continued our work on "Lost and Found" by Oliver Jeffers. The children planned their own versions of the story, using their imagination to choose a different animal found on the doorstep, new characters to ask for help, and a new location to return the animal to. The ideas have been creative and thoughtful. In Maths, we began our learning on directions, exploring left, right, turn, clockwise and anticlockwise. We then moved on to repeated addition and how this can be converted into multiplication. In Science, our focus remained on the human body. The children investigated the skeleton by labelling key bones and identifying them on their own bodies. We then explored muscles, labelling them on each other to understand their correct positioning.

Homework: One last push to learn all your lines. Loud and clear !

UNDERSTANDING ADVENT

In the Christian church calendar, the period leading up to Christmas is called Advent, which comes from a Latin word meaning "coming." During Advent, Christians use the four Sundays before Christmas to prepare their hearts for the arrival of Jesus.

Whilst Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, Advent serves as a time to reflect on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe to be the Son of God and to get ready for these celebrations. Across the country, churches hold services, congregations sing carols, and schools perform Nativity plays and Christmas shows.

Many Advent traditions involve counting down the days until Christmas. One popular custom is the Advent wreath, which holds four, sometimes five candles – one for each of the four Sundays before Christmas and one for Christmas Day itself. Some Christians (like me!) also have a personal Advent candle at home, which is gradually burned a little each day as Christmas approaches.

What do the different colours on an Advent Wreath symbolise?

First candle / Sunday: HOPE (The Prophecy Candle) - Purple candle
Second candle / Sunday: PEACE (The Bethlehem Candle) - Purple candle
Third candle / Sunday: JOY (The Shepherd's Candle) - Pink candle
Fourth candle / Sunday: LOVE (The Angel's Candle) - Purple candle

In some homes and parishes, people will also light a fifth candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to represent the birth of Jesus; this candle, when added to the Advent wreath, is typically white and larger than the other candles and is placed in the centre of the wreath. The children learned all about this during our Pause Day last week.



ATTENDANCE & SCHOOL ABSENCES

I would like to share an important message about honesty and how it helps us work together to support your children. One of the key values we teach at school is honesty, and we would greatly appreciate your help in modelling this important quality at home. We understand that family life sometimes means children have time away from school – whether for a holiday, family event, or other personal reasons. What matters most to us is that you're honest about the reason for any absence. We are not here to judge your reasons – but we do need accurate information about where your children are and, most importantly, that they are safe during the times that they are supposed to be in school.

Providing correct attendance information is vital for your child's educational journey and allows us to identify any patterns that may need additional support. Most importantly, by being honest with school, you are showing your children that honesty is valued—even when it might feel easier to give a different reason. Being honest helps us both maintain the strong, positive relationship between home and school that benefits your child. If you ever need to discuss an absence for any reason, please do not hesitate to speak with me. We are here to work with you, not against you. Thank you for your understanding and for helping us create an environment built on trust and honesty.

We look forward to seeing many of you in school next week but, if you are unable to attend one of the performances, we hope you will enjoy watching them in the comfort of your own home. The link to the recording will be sent out in the last week of term.

As we get closer to Christmas the children are getting very excited but very tired. I hope that in the midst of all the excitement you are able to have a calm and peaceful weekend.

God bless, *Lenia Greenaway*



Sponsored by **AMR**

FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S PRESENTS THE 2025

REINDEER RUN!

2.45PM FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER

Followed by Christmas Games, hot chocolate, mulled wine, mince pies and treats

Sponsor your little reindeers to gallop round the field for their school - all money raised goes towards re-developing the Peace Garden for the children

AMR
ACCELERATED MOTOR REPAIRS

Our huge thanks to **ACCELERATED MOTOR REPAIRS** for sponsoring the Friends of St Peter's Reindeer Run 2025! Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sponsor your little reindeer here and please share the link with friends and family.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/reindeer-run>

A PRAYER FOR PEACE AND PREPARATION

Loving God,

As we light the second candle of Advent, we think about peace and preparation.

Help us to prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of Jesus.

Guide us to be peacemakers in our school, our families, and our community.

May we show kindness to one another, share what we have, and welcome all with open arms.

As we wait with hope and joy, help us to remember those who need peace most – those who are lonely, worried, or facing difficult times.

Bless our school family and keep us safe in your love.

Amen.



HOUSE TEAM POINTS



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 Vaquinh or 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





FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S PRESENT THE 2026

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Prize List

2 tickets to Hobbledown
6 Family tickets to Discovery Land at
Priory Farm
Christmas Cake from COOK
3 Musical Theatre classes with
LCA Stage Academy
30 minute photoshoot with
Lianne Marie Photography
Bottle of Merlot from Secret Cellar
Half a term of free classes at
Inspire Academy of Dance
Candle from Wild Thyme
2 Physiotherapy treatments worth
£140 from Chris Green Physiotherapy
Free Session at WonderLAB
Holiday Camp Pass at BB Soccer
2 Tickets to any show at HERE at
Outernet
£30 Voucher from MV Nails & Beauty
Pair of Teddy Locks Socks
2 Tickets to Bockett's Farm
Collapsible Water Bottle from
Simply Sports
Family Splash session at
Tandridge Leisure Centre
£30 Voucher for Aqua Sports,
Mercer's Park
2 Guest Passes to Chartham Park

Fantastic prizes to be
won, all kindly
donated by local
businesses, parents
and contacts.

**Tickets on sale
from 5th December**

**£5 for a strip of 5
£10 for a strip of 15**

**Prizes announced by
15th December**

The Prize Draw will be filmed
and circulated to everyone, with
the winning tickets and names
detailed in the school
newsletter



SILENT AUCTION

The Friends of St Peter's Infant School are delighted to be holding a silent auction for:

A Round of Golf (4-ball) at the prestigious Tandridge Golf Club!



To enter, send your first and final bid to
silent_golf_auction@yahoo.com by midnight
Thursday 18th December



Terms

Only one bid per person, bid cannot be amended once submitted.

The winner will be announced by Friday 19th December. The winner must transfer their donation within 48 hours of being notified or it will be offered to the next highest bidder.

The voucher expires 30th November 2026. The round may be claimed on a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday (subject to availability). Green fees usually up to £160pp.

TANDRIDGE NEWS: The November Edition of the **St Peter's Church & Tandridge Village Parish Magazine** is now available. It includes some wonderful articles and upcoming local events. Please let the publishers know if you have any feedback and suggestions/articles for the future. We hope you enjoy reading it. >> <https://www.stpeterstandridge.uk/Publisher/File.aspx>

The current and previous publications can be accessed via the St Peter's Website. https://www.stpeterstandridge.uk/.../St_Peters_Church.aspx



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



The National College

See full reference list on our website



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