

# St Peter's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



**SUMMER TERM 2017/18**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> HALF TERM**



Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you had a really lovely Easter break and enjoyed spending time with your children during the two weeks' holiday.

It is now the summer term and the nice weather seems to have arrived. It feels like the year is going by very quickly! We have lots of news about things that happened last half term and events that are coming up!

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter this half-term and as always, please let us know if there are any suggestions you would like to make or if you have any concerns.

Thank you as always for your continued support!



## St Peter's is in the Top 2% of schools in England!

We were very excited to have received a letter praising the school's performance from Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP. 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.



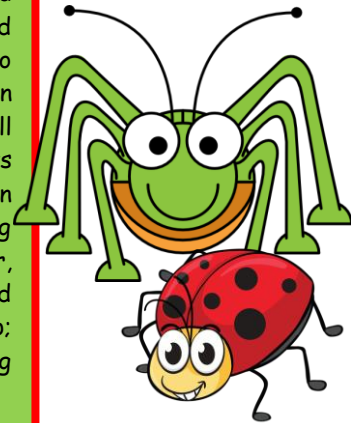
## DANCE FESTIVAL



We were delighted to attend the Rochdale Schools' Dance Festival at Middleton Arena on the 26th April. The theme for this year's festival was '80s' and we took part by dancing to a Michael Jackson Megamix that had been choreographed by Mrs Harrop and Miss Kyte. There were eleven other schools competing at the dance festival with children of all different ages. The children performed brilliantly and did the school proud! Watch the video of the performance on our school website!

## Nursery News

This half term has been very busy so far in Nursery and we have lots more exciting activities planned over the next few weeks. The children have settled into nursery well after the Easter break and have enjoyed learning all about mini-beasts! Our new theme has given us lots of opportunities to explore outside in the sunshine and we have already enjoyed hunting for mini-beasts, building our own bug hotels and discussing where different mini-beasts may live. During our Literacy sessions, we will be focusing on non-fiction writing; our nursery reading area is now full of books all about mini-beasts for us to enjoy. The children will be encouraged to talk about the mini-beasts that they have seen and to use their phonics knowledge to write facts about their favourite bugs! We will also be reading some brilliant stories, such as 'Norman, the Slug with the Silly Shell! Maths will focus on number, counting, ordering and shape. It would be brilliant if you could continue to practise counting and number recognition with your child at home. In RE, we will be learning all about friendship; encouraging the children to think about and discuss what makes a good friend, as well as reading different Bible stories related to Jesus and friendship.



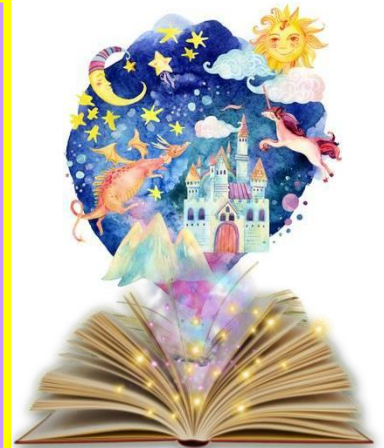
## Reception News



We hope you all had a lovely Easter break and did not eat too much chocolate! We hope you made some lovely family memories. We began this half term by learning about St George, and will move on to Superheroes and the Fire Service and anything else that may catch the interest of the children. We were very excited to find a letter from Daisy the Dragon who left her eggs for us to look after. Although, we were worried about Draco (her brother) who threatened to eat the teachers. In Literacy, we have been reading *Supertato*, where we have been exploring comic strips and writing our own speech bubbles. 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 can now count in steps of 2 and are beginning to learn steps of 5. In RE this term's focus is on Friendship. We will be learning about being good friends and the friends of Jesus. We will also be exploring places of worship for Christians and Muslims where we will understand the similarities between different faiths. Thank you for your continued support and if you need to ask us anything, please do come and find one of the team.

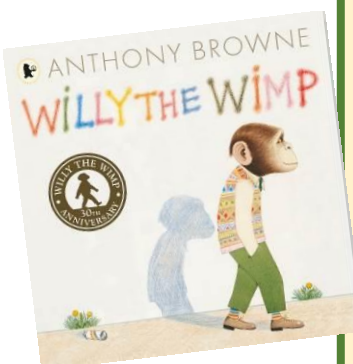
## Year 1 News

Welcome back to the first half of Summer Term. In Year 1 we have lots of exciting and interesting activities planned! In English we will be looking at fairy tales and fantasy stories before moving onto letters, information texts and poetry. In Maths the children will be focusing on fractions, 3D shapes, money, time, and addition and subtraction. In Science we are moving on to a new topic which will be humans and animals. We will be learning about the different parts of the human body, the five senses, animal families, and the similarities and differences between humans and animals. In RE our new topic is Saints and followers, we will be learning about past and present followers of Jesus. 'Where We Live' is our topic in Geography; the children will explore our local town and the surrounding area. This half term in Art we will be looking at printing and making our own printing designs using a variety of materials. Finally, in DT, we will be looking at homes and structures and investigating the best resources to build our own. As the Year 1 phonics screening test is fast approaching, please continue to help and support your children with their phonics at home. Additionally, there are links to phonics websites on the school website which can be found on the 1S and 1H class pages. If you need any support with helping your child at home, please feel free to come and find a member of the Year 1 Team, where we will be happy to help.



## Year 2 News

Welcome back and we hope you have all had a relaxing Easter break. We have planned lots of exciting activities for the children this term. In English we will be starting with various stories written by Anthony Browne. Through this theme the children will explore the different kinds of emotions and how to deal with them. The children will read a variety of books including *Willy the Wimp*, *Into the Forest* and *Gorilla* to name but a few. This in turn will allow the children to produce some interesting writing. Maths this term will concentrate on Data Handling and Fractions, along with Multiplication and Division facts. Remember to learn those times table facts! Our Science topic will be all about Living Things and Their Habitats, including looking at the differences between living and non-living things. We will be doing lots of investigation work outside and hope to have lots of fun! This term in History we will focus on the great explorers of our time. We will research and find out about many different explorers who have made an impact on society throughout the years. We would also greatly appreciate your continued support and encouragement with your child's learning at home as this will significantly help their progress, especially as the SATs are fast approaching.

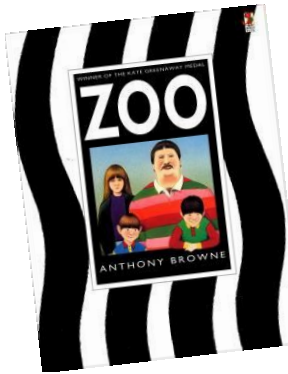


## Year 3 News

Welcome back to summer term! We hope you enjoyed the Easter break! Maths will see an increase in the use of formal calculation methods and a greater use of multiplication and division. Times tables rockstars will be used weekly to aid these topics. There will be a shift in our humanities lessons to history for this half term. We will look at the Ancient Egyptians and all of their achievements. The River Nile will play a big part in our learning and all of the benefits that it brought to such a technologically advanced civilisation. This term in English we will be focusing on Traditional Poems by Eleanor Farjeon and Charles Causley. The focus will be the techniques the poets have used to write their poems. Narrative writing will follow this. We have linked this with our History topic and will be reading *The Egyptian Cinderella*. We will also be continuing to look at grammar, as we need to improve our understanding of completing and punctuating sentences. Andy Warhol was a prolific artist and known worldwide for his work. We will be looking at different aspects of his life and work and we are hoping to reproduce some Pop-art style pieces for you to enjoy so keep your eyes peeled for updates on the gallery. Our computing topic is perhaps: **THE MOST CRUCIAL ONE YET!** This topic is all about communicating online, something which most of us are doing more and more frequently. We will be teaching children how to be safe and what apps are appropriate/not appropriate. RE will focus on the events following Easter and the teachings that Jesus led after his reincarnation. We will look at the rules that we should all follow and understand why it is important in society we follow the rules.



## Year 4 News



Wow - A new term already! We are very excited about this term and have many things we need to achieve before we are ready for Year 5. This term we will be going on not one but two trips! Firstly, we will be going to 1 Angel Square! Angel Square is the impressive ecological building in Manchester that is now home to the Co-operative's headquarters. This will really show the children the significant achievements of their very own Rochdale Pioneers. We will also be visiting Gallery Oldham to take part in a Pattern and Print workshop using textiles. In English we have been debating about Zoos at the moment. Are they good or bad? We all thought they were fantastic until we began to consider an alternative point of view whilst reading Anthony Browne's book "Zoo." We are looking at all points of view and will be writing a balanced argument at the end of the Unit. Later on in the term we will look at the Poems of Edward Lear, (Which are a load of nonsense,) and the Books of David Walliams which are very funny. In Maths we continue to challenge and stretch ourselves using problem solving techniques. We have been securing our knowledge of compact subtraction this week. This is a method most parents will probably be familiar with. In Science we are looking at Animals including Humans. Watch out for the children telling you all about dental hygiene and what foods they should avoid to protect their teeth. Thank you for your support.

## Year 5 News

In English this half term, we will be starting off by analysing 'What Do You Want To Be' by Wilf Merttens. The children will use Merttens' style of poetry to plan, write and perform their own poems about hopes for their future careers. Year Five will then move on to a non-fiction unit. During the unit, we will read a selection of fascinating letters, both formal and informal, from different periods of history. The children will learn to recognise and use modal verbs, and find out about the correct use of colons, semi colons and dashes. In Maths, the children will be starting the unit with place value, consolidating and deepening their understanding of this. The children will then move onto fractions, decimals and percentages. For our Science unit, Year 5 is moving on to our final topic of 'Changes of Materials'. During this exciting scheme, we will be conducting lots of practical experiments which will deepen our previous knowledge about materials. Year 5, in RE, will gain greater understanding of the lives and resilience of the early Christians. To realise the significance of the life of St Paul and the concept of mission. The children will also learn basic facts about how Christianity came to Britain. Our topic work will move towards History, by investigating the big question 'what impact did the Anglo-Saxons have?' In this unit, the children will explore the world of the Anglo-Saxons, and why they came to Britain. In Computing Year 5 are being artists. We will begin by making tessellations using a program called Inkscape. The DT topic will move onto a food element where we will be looking closely at bread. We will experience different types and bread and learn how to make it using a basic recipe. Art moves on to looking at printing, focusing in on the work of Hokusai.



## Year 6 News



We are working extremely hard on our final push before SATs, which are week commencing Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018. We are ensuring that the children remain calm and that they feel confident to be able to tell us if they are finding any areas difficult. The children's writing is assessed internally by the Y6 teachers and our judgements could also be moderated by external moderators from the Local Authority. We will be working hard to ensure that the children are producing work at the expected standard or above so that they reach their individual targets. 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. 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 about The Holy Trinity; God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. After this, we will be learning about Ascension and Pentecost. As part of our learning in Science, we will be learning about 'Light'. This will be done through a 'Crime Lab Investigation'. Please do come and see us if there is anything you, or your child, is concerned about – we are happy to help!



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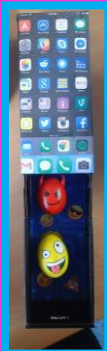
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## DECORATED EGGS



Just before we broke up, the  
Junior children had an  
'eggciting' time decorating  
eggs! There were some  
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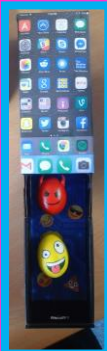


# Springs Dance Company

Between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of March, we were very lucky to have the chance for the Springs Dance Company to come in and work with every class in the school. The 'Easter Project' led pupils through a series of dance workshops that helped them engage with the Easter story. Children learned and created movement in response to the story. They had the opportunity to explore their own spirituality as the workshops link Jesus' relationship with his disciples to Jesus' presence today. The workshops culminated in an informal sharing or performance of the Easter story by the pupils across the school.



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## EASTER BONNET PARADE



Just before we broke up the Nursery,  
Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had a lovely  
Easter Bonnet Parade in the school hall!  
The children sang some Easter songs and  
paraded in their bonnets for  
mums and dads to see!



## ATTENDANCE

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

|         |       |              |       |
|---------|-------|--------------|-------|
| Nursery | 91.7% | Rec RF       | 93.2% |
| Rec RB  | 92.4% | Year 1S      | 94.6% |
| Year 1H | 92.4% | Year 2K      | 94.8% |
| Year 2M | 95.0% | Year 3M      | 96.9% |
| Year 3G | 94.9% | Year 4J      | 94.5% |
| Year 4C | 96.8% | Year 5N      | 94.3% |
| Year 5M | 94.7% | Year 6M      | 95.3% |
| Year 6H | 97.5% | Whole School | 94.9% |

Well Done!



## Headteacher Message

Welcome back to school for the first half of the summer term, I can't believe how quickly the year is going! We've got a busy term ahead, especially our Year 2 and Year 6 children who will be taking their Key Stage SATs tests and Year 1 who will be doing their phonics test. Tests for the Year 6 children will take place in the week beginning Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Remember to keep calm, as this is the opportunity to show everybody how great you are, and show off everything you know and have learned at St Peter's. Good luck!

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