

St Peter's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



SPRING TERM 2017/18
2ND HALF TERM



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 'Justice'.

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!



Parents' Evening



Wednesday, 14th 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!



WORLD BOOK DAY

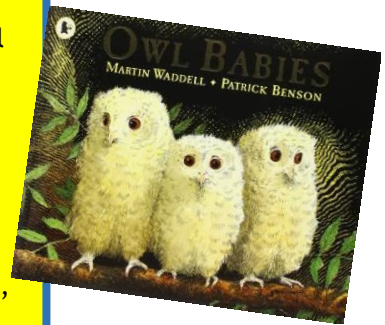


After all the snow we had, World Book Day was postponed... But when it finally arrived, we all had great fun dressing up as book characters on Thursday 8th March. The day got off to a great start with an assembly from Year 2M. We also had a very difficult task of choosing a winner from each class and an overall winner. We were delighted to find that, thanks to the children's kind donations, we raised over £160 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!

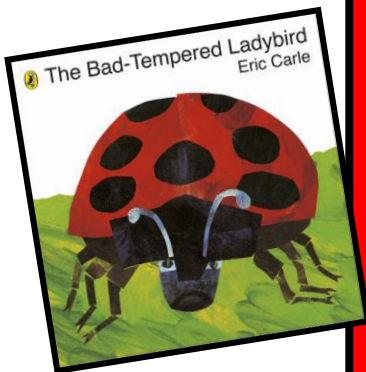


Nursery News

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 Changes, so we will be looking at plants and growth, as well as animals and their 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. 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. If you need to speak to any of the Nursery Team at any point, please don't hesitate to come and talk to us.



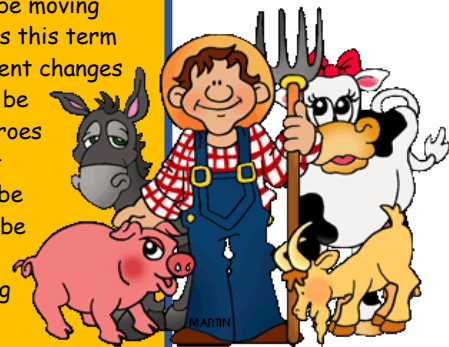
Reception News



We will begin this half term by learning about mini beasts, growth and changes. The Creepy Crawly Roadshow will be coming to school to showcase some amazing mini beast creatures! In Literacy, we will be reading the Bad Tempered Ladybird, which will inspire us to write our own stories! Followed by some non-fiction writing, focused on growth change and life cycles. We will continue teaching a daily phonics lesson; the children are doing phenomenally well and are applying their phonics to write sentences! We are continuing to develop our fine motor skills with our daily handwriting practise and there are lots of opportunities in provision to enhance our control. Our Maths learning will continue to focus heavily on shape, space and measure. We will continue to learn all about number, including addition, subtraction and moving on to halving. We are now counting in 2s at the start of each maths lesson. Can your child show you this at home? In RE, this term's focus is on Justice, and we will be learning about Easter and the stories Jesus told. We will be reading lots of stories in the Old Testament such as the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. We are excited to see your children continue to learn, grow and thrive!

Year 1 News

Welcome back to the spring half term! We have got lots of interesting and exciting things planned over the next few weeks in Year 1. In English, we will be looking at instructions and information texts. We joined in with World Book Day and spent a week exploring the text Peter Pan. This has helped with our work on traditional tales. 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 we will be looking at healthy foods. We will explore the different types of food we can make, and eat, and we will also be looking at where some of our food comes from during our trip to Cannon Hall Farm. In Art we will be learning about Henry Moore and replicating his sculptures. In RE we will be looking at the Easter story and discussing why this celebration is important to Christians. As always, if there is anything you need, please do come and see one of the Year 1 team for help or support in helping your child achieve their full potential.



Year 2 News

We have planned lots of exciting activities for the children this spring half term! In English, we will be starting with recounts, where the children will create a diary about a woodland creature. We will then be moving onto fantasy stories and creating our own tales about dragons! Towards the end of the term we will focus on humorous poems. This term in maths we will begin by focusing on the 4 operations that the children use consistently throughout their maths learning (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). 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 continue to observe various seeds and bulbs and will be describing how they grow into mature plants. We will investigate how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy. Our RE topic this half term will be focusing on the Christian celebration of 'Easter' and the symbols associated with this special time of year. We would also like to 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. It is essential that your child is reading as often as possible as this is crucial for their important, upcoming SATs tests. Any extra help or support from home will enable your child to perform at their very best ability when sitting these exams. As usual if you have anything you wish to see us about please contact the office for an appointment. Thank you as always for your support.

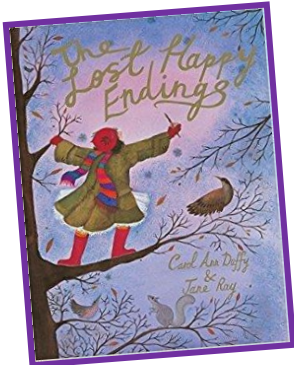


Year 3 News

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term! 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. We will be spending the next two weeks in English looking at non-fiction recounts and then move onto narratives. We will also be focussing on 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! Computing will see us become opinion pollsters! We will be designing our own questionnaires which we will be creating on the computer for each of the classes to complete. This data will then be collected and we will be presenting it in tables and graphs. In French, we will be learning about: manners, numbers, classroom objects and how to greet each other. In Art, we will be focusing on the artist Antoni Gaudí, where the children will create their own mosaics in the style of Gaudi. Our focus in RE will be Lent and Easter. Year 3 will learn about the stories of Holy Week and the true meaning of Lent. In DT we are continuing to create our moving monsters!



Year 4 News



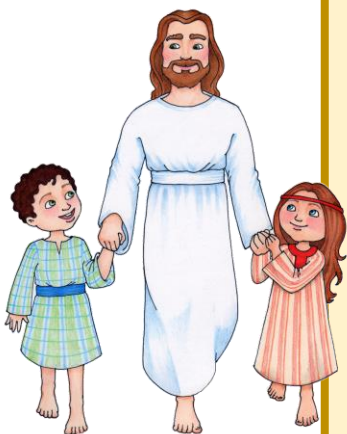
Wow! We are now in the fourth half term of Year 4! This is quite a short half term and we have lots to do. We went to Toad Lane in the centre of Rochdale as part of our history theme this term about, "How the Victorians Influenced our Local Area." Toad Lane is the site where the first ever Co-operative shop started. Today it is a global business. Some children in each class dressed up as Victorians and acted out the very first sale of half a pound of sugar. The children learnt 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. We all enjoyed World Book Day; children were allowed to dress up as their favourite book character. In Year 4 we are reading a book called "The Lost Happy Endings," and both Mr Jolly and Mrs Cavill have already read it and have been preparing lots of interesting activities for the children around its theme. In Maths we are moving onto understanding all aspects of fractions. We will also learn about co-ordinates on a grid. Swimming has started really well and the children are already making progress. We would just like to urge you to ensure your children's clothing has names inside, to avoid mix ups. Thank you for your continued support and please do see one of us in the team if you need to discuss your child's learning.

Year 5 News

Welcome back, we hope you have had a lovely break. In English this half term we will be looking at Short! by K. Crossley- Holland. For part of this half- term we will be focusing on the traditional tale of Alice in Wonderland for Book Week. Our additional fiction topic will investigate different ways of writing dialogue, focusing on Shakespeare's work. D. Wiesner's narrative book 'Tuesday' will be used to study report writing. In Maths we will be looking at; place value, multiplication, dividing including fractions. We will end the half term looking at measurements including area, perimeter and volume. In Science we will be looking at 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. For RE, Year 5 will look at how Jesus died and rose victoriously and what this means to Christians; focusing on the Easter story in detail. Our topic work will move towards Geography, by investigating the question 'Where should we go on holiday?'. We will be focusing our investigation on the Alpine region; looking beyond our local area, including Europe. In Computing Year 5 will be architects. We will research examples of art gallery architecture, before creating our own virtual gallery. DT will continue with our project on alarms where we will make an alarm system for a rocket. Art moves on to looking at 3D artwork, focusing on Michelangelo's famous sculptures. We will investigate him as an artist, techniques he has used and finally creating our own sculptures!



Year 6 News



This will be an extremely busy term for all the children in Year 6 as we continue to work hard in all areas of the curriculum. We are encouraging the children to complete their SAT's revision books - we have already had two inspections of these. Keep up the good work! In English, we will be focusing 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. Our first text type is persuasion. Children will be writing a persuasive letter about recycling. We will be focusing on the text 'The Wizard of Oz'. Through this we will write a newspaper report as well as focusing on getting to know the different characters. In Maths, we are consolidating our learning, extending the children's knowledge to ensure they are able to apply this in all contexts. We encourage the children to be proactive in their learning by approaching members of staff with particular areas of need. Within RE, we will be focusing on 'Easter' concentrating specifically on the question 'Who was Jesus?' where we will be delving deeper into the themes of the celebration; describing the symbolism, practices and beliefs. We have started a new topic in Science called 'Living Things and Habitats'. We will be learning about the classification system and different creatures around the world. Our focus in Geography is 'Are we damaging our world?' We will be looking at how we can make our world a better place for everyone by making changes such as reducing, reusing and recycling. Please do come and see one of the team if you need to ask anything.



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Forthcoming Events

EYFS/KS1 - EASTER BONNETS

Wednesday 28th March



Decorate a hat for your child to
wear in the 'Easter Bonnet Parade'

KS2 - EASTER EGGS COMPETITION

Tuesday 27th March



Decorate an egg for your child to
display in our competition!



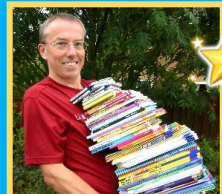
Key Stage 1 Multi Sports Festival

Four children from Year 1 and four children from Year 2, were chosen to represent St Peter's at the Mini Stars Multi Sports Festival which took place at Rochdale Leisure Centre. The children participated in a range of sports activities such as bean bag toss, skipping race, sack racing, hurdles and a relay race. The organisers of the event explained that as this was a multisport festival, they did not want to choose any winners and the taking part and effort of all the children was the most important thing. However, they decided that they wanted to make a special mention, and give a trophy, to the children of St Peter's as they had displayed fantastic behaviour, brilliant skills and had tried their very best in each and every activity! Well done children!



~ Author Visit 'John Malam' ~

On Tuesday 20th February and Wednesday 21st February, in the build-up to World Book Day, author of non-fiction books, John Malam, came into school to work with all the children. All the year groups were extremely fortunate to take part in a workshop where they could further improve their skills in writing. All the children had great fun, enhanced their love of reading and really developed their skills!



ATTENDANCE

How's your class doing?
This year our attendance target is 96%

Nursery	91.6%	Rec RF	93.2%
Rec RB	92.4%	Year 1S	95.1%
Year 1H	96.2%	Year 2K	95.3%
Year 2M	94.7%	Year 3M	96.9%
Year 3G	95.1%	Year 4J	94.2%
Year 4C	97.1%	Year 5N	94.9%
Year 5M	94.8%	Year 6M	95.3%
Year 6H	97.3%	Whole School	95.0%

Well Done! ✓

Year 3 Cornet Concert

On 9th February, Year 3 were extremely proud to show off their musical skills in playing the cornet. The concert took place in the afternoon, where the whole school was able to enjoy the music the children played. Well done to all those that participated - we are very proud of you!



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. We've had some fun events already with a visit from author 'John Malam' 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