



ST PETER'S NEWSLETTER

Tel: 01883 712439 info@stpetersinfant.org www.stpetersinfant.org

"For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future" Jeremiah 29:11

Safeguarding at St Peter's

The safety and well-being of our children is our highest priority. Our safeguarding team is here to listen to and respond to any concerns about a child's welfare. Our Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Miss Greenaway. If you have any concerns about a child, please speak to her. In her absence, please speak to Mr Atterton, our Deputy DSL, or phone the contact centre on:



Tel: 0300 200 1006

Safeguarding is everyone's business



"When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you." Deuteronomy 8:10

- p2 News Round Up
- p4 Still to come
- p5 Class News
- p6 ESafety: Looksmaxxing

REMINDERS:

Tues 13 Oct

YR-Y2 Flu Vaccinations

Parent Teacher Consultations
in the classrooms

Thurs 15 Oct

Parent Teacher Consultations
in the classrooms

F.O.S.P. AGM & 2026/27 Planning
7.30pm at The Haycutter, All welcome

It is hard to believe that we only have one week left before the first half term. This half term has gone extremely quickly. In this time we have seen amazing progress from all the children; whether this be in their academic learning, their transition into school or their individual confidence building as they become more independent and resilient. What a great journey everyone has taken already.

The Busy Bees children are firmly established members of the school community. They have amazed us with their absolutely fantastic skills at settling into school and the routines that come with school life. They are polite, smiley, happy and, I must say, a delightful class who are also excellent at tidying up – just in case you want to use this last part when their bedrooms need tidying over the half term break!

And as for the Year 1 and Year 2 children; you all make us proud with the way you have helped the Busy Bees

settle in, risen to new challenges and embraced each new aspect of learning in your new classes. Parents/Carers I hope you enjoy hearing about your child's progress in your parent teacher consultations next week.

We have plenty in store for the children when they come back in November and I do have to give you a heads up now, that the 'Christmas' word will be used quite a lot. School's do, unfortunately, have to plan for Christmas a long way in advance – so we apologise now!

So, as we move into our final week before half term, I would like to wish you all a wonderful time, may you share special moments together and – have a great rest!

God bless,

Lenia Greenaway



NEWS ROUND UP...

Harvest

Last Friday it was wonderful to see so many of our families join us at St Peter's church for our Harvest Festival. The children were absolutely brilliant. Although we can prepare for this, you can never quite predict what will happen, especially for our youngest members of school, many of whom have not been to St Peter's church before. We couldn't have asked for a better service with them.

We would also like to thank you for all the amazing harvest donations that we received. It was very generous of you all and I do know that they will be greatly appreciated by everyone who receives them. Thank you all.



Big Wood Adventures: Learning in Nature

Last week saw Dragonflies Class take their first trip of the year to the Big Wood Estate. This is such an amazing morning for the children were they learn so many new and exciting facts about the natural world around them. They delighted in eating apples freshly picked by their own fair hands off the trees grown in their orchard and learnt that even the freshest supermarket apples are likely to be no less than a year old! Certainly brings a new meaning to 'fresh' fruit!

Big Wood is an exceptional place, so if you do get the opportunity to join one of their events (perhaps over half term as advertised here) I really do recommend it. It is excellent!



Pour on water, Pour on water

Dragonflies have been burning this week – under carefully controlled and supervised conditions, of course! We're not encouraging pyromaniacs, but we have been thinking about the ferocity of the fire spreading through London in 1666. The class made replica houses of the time and then, as is another St Peter's tradition (we do have a lot!), we safely set fire to them in the car park area so the children could see how the fire spread through the streets. We formed a human chain to pass buckets of water along to try to extinguish the flames, replicating the events of the time. This is always an excellent way for children to really know more and remember more as they have the visual cues to draw upon when recalling their learning.







Nature Walk

with David Gooden

A HALF-TERM FAMILY MORNING OUT

Friday 30th October

9.30am – 12pm

Homemade cake & a drink on arrival

WHERE

Ardenrun Farm
RH7 6LN

COST

Adults £25
Children FREE

TO BOOK



Scan to book on Eventbrite

SPACES ARE LIMITED – BOOK EARLY

Restoring Nature · Inspiring Futures

Half Term Family fun at The Big Wood Estate.

We thoroughly recommend a visit if you are able >> bigwoodestate.co.uk/



Thank You for Your Amazing Support

We would like to say a massive thank you to all our parents for the wonderful amount of money raised from our Macmillan Coffee morning – or rather, after school event – and for all the help given setting up, providing cakes and manning the cake stalls. It is greatly appreciated especially as this is a charity close to all our hearts.

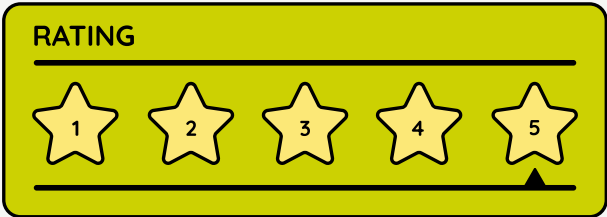
Thank you!

£278.70

In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Our Kitchen Super Star

We would like to congratulate Claire, our amazing cook, once again for being awarded the 5-star hygiene rating during her recent inspection – the highest possible rating, showing that our school kitchen's hygiene standards are excellent. Well done Claire, and thank you for all you do.



STILL TO COME...



ST PETER'S BOOK WEEK: 9 – 13 NOV

When we return after half term we will be looking forward to our Book Week. Our theme this year will be 'Books Build Bridges'. More details will come out next week, so please do keep an eye on your emails. Details will include events during the week, Book Fair and Dressing Up Day.

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL

This year we have asked the children to fill a **virtual shoebox** for the 'Link to Hope' charity. This is very similar to the Samaritans Purse Shoe box Appeal, which we have done in the past but this charity offers help to people of all backgrounds regardless of age, race, religion, colour or creed and with no qualifying criteria other than that they are poor and/or marginalised.

What makes this Shoebox Appeal 2026 different?

Your shoeboxes will go to the poorest people in Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania. Unlike many other shoebox appeals, the scheme collects boxes for entire families and the elderly, so nobody is left out. The charity is small yet established enough to have personal relationships with the individuals in

Eastern Europe who work hard delivering your boxes. For transparency, they also carry out spot-checks to confirm that the right people are receiving your boxes. The charity believes that sending shoeboxes shows love from British people to those in war-torn or poverty-stricken circumstances, regardless of their background, colour, creed or religion. If you follow the link below the charity will fill the shoe box for you. This saves packaging costs for the charity, and we then know that the organisation has received all donations.

<https://linktohope.co.uk/we-fill-a-shoebox-2026/>

Alternatively you could order items online and have them sent directly to Link to Hope. They also have an Amazon Wish List that you can use if you are shopping online with them. We would like to thank you in advance for this lovely gesture, supporting others and showing a wonderful act of kindness.



CLASS NEWS

BUSY BEES

Funny Bones & Fantastic Learning



Busy Bees have certainly been keeping busy over the past couple of weeks! We have been exploring the wonderful stories "Owl Babies" by Martin Waddell and 'Funnybones' by Allan Ahlberg and learning all about our bodies. The children enjoyed creating their very own skeletons using cotton buds and were fantastic at naming different parts of the body. We also practised writing the initial sounds in words linked to our learning.

Our phonics learning is going brilliantly! We have been learning lots of new sounds and practising how to use them when reading and writing. We have also been learning common exception words – words that we cannot always sound out

using our usual phonics skills. The children are becoming increasingly confident in applying what they have learnt to read and write simple words and sentences.

We have made the most of our outdoor learning space, where the children have been busy exploring, creating and using their imaginations. We have seen some wonderful ideas develop through play, including children making their own microphones and putting on fantastic singing performances! It is lovely to see their creativity, confidence and communication skills shining through.

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of numbers to 5. We have been practising counting,



'Owl Babies' inspired art

recognising and representing numbers, as well as comparing groups of objects using the mathematical language 'more than' and 'fewer than'. The children have enjoyed using practical resources and their surroundings to explore these ideas.

Ladybirds

Worms, Words, Numbers & Wonderful Art



The Ladybirds have had plenty to get stuck into this week, with lots of opportunities to explore, investigate and be creative!

In Science, we have been learning all about worms and made our very own wormery in the classroom. Before setting it up, the children thought carefully about what they predicted might happen and what changes they might see. We then used the scientific skill of observing over time, checking our wormery and looking closely for changes to see whether our predictions were correct. We also discovered lots of fascinating facts about worms along the way – ask your child to see how many amazing worm facts they can share with you!

In English, we continued our adventures with Naughty Bus. We used our imaginations to think of some new locations for the bus to visit, from the park and beach to the supermarket and swimming pool. The children thought about what Naughty Bus might see in each setting and, most importantly, what sort of mischief he might get up to! We have been working hard

to develop our ideas and add more detail to our sentences.

In Maths, our focus has been on developing our understanding of numbers to 20. We have practised recognising and ordering numbers and explored how a number line can help us work out which numbers come between two given numbers. The children have been encouraged to use the number line as a tool to check their thinking and explain how they know their answers are correct.

In Art, we explored the work of artist Wassily Kandinsky – looking closely at how he used shapes and colours in his artwork before creating our own Kandinsky-inspired pieces. The children experimented with tissue paper and pastels to layer shapes and colours, creating some wonderfully bold and individual pieces of artwork.

In PE, there was lots of excitement as we used the climbing and agility apparatus this week. The children had the opportunity to



“Fitness needs to be perceived as fun and games or we subconsciously avoid it.” – Alan Thicke

climb, balance and move in different ways, developing their coordination, strength and confidence. They showed great determination when tackling different parts of the apparatus and really enjoyed challenging themselves!

Homework: in home learning books. It can be completed in the book, on paper or even a model!

Dragonflies

London's burning!



In English Dragonflies have been following Paddington around London, learning how to write instructions using imperative verbs. We learned how these can help us explain tasks; from making sandwiches to travelling on the Underground. We even used them to help Paddington with every day activities like brushing his teeth and making breakfast.

In Maths we have been comparing numbers using the greater than and less than symbols and have shown off everything we have learned this half term in our 'challenge papers', followed by some tricky challenge cards.

In DT we built our model historical London buildings and then watched them burn in the car park, just like the Great Fire of London in 1666. We watched with great interest and were able to answer lots of questions about what we had seen and what we had learned, showing just how much we have taken in. We were challenged to pass buckets of water along the class line as quickly as possible, without spilling any. The idea being to simulate how difficult it would have been to get water from the Thames. It really brought our History learning to life!

We continued our History learning by thinking up lots of questions we might ask Samuel Pepys and we looked at information sources from the Great Fire.

In Geography we compared the human and physical features of London and Tandridge and in Art we drew London buildings and the city on fire in 1666.



FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S

Want to know about social events and fundraising goals planned for the children and St Peter's families over the school year?

Join us for our AGM and Planning Meeting

7.30PM THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER @ THE HAYCUTTER

Everyone is warmly welcome (parents, grandparents, ...) - this is a social event too, no pressure to take on a role!!

PLAY NOW

TO BOOST OUR FUNDRAISING

1

6



Tandridge Together Lottery is a fun way for you to help raise funds for St Peter's School

Tickets cost £1 and 50% of all ticket sales comes directly to the school

All supporters get the chance to win prizes up to £25,000 each week

BUY TICKETS

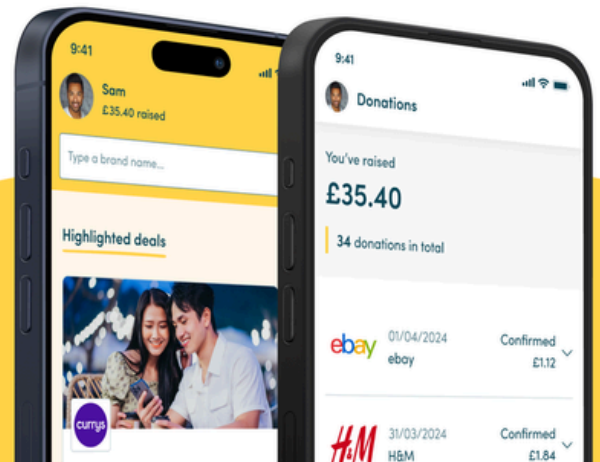
Scan the QR code to sign up and play



2

 **easyfundraising**

Don't miss out on donations!
Get the easyfundraising app.



Did you know, you can get the easyfundraising Donation Reminder to find **free donations** for St Peter's School, no matter how you shop online?

The handy shopping assistant is available for your laptop or computer, and on iOS and android devices. This means St Peter's won't miss out on any donations as you're shopping online.

Scan the QR code to register



18+

GambleAware

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about LOOKSMAXXING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Looksmaxxing is an online trend focused on improving one's physical appearance, particularly among boys and young men. At the milder end, it can involve grooming, skincare, diet and exercise advice, sometimes called "softmaxxing". At its extremes, or "hardmaxxing", it can promote unproven or dangerous practices and contribute to body image concerns, low self-worth, and mental health difficulties.

TARGETING MALE INSECURITIES

Although usually aimed at men, looksmaxxing can also reach boys by promising to improve their appearance and dating success. Forums offer 'objective', and sometimes brutal, views on attractiveness, while influencers may make appearance seem all-important. Advice ranges from useful tips on hygiene, skincare, and fashion to more concerning guidance.

DUBIOUS ADVICE

Some advice moves into dubious territory. One example is "mewing", a tongue exercise claimed to create a more masculine jawline. The American Association of Orthodontists says evidence for its effectiveness is limited and warns that following such guidance could contribute to tooth alignment problems, bite issues, and speech difficulties.

EXTREME REMEDIES

Some DIY remedies are even more extreme and potentially dangerous. While fears of "bonesmashing" – which involves trying to alter the cheekbones using blunt objects for a more 'masculine' appearance – may sometimes be overstated in the media, other guidance can also cause harm. Untrained use of microneedling and derma rollers, taking substances or medication without appropriate medical guidance, and overusing skincare products can all have potentially harmful consequences.

BODY IMAGE ISSUES

This pursuit of physical perfection can become obsessive and contribute to serious body image issues. Exposure to looksmaxxing content can encourage teenagers to tie their appearance to their value and self-worth, as well as making boys and young men feel they need to change perfectly normal aspects of their appearance. This can be associated with disordered eating, overexercising, or other obsessive behaviours that interfere with everyday life.

MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

As well as the physical consequences, body image concerns can be associated with mental health difficulties, such as depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, body dysmorphic disorder, and psychological distress. They can cause problems both at school and at home, with children and young people potentially avoiding social situations because they fear their appearance will be negatively judged by others.

A PATHWAY TO EXTREMES

Looksmaxxing has its roots in online 'incel' communities but has since become more mainstream on platforms such as TikTok. Algorithm-driven feeds may show users more extreme material as they interact with similar content. Some looksmaxxing spaces have also been linked with misogynistic, incel, and white supremacist ideologies.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH FOR CHANGES

Keep an eye out for concerning behavioural changes in children and young people. This could include an obsession with diet and exercise, spending more time on social media apps, becoming secretive with their phone, or a shift in how they interact with friends and family. If a young person suddenly becomes distressed by their appearance or adopts rigid or extreme routines, try to understand what may be behind the change.

LISTEN FOR THE LINGO

Like many internet communities, looksmaxxing groups and influencers use distinctive language. As well as "mewing", mentioned above, you might hear terms such as "Chad" (an attractive male), "lurd" (a misogynistic term for a woman), and "mugging" (looking more attractive than someone else). Other examples involve adding "maxxing" to another word, such as "jestermaxxing" (using humour to attract women) and "starvemaxxing" (extreme dieting).

CHECK THE SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media algorithms are tailored to each user, meaning what appears on your feeds may be dramatically different from what children see on theirs. Try to get an idea of the content children and young people are consuming online, and use available parental controls where appropriate. TikTok, for example, provides tools that can help families manage or filter certain types of content.

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

Open communication can help children and young people recognise misleading influencers and harmful online communities. Discuss unrealistic ideas about appearance and explain that some creators benefit from controversial or extreme content. Talk about the risks of unqualified health advice and how people's insecurities can be exploited online, while making it clear that it's okay to speak openly about any concerns.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



The National College