

# St Peter's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



**SUMMER TERM 2023/24  
1<sup>ST</sup> HALF TERM**



## New Canteen Update



We're thrilled to share exciting news that our school canteen is close to being completed! This modern space promises to be more than just meals - it will be a vibrant hub where students will gather, connect, and recharge whilst eating their lunch in a calming place.



Stay tuned for more details and an opening date when the children will be able to use this incredible space, meaning the school hall can be used for curriculum subjects.



Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you had a really lovely Easter break and enjoyed spending time with your children during the two weeks' holiday. Easter truly is a lovely time of year where we think about the season of spring, new life and the life that Jesus sacrificed so we could have eternal life.

It is now the Summer Term and the nice weather seems to be arriving. 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 do 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 here at St Peter's - it is always!



The Worship Leaders played a pivotal role in orchestrating Easter collective worship, infusing it with reverence, joy, and spiritual depth, by telling the school about the true meaning of Easter through narrating and acting out 'The Tale of the Three Trees'. They invited the children and staff to reflect on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, through Scripture readings, prayers, hymns and thoughtful reflections. The Worship Leaders were absolutely amazing and made the school extremely proud.

## The Tale of the THREETREES

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!" The second little tree longed to travel mighty waters, carrying powerful kings as the strongest ship. The third little tree, gazing down into the valley, desired to grow so tall that people would raise their eyes to heaven and think of God.



Years passed, and the trees' dreams took unexpected turns...

The **first tree** became a humble **manger for a new born baby Jesus**, holding the greatest treasure of all.

The **second tree** was transformed into a **simple fishing boat**, carrying Jesus and his disciples when Jesus calmed the storm.

And the **third tree**, cut into strong beams, found its purpose as **the cross on which Jesus was crucified**, pointing to God's love and redemption.



And so, the three trees fulfilled their destinies, woven into the timeless story of faith and sacrifice.



## Nursery News

Welcome back, we hope you all had a very restful Easter holiday, the children all had lots to tell us when they returned to school. Our topic this half term is called 'In the Garden'. We start this topic off with 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' followed by 'Jasper's Beanstalk'. During this topic we will be planting and growing runner beans, sunflowers and cress. We have also received a special delivery of our very own caterpillars, which we will look after and watch them change into beautiful butterflies. Throughout this term we will be learning how to hear and write the initial sounds in words, learning to recognise numbers 1-10, counting a number of objects, counting forwards and backwards and learning how to correctly form the letters in our names. These are all things that your children can practise at home. In RE we are starting the topic 'Special Places'. We will be thinking about places that are special to us and why they are special. There will also be another visit to our local church at the end of this half term. We will continue to send home a weekly 'Home Learning Challenge' and a weekly library book for the children to share with their family. Reading with your children is very important as they learn new words and it improves their literacy skills. Don't forget to regularly check the school website for photos and videos of your child enjoying their learning at school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to any of the Nursery team. Thank you as always, for your continued support.



## Reception News



Our last term in Reception! We cannot believe how fast this year is going! This half term our topic is 'In the Garden', we will be learning all about mini-beasts and how plants grow, with our books being 'SuperWorm', 'Things with Wings' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Our role play area has been turned into Gordan Rigg Garden Centre! In maths we will be developing our reasoning skills by solving word problems, exploring patterns in numbers, including odd and even numbers and developing our understanding of positional language. In RE we will be learning all about 'Special Places', the children will be given the opportunity to discuss their special places and the memories they have made there, as well as learning about the special places Jesus visited, such as the temple. With the nicer weather coming, please ensure your child has sun protection for when the children use outdoor provision. Please continue to read at home with your children and write a comment in their reading record, this really helps to develop their reading ability.

## Year 1 News

Welcome back to the first half of the summer term. In Year One we have lots of exciting and interesting activities planned! In RE, our new topic is 'Why Is Baptism Special?' we will be learning about the special sacrament that welcomes new people into the church and God's Family. We will be exploring different symbols involved in a baptism and how birth rites are different in each religion. We will learn a new Bible story and the peace of scripture that baptism is based on. In maths, the children will be focusing on fractions, 3D shapes, money, time, and addition and subtraction. In English, we will be looking at fairy tales and fantasy stories before moving onto letters, information texts and poetry. As the Year One phonics screening test is fast approaching, please continue to help and support your children with their phonics at home. Alternatively, there are links to phonics websites on the school website, which can be found on the 1A and 1K class pages. Please make sure your child has their reading books and reading records in school every day to ensure they are getting new books each week. PE kits must also be in school every day for children to take part. Homework is given out on Fridays and needs to be completed by your child and returned the following Thursday. We look forward to another great half term with Year One.



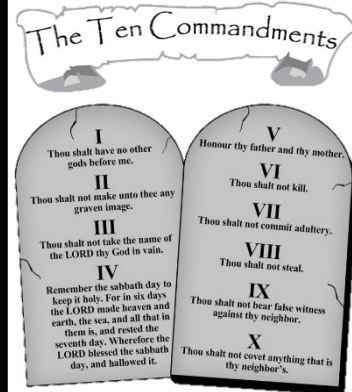
## Year 2 News



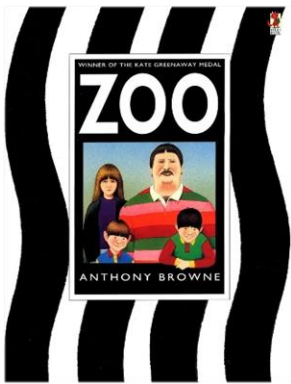
Welcome back to the Summer term! We have many exciting events planned for the children so keep your eyes peeled. In RE, we will be focusing on the topic 'Ascension and Pentecost'. Our learning will be focused around many 'Big Questions' and we will be discussing our views of heaven and what this looks like to us. In maths, we will begin by looking at multiples of 2, 5, 10 and 3. We will then move onto fractions. Would you rather have half a pizza or 3/4? We will also be doing a weekly 'MAD MINUTES' sessions, where the children are timed whilst completing their times tables. Ready, steady, get practising! In English, we are focusing on the book 'Into the Forest' by Anthony Browne. The children will be making predictions, exploring unfamiliar words, ordering the events of the story and answering comprehension questions. Towards the end of this unit the children will be writing their own version of the story by changing the character that the boy meets in the forest. In Geography, our topic is 'What are the Seven Wonders of the World?' Throughout this topic, we will consider what a 'wonder' is and what makes a 'wonder'. The children will then create a brochure to try and persuade people to come and visit one of the various ancient and modern wonders. Our Science topic is 'Plants'. We will look at the life cycle of a plant and how they disperse their seeds. Later in the unit, we will observe the similarities and differences between seeds and bulbs by dissecting them and understanding the name and role of each part. We have also planted some seeds of different vegetables! We can't wait to see how they grow!

## Year 3 News

Welcome back to yet another jam-packed Summer term. We now include Mr Bigland as part of our team. We hope you enjoyed your Easter break and did not indulge too much with the Easter Eggs. Although this is a short term there are lots of exciting things the children will be doing. Our focus in RE will be 'Rules for Living'. This unit will see us looking closely at the Ten Commandments and how they link with our modern laws. We will also be discussing the difference between rules and laws. In Maths, the children will be looking at the expanded and compact methods for addition and subtraction. They will also recognise and identify the features of 2D and 3D shapes. Children will be doing some data handling work too. Our focus in English this term will be stories from other cultures and persuasive writing for advertisements. The children will be building their descriptive writing skills to sell a holiday to the south west coastline of England linking in nicely with our Geography topic. Our Geography topic this term is coastlines. We will be focusing on the British coastlines and the wildlife and tourism they generate. We will be visiting Blackpool Sea life Centre and the Blackpool Coastline on Wednesday 22nd May to get a better understanding. In Art, we will be looking at sculptures specifically creating a model of a sculpture designed to enhance our school environment. PE is on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school on these days. Make sure you are continuing to read with your children every day at home, even if it's just a few pages. It all helps to contribute towards their wider learning. Thank you for your support.



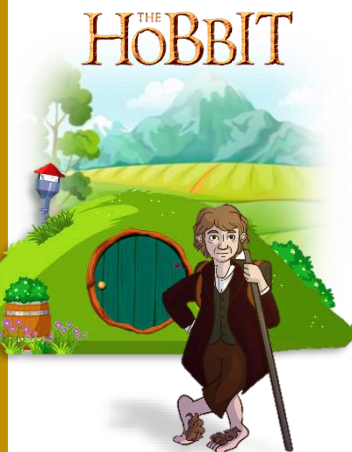
## Year 4 News



Wow - A new term already! We are very excited about this term and have many things we need to achieve before the children are ready for Year 5 next year. In English, we will be having a debate about zoos: Are they good or bad? We usually think they are fantastic until we begin to consider alternative points 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 very funny books of David Walliams. In Maths, we continue to challenge and stretch ourselves using problem solving techniques. We are learning about co-ordinates and translation. Whilst continuing to learn improve our times table knowledge. In Science, we are looking at Trees. This is a topic specifically used for St Peter's as we have a wide variety of trees within our grounds to appreciate and explore. Towards the end of the topic, we will find out which is the oldest and youngest trees in our school. This term we will going on a walk of the local area for our Geography field work to explore which rocks can be found in Rochdale. This links to our topic on earthquakes and volcanoes. In RE, we are learning about what makes up a church. At the beginning the children thought that a church was just a building. We are currently building up a bigger picture about how a church is shaped by the people. This term's Art focuses on, Journeys and how we can record them through drawing and collage. Our French unit is all about the body. Thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions about your child's learning, please do come and ask one of the team.

## Year 5 News

Welcome back Year 5, we hope you enjoyed your Easter holiday! In English this half term, we will begin our term by reading *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien, investigating settings, character development, dialogue and narrative style. We will then move onto using texts about persuasion! In Maths, we will start by looking at drawing line graphs and using them to help us convert between imperial and metric units. We will then move on to furthered developing our operation skills and using these in problem solving and reasoning. For our Science Unit, Year Five will look at the unit plants. We will have the opportunity to investigate plants in our own school grounds and even plant some vegetables! For RE Year 5 will explore The Bible in more detail. Specifically looking at how Christians use the Bible for advice and guidance in many different situations in life. The children will compare this to who and where they feel they would seek advice and guidance from in their own lives. Our topic work in Geography will be focusing on 'How is our Country Changing'. Children will explore how various events in our country's history have changed the physical and human features of our landscape. In Art we will be looking at textiles - concentrating on the area of silk painting. We won't give too much away but this will link to our English topic! If you require any further information, please do come and speak to one of the Year 5 staff members.



## Year 6 News

SERVICE



Welcome back after the Easter break! 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. We will start by focusing on 'Wuthering Heights', thinking about how the ending could be changed. We will then be moving onto 'The First Drawing by M Gerstein' and 'The Secrets of Stonehenge by M Manning'. We will be reading the story in class and basing our writing around it. We will be using the facts from the text to produce our own information texts. In Maths, we will begin with measurement. Then we will move onto looking at scale factor, ratio and proportion. Children will be taking part in Freckles Maths and answer questions that are marked automatically and then are tested at the end. We will continue with the competition between the classes on TT Rock stars, and we will see which class wins just before the end of the term. In Science, we will be looking at 'Evolution & Inheritance: Adaptation' within our Biology unit. Children will get the opportunity to learn about inheritance, thinking about the features they have inherited themselves. In Geography, the topic we are looking at is 'How will our world look in the future?' We will be learning about how aspects of our local area have changes over time and create our own designs for the future. In Art, we will be focusing on designing and creating our own hat or mask. The Christian Value we will explore is 'Service'. This half term, we will be focusing on 'Life as a Journey', the children will be answering Big Questions and posing their own. We are looking forward to another exciting term with Year 6 and wish the children the best of luck in their upcoming SATs tests! Thank you!



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## EASTER FUN!



Just before the Easter holidays, the KS1 Children had an Easter Bonnet Parade 'eggstravaganza' and KS2 had an 'eggciting' time decorating eggs! There were some 'eggceptional' creations from the children and everyone had a 'cracking' time!

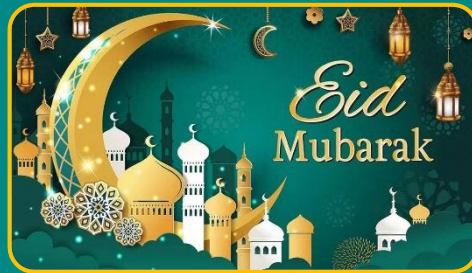


# Year 4 Cornet Concert

Last half term, Year 4 performed their Cornet Concert. With the help of Rochdale Music Service, they have been learning how to read music and play the cornet over the last three months. They built up their initial skills by learning individual notes of C, D and E. Then they learnt to play songs with one note and then multiple notes. Finally, they learnt another note - B flat - in order to play and sing the well-known songs – Hot Cross Buns and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. Well done on your performance! KS2 and the parents who attended thoroughly enjoyed it.



## EID CELEBRATIONS



Eid was celebrated during the Easter holidays and we hope our families had a fantastic time with friends and family during the festivities.



## ATTENDANCE

How's your class doing?

Our attendance target is: **96%**

|         |       |                     |              |
|---------|-------|---------------------|--------------|
| Nursery | 89.8% | Rec RK              | 93.2%        |
| Rec RP  | 92.9% | Year 1A             | 91.6%        |
| Year 1K | 93.6% | Year 2B             | 93.0%        |
| Year 2W | 92.8% | Year 3J             | 95.7%        |
| Year 3G | 92.6% | Year 4H             | 95.7%        |
| Year 4C | 95.9% | Year 5H             | 95.2%        |
| Year 5F | 95.0% | Year 6M             | 96.0%        |
| Year 6N | 95.9% | <b>Whole School</b> | <b>94.0%</b> |

Well done to class **6M** for achieving the attendance target!

**Attendance Matters, Every Second Counts!**

If attendance is between 90-96% (8-20 days absence per year) it means that during primary years your child will miss 2 or more terms of education!

## 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 children who will be taking their Key Stage 2 SATs in Year 6, the Multiplication Tables Check in Year 4 and Year 1 who will be doing their Phonics Screening. 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