

# St Peter's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



**SPRING TERM 2016/17**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> HALF TERM**



## Parents' Evening



Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March  
is parents' evening.

This is an opportunity for you to come into school to see your child's work and discuss their progress with the class teacher.

We operate an appointment system to help reduce waiting time.

Please ensure you return the slip that has been sent out, so we can allocate you a time to meet your child's class teacher.

We look forward to seeing you then!



Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you had a restful half-term break and enjoyed spending time with your children during the week's holiday.

It is now the second half of the spring term and it feels like the year is going by very quickly. We are really enjoying the slightly lighter evenings and hoping for some warmer spring weather soon. We have lots of news to tell you about, things that happened last half term and events that are coming up!

We have now entered the season of Lent - a time of reflection in the Christian calendar. In school we are thinking about how we can change for the better and asking for God's support to be better people. Our core value this term is 'forgiveness'.

As always, please let us know if there are any suggestions you would like to make or have any concerns.

Thank you as always for your continued support!



## St Peter's is in the top 3% of schools in England!

We were delighted to receive a letter from the Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP (Minister of State for School Standards), congratulating us on the amount of progress being made at St Peter's. It states that our school is in the top 3% of schools in the whole of England.



Over the last few years we have worked tirelessly to improve standards at our school. This letter is clear recognition of what an excellent school we are, which is down to:

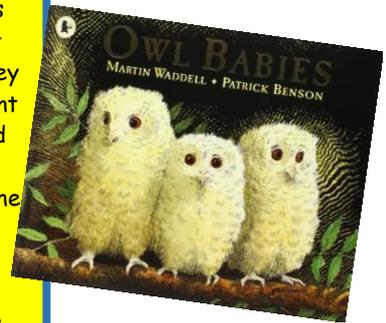
- The children's enthusiasm and eagerness to learn
- The clear commitment and dedication of our staff to ensure that each and every child achieves their best
- The magnificent support given by the parents
- The clear guidance provided by our Governors



**Thank You!**

## Nursery News

We have an exciting half term ahead of us, with lots of learning and lovely activities for our Nursery children. Our theme this half term is Growth and Change, so we will be looking at plants and growth, as well as animals and their babies. We will be having a puppet show coming to school on 17<sup>th</sup> March to act out the book 'Owl Babies'. Maths this half term will focus on weight, 3D shape and data, counting, money and time. As always we would encourage you to count and look at numbers and shapes in the environment with your child. During our Literacy sessions we will be using our Phonics work to link to our writing and help with spelling. The children in Nursery will be looking at letter writing, stories about growth and change as well as non-fiction texts about growth and change. RE this term has stories Jesus Told as the focus as well as Easter, which links into the Growth and Change Theme. As always your children will be going outside and exploring the outdoor environment on a daily basis and we will continue to visit the school library on a Thursday, so please ensure your child's bag is in school. Homework will be given out each Friday and will need to be brought into school on the Thursday as last term. If you need to speak to any of the Nursery Team at any point, please don't hesitate to come and talk to us.



## Reception News



This half term one of our topics will be 'Growth'. In Literacy we will be writing about plants. We will also be looking at how plants grow and what we need to help them grow. In Maths we will be practising our number bonds and number formation. This half term we have also had World book week. In Literacy we looked at the story 'Goldilocks and the three bears'. We had lots of fun looking for Goldilocks after she visited Reception and spilled all of her porridge. We have made lots of posters to describe what Goldilocks looks like. In Maths we will be looking at adding and subtracting as well as developing our skills of telling the time. We will also be looking at ordering numbers and counting in 10s, 5s and 2s. In RE the children will be learning all about forgiveness. The children will be learning all about the importance of forgiveness and what it means to forgive someone. In Expressive Arts and Designs we will be using junk modelling to make our own chair and exploring colours and textures. In Understanding the World we will be looking at how plants grow. This will include research on the Ipads and also practical activities such as planting our own seeds. We have PE every Friday, please ensure that they have a white t-shirt, black shorts or jogging bottoms and pumps or trainers in a bag labelled with their name on it. It is also important that your child has their name written in all items of school clothing including their coat. It would also help us a great deal of items such as gloves, hats and scarves were also labelled with your child's name. If you have any questions please come and see a member of staff. We are always happy to talk to you in the morning or at the end of the day when the children have been dismissed.

## Year 1 News

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term! We have got lots of interesting and exciting things planned over the next few weeks in Year 1. In English we will begin by looking at traditional stories. We will be choosing our favourite traditional tale and explaining why we like to read and listen to traditional tales. We will also be looking at instructions and information texts. In Maths we have been measuring different objects by using cubes and rulers. We will also be moving onto capacity, data and revisiting addition. We will continue to focus on our science topic of plants this term and have been growing our own bean plants! Through this we have been able to observe the different changes and stages in a plants life and we will continue to do so over the next half term. In History we will be looking at various local heroes from the area of Manchester. This will include past and present heroes and we will be looking at what they have done to be considered a 'hero'. In DT and Computing we will be looking at healthy foods and TV chefs. We will explore the different types of food we can make and eat. We will then be looking at where some of our food comes from during our trip to Cannon Hall Farm. In RE we will be looking at the Easter story and discussing why this celebration is important to Christians.



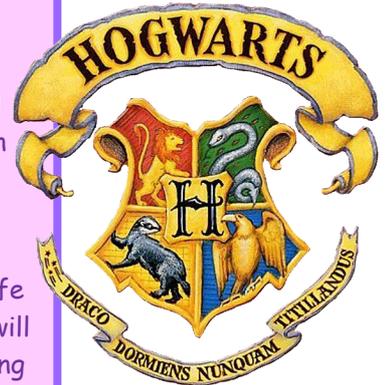
## Year 2 News



Welcome back and we hope you have all had a relaxing break. We have planned lots of exciting activities for the children this spring half term. In English we will be starting with fantasy stories, creating our own tales about dragons! We will then be looking at recounts and funny poems. Maths this term will concentrate on the 4 operations that the children use constantly throughout our day to day lessons. We will be ensuring that the children learn all the different mathematical vocabulary linked to the 4 operations - please test your child at home to see how many they can remember! We will also be looking at some data handling and measuring. In Science children will observe inside seeds and bulbs and describe how they grow into mature plants. They will find out and describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy. The will be looking around the school environment to try and locate as many different types of seeds as they can. Our RE topic this half term will be focusing on the Christian celebration 'Easter' and the symbols associated with it. Can we please remind parents that reading is to be done every night with your child and reading books should be brought into school every day along with PE kits.

## Year 3 News

What a busy half term ahead we have. In Maths, we will be focusing on: place value, multiplication and division. We will also be concentrating on mental addition and subtraction, continuing with the written methods for both of these. We will also be looking at time, position and fractions. Our focus text this half term is Harry Potter! We will be spending the next two weeks looking at non-chronological reports and then move on to narratives! We will also be looking at grammar, as we need to improve our understanding of completing and punctuating sentences. In Science, we will continue looking at plants. We will be looking at the structure of plants in more detail and focusing on how water is transported. Another focus will be seed dispersal and the life cycle of a plant. In Geography, we are learning about climates around the world! We will learn about types of climate: temperate, desert, polar and tropical. We will be creating our own 'triorama' of climates! Exciting!



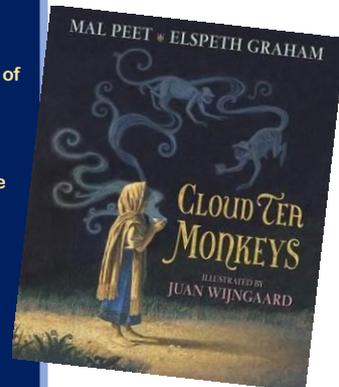
## Year 4 News

Wow! We are now in the fourth half term of Year 4! This is a short half term and we have lots to do! We started off with Book Week looking at the different versions of Cinderella. Charles Perrault wrote the original version and we looked at how the times were different and how this would affect his stories, for example, no technology. We modernised the story allowing Cinderella to lose her Laptop or her iPhone instead of a glass slipper. In Maths, we will be consolidating our use of formal methods of calculating and applying them through a variety of problems. To kick start our History theme, "How the Victorians Influenced our Local Area", we visited the Rochdale Pioneers Museum on Toad Lane. This is where the very first Co-op began in 1844. Some children in each class got to dress up as Victorians and act out the very first sale of half a pound of sugar. The children learned a great deal about these innovative men and their influence on Rochdale and future modern society around the world. We will be using all the information we gathered to further our learning in the rest of our history lessons.



## Year 5 News

Spring 2 is short in length but promises to be fun packed along with lots of important learning overflowing each week, beginning with World Book Week. In English this half term we will be starting off with a fiction topic, the children will be introduced to faraway places and exciting adventures in 'Cloud Tea Monkeys' and 'Mysterious Traveller'. We will then move onto looking at different ways of writing speech, play scripts, speech bubbles, direct and reported speech when composing reports and journalistic writing. Poetry will be the final unit we will look at this term. The children will learn the classic narrative poem Ballad of Charlotte Dymond to recite and identify features, role play to study the characters, and compare with Lochinvar and explore relative clauses. In Maths we will start with place value, an essential part of mathematicians work, consolidating what we have learnt previous and looking at solving problems. This will be followed up with a week each measurement: area, perimeter and volume. A big focus after this will be on multiplication and fractions. For our Science unit Year 5 will cover forces. The topic will explore the effect gravity has on humans and objects on Earth; identify the effects of friction, air resistance and water resistance and investigate mechanisms and how they can help us in the world in which we live. During the whole unit we will be working scientifically, using equipment to take accurate measurements and recording the results in tables and charts. For RE Year 5 will look at understanding about the Christian belief that Jesus died and rose victoriously and what this means to Christians; focussing on the Easter story in detail. We will think about times in our life when we have been victorious and how this made us feel. Our topic work will move towards Geography, by investigating the question 'Where should we go on holiday?'. We will be focussing our investigation on the Alpine region; understanding beyond our local area to include Europe. We will look at the location and characteristics of this region, using maps work, research and investigation to identify human and physical features of this location. In Computing Year 5 will be bloggers. We will examine what should be incorporated within a good blog and then write our own blogs. DT will continue with our project on alarms where we will make our final product to protect a building in Rochdale. Art moves on to looking at 3D artwork, focussing on Michelangelo's famous sculptures. We will investigate him as an artist, techniques he has used and finally creating our own sculpture in the style of Michelangelo.



## Year 6 News



*This will be an extremely exciting term for all the children in Year 6! Nearly SATs! Over the course of this half term the children will be learning lots of new and exciting things across the curriculum. In English, children will be focussing on different genres of writing where the children have the opportunity to edit and redraft their work; ensuring each piece of writing shows their true potential. In Maths we are consolidating our learning, extending the children's knowledge to ensure they are able to apply this in all contexts. In RE we will be learning all about 'Easter' and questioning 'Who is Jesus? - looking at the build-up of Lent through to Easter and why this is such a special time for Christians. We also have a visit to a Hindu temple planned, where we will be learning lots of new interesting facts about Hinduism and taking part in a brilliant workshop. Exciting! In Geography we will be thinking about how humans impact on the 'health' of the planet and what can be done to help 'save' the planet.*



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### REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE

#### ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

Don't forget our online parent payment portal. It can make it a lot easier to make payments for such things as dinners, trips etc. There is an easy link on the 'Home Page' of our website. You should have received a letter with information about setting up an account, if you have any difficulty just talk to the school office!



#### IF YOUR CHILD IS OFF POORLY

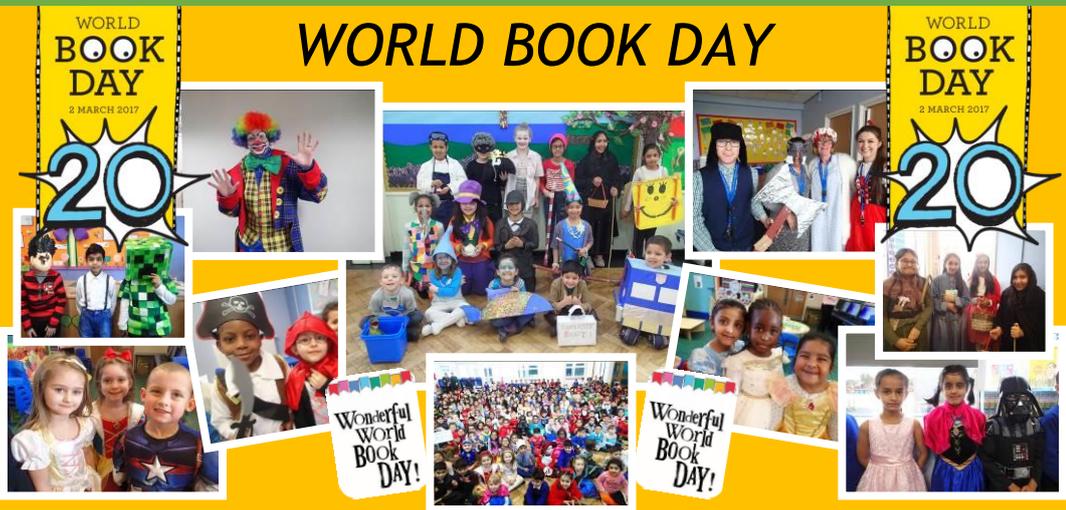
Please remember to call the office each day if your child is going to be absent from school.

#### IF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE

If any of your details change, eg. Free School Meal status, contact numbers etc. please let us know so we can update our records.



# WORLD BOOK DAY



We all had great fun dressing up as book characters on Thursday 2nd March. The day got off to a great start with an assembly all about 'Traditional Tales' with a fun quiz. We also had a very difficult task of choosing a winner from each class and an overall winner. We were delighted to find that, thanks to the children's kind donations, we raised £200 for Book Aid International. This money will help to pay for books in less economically developed countries. Have a look at some of our photos, there are more to see on our school website, including pictures of the winners!

### ~ Performance Poet 'David Mason' ~

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, in the build-up to World Book Day, author and performance poet, David Mason, came into school to work with all the children. Year 2 and Year 6 were extremely fortunate to take part in a workshop where they used drama to inspire their creative writing. All the children had great fun, enhanced their love of reading and really developed their skill!



### Intervention Market Place

The governors were very pleased to join the staff in attending the recent 'Intervention Market Place' at the school. This was an event to share the range of specific support packages on offer at St Peter's to help ensure that every child at our school reaches their full potential. Individual staff have been highly trained to deliver these 'Every Child Counts' interventions, including English and Maths, as well as physical and social development. Children who may require an additional boost are identified by the teachers and then receive a short, sharp focus lasting approximately 8 weeks. The initial impact of these groups is showing that children are progressing very well and catching up with their peers. Thank you to all the staff for their contribution to this training evening and their continued hard work in school.

Mrs Sutton (Chair of Governors)

### ATTENDANCE

How's your class doing?

This year our attendance target is 96%

Nursery	90.8%		
Rec RM	95.8%	Rec RH	95.6%
Year 1K	94.9%	Year 1S	96.1%
Year 2M	95.1%	Year 2G	94.9%
Year 3B	97.5%	Year 3N	96.9%
Year 4C	96.6%	Year 4M	96.4%
Year 5M	97.7%	Year 5J	96.8%
Year 6H	96.9%	Year 6W	97.2%
Whole School			96.0%

Well Done!



### Headteacher Message

Last half term was yet another incredibly rewarding half term at St Peter's and I am always delighted, when going around the school, by the children's work, behaviour and attitude to learning. We really are lucky here at St Peter's to teach such well-mannered, caring and responsible pupils. I was also delighted to receive the letter from the Minister of State for School Standards congratulating us on being in the top 3% of schools in England for progress! We've had some fun events already with a visit from author 'David Mason' and 'World Book Day', I really enjoyed seeing all the costumes! Events like 'World Book Day' are also a good opportunity for us to help others around the world that are less fortunate than ourselves. In this season of Lent we are encouraging the children to reflect on how their behaviour, the choices and the decisions they make can affect those around them and remembering the important words of Jesus 'Love one another as I have loved you!'

As always please feel free to pop in to see me if you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education.

Mr A Whelan