



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. 8 : 9 Jan 2026

DIARY DATES



w/c 12 Jan After School Clubs Spring Term start
Wed 14 Jan "Zoom!" performance by The Pied Piper Theatre Co
Thurs 15 Jan Deadline for Primary School Admissions Sept 2026 (Reception and Year 3)
Wed 4 Feb Ladybirds and Dragonflies Class Trip to Shah Jahan Mosque
Tues 10 Feb E-Safety Open Morning for parents

Happy New Year from everyone at St Peter's School.

"Be proud of how far you have come and excited for where you are going."



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and made lots of magical memories with friends and family.

The start of term has gone very well with the children bouncing into school, excited to see their friends and telling us all about the fabulous things they have been doing over the holidays. It has been lovely to see them all and to hear their many varied stories of the Christmas holidays. I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding when dropping off due to the icy conditions in the carpark over the first couple of days.

We are delighted to be welcoming Daniella Brice to school for a 4-week teaching placement. She is working alongside Miss Saines and the children in Ladybirds Class and has already settled in beautifully. We hope she thoroughly enjoys her time with us and wish her every success in her future teaching career.

We have lots of exciting learning planned for the children this term. Class newsletters and topic webs are available to view on the school website, giving you a detailed look at what your child[ren] will be learning over the coming weeks. Dragonflies Class, for example, have already made an enthusiastic start to their fascinating topic on the Titanic. The children's excitement is wonderful to see – they are already sharing impressive facts about the Titanic's history and can tell us all about the different artefacts discovered after the sinking. Busy Bees will be thinking about all things transport and travel related, whilst our Ladybirds will be focusing on animals, habitats and seasonal changes and a history topic based around the life and achievements of Florence Nightingale.

Christian Value: PERSEVERANCE

This term our Core Christian Value is Perseverance. This ties in beautifully with everything we do in school. We were also able to relate it to Epiphany on Tuesday when the children heard how the Three Wise Men followed the special guiding star that led them to Baby Jesus.

What does Perseverance mean?

Perseverance means keeping going even when things are difficult or challenging. It's about not giving up, trying our best, and learning from our mistakes. The Three Wise Men showed great perseverance on their long journey to find Jesus – they didn't give up even though the journey was hard and took a long time.

How we are exploring Perseverance in school

Throughout this term, we will be:

- Celebrating effort and resilience in our learning, not just getting things right first time.
- Sharing stories of people who have shown perseverance (from the Bible and beyond).
- Encouraging children to keep trying when tasks feel tricky.
- Recognising perseverance in our celebration assemblies.

How you can support at home

You can help reinforce this value at home by:

- Praising effort – Notice when your child keeps trying, even if they don't succeed straight away.
- Sharing your own experiences – Talk about times when you've had to persevere (learning to drive, a challenging project at work, etc.).
- Using encouraging language – Try phrases like "You haven't got it yet" or "Let's try a different way".
- Reading together – Look for stories about characters who don't give up.
- Celebrating small steps – Acknowledge progress, not just the end result.



"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says I'll try again tomorrow."

Mary Anne Radmacher

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9



HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO...

Angelica, Lola, and Harry (age 5); Freya (age 6); and Noah (age 7)

AND HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO...

Elodie, Ezra, Lenaya, Emily, and Rosie (age 5); Molly, Deia, Myles, Harry, Ophelia, Xanthé, Lottie, Rose, and Rosie (age 6); and Rory (age 7)



PLEASE NAME ALL GLOVES, HATS, SCARVES, COATS coming in to school!
Especially the lovely new ones Father Christmas may have gifted!

BUSY BEES

Busy Bees have settled back into school beautifully and have already been busy with their learning and exploring. This week, we celebrated Epiphany by learning about its meaning and the story of the Wise Men. The children enjoyed decorating their own colourful paper crowns to take home. In Maths, we started learning all about teen numbers. The children had great fun using their fingers and toes to count all the way up to 20! Our new topic is Space, and the children are fascinated! We began by finding out about the International Space Station and what daily life is like for an astronaut. The children then designed their very own space helmets – they look amazing! We're so excited for all the learning adventures ahead this term!

LADYBIRDS

It has been lovely to have the children back this week. We have been very busy already starting our new topics by looking at animals and where they live as part of our Science and Geography work. We also started our Florence Nightingale topic in History, looking at what we already knew about her and what we'd like to find out. In English we are using *'The Tale of Peter Rabbit'* by Beatrix Potter to inspire our writing and in Maths we are looking at finding one more/one less of any number up to 50.

Please could you bring in any junk modelling materials you may have at home on Monday morning. We are going to be designing and making 'Mr McGregor's garden' as part of our DT learning. Thank you.

DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies have settled quickly back into the routines of school after the Christmas break. We have had a very historical week, starting our new topic on Titanic. It is amazing how many facts the children have retained already. In English we have been looking at the Disney short film *"Taking Flight"* and using this to apply skills of using compound and simple sentences, as well as including similes. In Maths we have looked at adding and taking away ten, but understanding that it is the 10s column that changes whilst the ones stay the same.

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

Please be aware that St Peter's C of E Infant School does not approve term-time holiday absence.

We do all we can to encourage full attendance and identify and act promptly on any factors which affect this as outlined in our Attendance Policy. The Education Inclusion Office can, and does, issue fines to parents for unauthorised absence from school.

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/carer for their child's unauthorised absence from school and requires the recipient to pay a fixed amount.
- If a parent/carer 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 per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days (reduced to £80 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/carer in the Magistrates Court.
- If a parent/carer 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 per parent/carer 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.

I am sure you will appreciate that holidays during term time are very disruptive for the children involved, their classmates and their teachers alike. However much you may ask for additional learning materials to be sent home, they are missing out on all aspects of school life including the importance of socializing with their peers and missing specific topics or events, which they can then find rather tricky to adjust back into and catch up on upon their return.

AFTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL

There are spaces remaining in After School Football on Tuesday afternoons. Football is open to all year groups and to both boys and girls—and we would really love to encourage more of our girls to join in with this great game. The club promotes teamwork and friendship as well as developing basic skills such as concentration, discipline and tenacity. If your child would like to try a session of football you can sign them up for a trial with BBSoccer using the following link >> www.bbsoccer.co.uk

Please remember to also notify the school office if your child is attending a trial session. Thank you.

On a similar note, After School Performing Arts (incorporating dance, drama, music) is returning on Thursdays and has some spaces available (again a trial session may be possible by contacting the provider LCA directly).

I hope you all have a lovely weekend after a week of getting back into normal routines!

God Bless, *Lenia Greenaway*



ICT & E-SAFETY OPEN MORNING

Come and join us in a fun-filled hour to see how we use ICT throughout the curriculum at St Peter's and how we keep our services safe online.

Tues 10 Feb 9am–10am

We will meet in the hall at 9am for a short presentation about keeping children safe online. Then you will all have time to look around all the class rooms, not just your own, to see how technology is used throughout the curriculum in the school.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Kind regards
Lenia Greenaway

Tuesday 10 Feb 9am - 10am

E-safety morning will begin in the hall at 9am with a parent information session suggesting ways to support your child with their online activities, keeping them safe and establishing 'good' online behaviours. You are very welcome to come into the classrooms after this to look at the exciting learning that the children do through the year groups on IT and E-Safety.



Dear Father God,

Thank you for bringing us safely back together for a new term.

Even though it has been icy and cold outside, we are grateful for the warmth of our school, the warmth of our friendships, and the warmth of your love.

As we look forward to the spring, help us to grow and learn like the flowers that will soon bloom.

Give us patience when things are difficult, courage to try new things, and kindness to share with everyone around us.

Thank you for new beginnings, for fresh starts, And for all the exciting learning ahead.

May this term be filled with joy, discovery and friendship.

Amen.



Tandridge Together Lottery

raising funds for St Peter's.

Joining is easy and FREE – just visit St Peter's Tandridge Lottery. Tickets cost just £1 and 50% of all ticket sales will come directly to the school. You can play weekly for a chance to win prizes of up to £25,000 each week with each ticket also automatically entered into the Super Draw, or just enter the Monthly Super Draw.

Win a £1,000 Aldi gift card!

Our first Super Draw of 2026 brings back a fan favourite – a £1,000 Aldi gift card! Play the lottery this January to give a little back, with chances to win weekly cash prizes and monthly bonus Super Draw prizes! Grab your tickets before Saturday 31 January for your chance to win this Aldi gift card, and start 2026 with a bang! [Terms and conditions apply](#)

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 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



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website



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#WakeUpWednesday

The National College