



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. 14 : 24 Apr 2026

DIARY DATES



Wed 29 Apr	Dragonflies Class visit to BigWood Estate
Fri 1 May	No Art Club session - Karate as usual
Mon 4 May	Bank Holiday—school closed
Fri 8 May	NiteOwls Birds of Prey visit
Fri 22 May	INSET Day—school closed for Staff Training
Mon 1 Jun	INSET Day—school closed for Staff Training
w/c 15 Jun	St Peter's Health & Wellbeing Week with Dance Workshops; Skipfit; and Health & Wellbeing Workshops
Fri 19 Jun	1.30pm Sports Day - weather permitting
Fri 26 Jun	MUFTI Day: Fete donations
Sat 4 Jul	St Peter's School Summer Fete

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed a well-deserved break over Easter – though it might feel like a lifetime ago now! The children burst back through our doors brimming with excitement and enthusiasm for their new topics (don't forget, you can find all the topic webs on our website). Of course, for some, the return to early morning alarms was a bit of a shock after those lovely lie-ins!

Despite the spring weather keeping us guessing – chilly mornings followed by warmer afternoons – we are seizing every opportunity to get outside! Our outdoor areas are buzzing with learning and play, and we are making the most of every ray of sunshine.



OUR CHRISTIAN VALUE: ACCEPTANCE

This term, we are celebrating 'Acceptance'. This is a particularly special milestone for our Year 2 pupils, who will have explored and embraced all nine of our carefully chosen Christian Values by the end of this term. What an incredible journey they have been on! (Don't worry – our values run on a rolling programme, so every child will experience them all during their three years with us).

WHY ACCEPTANCE MATTERS:

Acceptance is about welcoming and valuing something or someone exactly as they are. It is a beautiful value that sits at the very heart of everything we do at St Peter's School. It means accepting ourselves – with all our unique qualities and quirks – and accepting others, regardless of our differences. It's about celebrating the wonderful, diverse world we live in and recognising that our differences make us stronger together.

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7

"Accept who are you and your uniqueness. Define your choices and believes." Lailah Giftly Akita

Learning to accept others is a natural part of child development, though children often find it challenging at first. Young children are still learning how to manage their feelings and communicate with kindness, and they sometimes make mistakes in what they say and do. Most friendships have ups and downs, and these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened. Through these experiences, children gradually develop the understanding that healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others.

Diary Dates

Please do keep a close eye on these as we have an exceptionally busy term ahead with lots going on both in and out of school. Confirmed dates are listed above and the calendar is available on the school website for you to check ahead.

Dragonflies will be returning to the BigWood Estate again next week with Ladybirds following suit in June. This is a wonderful place to visit for the children giving them an insight into sustainable, self-sufficient farming and how food is produced from farm to table. During their visit, the children will learn about where our food comes from – seeing crops growing and understanding the journey from seed to harvest. Seasonal farming – discovering what grows at different times of year and why this matters. Sustainability – understanding how farms can work in harmony with nature, protecting wildlife and the environment – which is the complete ethos of BigWood. These visits provide invaluable real-world learning that connects beautifully with our curriculum work on living things, habitats, and healthy eating. The children always return full of enthusiasm and questions, having gained a deeper appreciation for the natural world, how we can sustain it as well as where their food comes from.



Behaviour, Equality & Anti-Bullying Measures at St Peter's School

A huge thank you to everyone who completed our pre-Easter questionnaire. We were thrilled with the overwhelmingly positive responses! Your feedback is invaluable in helping us continue to improve. Please remember, if you have any questions or would like to chat about anything at all, please don't hesitate to arrange a time to meet with me in person. I am always happy to talk through any queries, questions or concerns you may have.

St Peter's Anti-Bullying Policy, Anti-Bullying for Pupils, Behaviour Policy and Complaints Policy are all available on the [school website](#).



Sunny days ahead

As we head towards, hopefully, hotter and sunnier weather this term please ensure that your child[ren] has a long lasting sun cream applied before coming to school and is provided every day with plenty of water in a named bottle and a (named) sunhat. We currently have lots of children coming to school without a water bottle! In accordance with Surrey School's policy, children who do not have these will be unable to make full use of playtime and will be asked to remain sitting quietly in the shade.

We will be spending lots of time outside and playtimes on the field so, if your child is prone to hayfever, it may be prudent to ensure they have preventative allergy-relief before school too. And, on a similar note, please **clearly label all uniform**—cardigans/jumpers are frequently removed and left at this time of year! Thank you

New Arts & Learning Hop-opportunities

Our St Peter's bunnies bounced their way to an impressive **£476.33** for the school. What superstars! These vital funds will go towards music, theatre and educational workshops for the children.

It was great to see how much fun they had as they hopped, skipped and jumped their way around the school field in the spring sunshine.

A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored their 'bunny'. Special thanks to Vinny (Eleanor in Ladybirds), Zoë (Abigail in Dragonflies) Sarah (Freya in Ladybirds) and Victoria (Amélie in Dragonflies) for delivering this wonderful event.

Surrey Garden Trust bid towards the Peace Garden development: UPDATE

A big THANK YOU to Victoria Warne, our current Chair of Friends, for writing a very comprehensive bid to Surrey Gardens Trust. We have been awarded £200 towards the re-development of our Peace Garden which is fantastic.

"A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows." St. Francis of Assisi

BUSY BEES

This week in Busy Bees, we have been very busy and engaged in a range of exciting learning experiences across the curriculum. In Literacy, we have been exploring healthy eating through the 'Oliver's' book series by Vivian French. Inspired by "Oliver's Fruit Salad", the children created beautiful watercolour paintings of fruit bowls, exploring colour mixing and careful brush control. They also enjoyed making healthy milkshakes, which led to some fantastic writing opportunities. The children wrote their own milkshake recipes, thinking carefully about ingredients, and have begun to independently compose a story inspired by "Oliver's Fruit Salad", showing growing confidence in their storytelling and sentence writing. In Maths, the children have been deepening their understanding of number composition, subitising numbers to 8, and exploring subtraction through practical activities and games. They have been encouraged to recognise amounts without counting and to explain their mathematical thinking using appropriate language. In RE, the children have been thinking about what makes a place special. They learned about different places where people might feel closer to God and took part in a reflection walk around the school grounds. During the walk, they visited different areas, including the Peace Garden, using calm moments to reflect, talk, and share their thoughts and feelings.



LADYBIRDS

Ladybirds have settled back into school brilliantly after the Easter holidays. We have some special visitors: we have caterpillars in class! We are watching them as they grow and develop into butterflies and are thoroughly enjoying this experience. Our new Science topic learning all about plants is well under way and we have planted some sunflowers which we will watch and observe as they, hopefully, grow. As part of our English unit, we have been looking at the fairytale 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We focused on the beginning, middle and end of the story, before planning and writing our own version. In Maths we have revised our number bonds to 10, and then used this knowledge to add three 1-digit numbers together - looking out for the number bond.

DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies have been fantastic marine biologists over the last couple of weeks, studying sea turtles and their habitats. They have explored their behaviours, environment and different factors affecting their survival and well-being. The children have discovered some amazing facts about these incredible creatures :

Life cycle and growth: Sea turtles can live for 50-100 years and take many years to reach maturity.

Nesting behaviours: Female sea turtles return to the same beach where they were born to lay their eggs. Sea turtles have a remarkable characteristic called temperature-dependent sex determination: The temperature of the sand where the eggs are incubated determines whether the hatchlings will be male or female. Over 29°C they will be female, under 29°C they will be male. Fascinating!

Diet and feeding: Different species of sea turtles eat different things - some are carnivores (eating jellyfish and crabs), while others are herbivores (eating seagrass and algae).

Habitat needs: Sea turtles need warm ocean waters, sandy beaches for nesting, and healthy coral reefs and seagrass beds for feeding.

Threats to survival: The children learned about the challenges sea turtles face, incl. plastic pollution, fishing nets, climate change affecting beach temperatures, and loss of nesting sites.

They have shown excellent curiosity and enthusiasm throughout this topic, asking thoughtful questions and making connections to how we can help protect these amazing but endangered animals.



Friends of St Peter's News:

ANNOUNCING OUR LEAD FETE SPONSOR ROBERT LEECH!

Huge thanks for their amazing support for our school! And if you own, work for, or know a business who might be interested in sponsoring our event, including the BBQ, Tea Tent or Bar, please let us know at: friends@stpetersinfant.org

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE AND TUCK SHOP
THURSDAY 14 MAY
 3.15pm in the playground

Choose some summer items or stock up ready for September whilst the children eat their snacks!
 If you have any good quality second-hand clothes you'd like to donate, please bring them into the school office before 14 May.

Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of this beautiful weather.

Thank You for the bright sun that warms the earth and the clear skies that remind us of Your vastness and peace.

We are grateful for the way this light lifts our spirits and refreshes our souls.

Thank You for the gentle breeze, the vibrant colours of nature, and the energy this day brings to our lives.

Help us to not take this beauty for granted, but to pause, breathe it in, and truly enjoy the masterpiece You have set before us.

May the warmth we feel on our skin remind us of Your constant love and presence.

Amen.



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"

The hidden dangers of PINTEREST

Pinterest tends to fly under the radar. Unlike Instagram or TikTok, it has never attracted the same level of public concern, it's older, it's built around image collections, and most parents consider it benign, if they think about it at all. That perception is the problem. The White Hatter, a Canadian digital safety organisation, published a blog post recently after supporting two families whose children had shared images via Pinterest's direct messaging feature. In both cases, the parents had no idea the platform had a messaging function.

Platforms that present as visual or creative tools like Pinterest, VSCO, Tumblr, Lemon8, Canva, Amino, often include messaging features that aren't obvious. The question worth putting forward isn't "what app is my child using?" but "what can that app actually do?"

The article is a short, practical read:

<https://www.thewhitehatter.ca/post/what-parents-didn-t-know-about-pinterest-matters-for-all-caregivers>

I hope you all have a fabulous weekend and get time to enjoy this wonderful sunshine. God Bless, *Lenia Greenaway*

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

AUTOPLAY

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS



YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES



Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.

SUGGESTED CONTENT



YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when Autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT



The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.

SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT



YouTube Shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS



YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS



If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS



Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised Accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.

WATCH TOGETHER



Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like Downtime in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.

Meet Our Expert

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



The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.04.2026