

St Peter's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



SPRING TERM 2024/25
2ND HALF TERM



SPRING

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you had a wonderful half-term break and enjoyed spending quality time with your children.

As we enter the second half of the spring term, it's hard to believe how quickly the year is passing. We're appreciating the lighter evenings and looking forward to some warmer spring weather. There's lots to share with you, including highlights from last half term and exciting events ahead!

We have now entered the season of Lent, a significant period of reflection in the Christian calendar. We have also entered Ramadan, the month of fasting, devotion and generosity for Muslims. It is a rare and wonderful occasion that these two sacred periods overlap, reminding us of the shared values of reflection, patience, gratitude, and kindness. Lent and Ramadan both emphasise the importance of spiritual renewal and self-discipline. To all those observing, we wish you strength and peace in your journey. May this be a time of spiritual growth, connection, and joy with loved ones.

Wishing everyone in our school community a blessed Lent and Ramadan Mubarak!

Lent Ramadan



Wednesday 2nd April 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 will be 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

6 MARCH 2025

We had a fantastic time dressing up as book characters on Thursday, 7th March! The day began with an exciting assembly where everyone had the chance to showcase their wonderful costumes.

This year, our author focus was Oliver Jeffers, with each year group exploring one of his books. As a whole school, we worked on his story *Stuck*—and to bring the book to life, we even had objects stuck in one of the trees in our school grounds!



We were also thrilled by the generosity of our pupils, whose kind donations helped us raise over £212 for Book Aid International. This contribution will go towards providing books for children in less economically developed countries.

Take a look at some of our photos—there are even more on our school website, including pictures of all the children in their amazing costumes!



Nursery News

Welcome back after the half-term holiday! It has been wonderful hearing about all the lovely things the children have been up to during their week off. They have returned with a fantastic attitude towards learning and are ready for a busy and exciting half-term ahead. Our topic this half-term is 'Traditional Tales'. We will begin with Goldilocks and the Three Bears, followed by The Three Little Pigs. Through acting out these stories, children will develop their speaking and listening skills. Throughout the term, we will continue to enjoy stories, sing nursery rhymes, recognise numbers 1-10, count objects, and practise writing our names—these are great skills to reinforce at home too. To finish off the term, we have our very first school trip to Cockfield's Farm, which is sure to be an exciting experience! In RE, we are starting our topic on Easter, exploring why Christians celebrate this important time of year. We will also have another lovely visit to St. Chad's Church in Rochdale. We will continue to send home a weekly library book for children to share with their families. Reading together is so important—it helps children learn new words and strengthens their literacy skills. Don't forget to check the school website regularly for photos and videos of the children enjoying their learning at St Peter's Nursery. Thank you!



Reception News

Welcome back to another fun-filled half-term! We hope you had a fantastic break, made lots of special memories, and are ready for an exciting few weeks ahead in Reception—including our very first school trip to Imagine That! Keep an eye on our website gallery for photos of all the fun. Our topic this half-term is 'Traditional Tales and Farm Animals'. We will begin by exploring The Gingerbread Man and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. There are lots of exciting activities planned, including baking gingerbread men, using different materials to build bridges for the three goats, and welcoming a very special delivery—eggs! We will watch them hatch and grow into ducks, an experience we're sure the children will love. To finish off, we will learn about farm animals by reading our Bug Club non-fiction book, On the Farm. In Maths, we will focus on one more and one less, revisit subtraction, and explore number bonds to five and ten. We will also count sounds, actions, and objects through our very own St Peter's Mini Olympics! Our RE topic this half-term is 'Why is Easter special to Christians?' We will learn about Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, acting out each event on our outdoor stage. Please continue to encourage your child to use their phonics when reading at home—we are so impressed with the progress they are making! We can't wait for another exciting half-term together!



Year 1 News

We hope you had a lovely break and are excited for the fantastic activities we have planned over the next six weeks. In RE, we will explore 'Who is Muslim and how do they live?' Children will learn about Islam, key beliefs, and ways of living, including the Five Pillars of Islam, the 99 names of Allah, and stories about the Prophet Muhammad. In English, we will focus on letter writing, poetry, and new texts. We will explore books such as Handa's Hen, George and the Dragon, and the Great Fire of London nursery rhyme, developing our comprehension and writing skills. In Maths, we will measure objects using cubes and rulers, compare lengths and weights, and revisit addition and place value to strengthen our number skills. Our Science topic is Habitats, where we will learn what a habitat is and explore different environments that animals live in. In History, we are studying The Great Fire of London, sequencing events on a timeline, and comparing buildings, jobs, and transport from 1666 to today. This will help us develop our historical vocabulary. In DT, we will continue exploring Homes, looking at different types of houses worldwide and using various materials to design and build our own. Please ensure your child brings their reading book and record daily, and that PE kits are in school every day. Homework is set on Thursdays and due the following Wednesday. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the Year 1 team. Thank you for your support—we're looking forward to another great half-term!



Year 2 News

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring term! We have lots of exciting events planned, so keep an eye out for updates! In Maths, we will begin by focusing on multiplication, division, and fractions, as well as revisiting and improving our understanding of time. As always, we will continue to encourage the practise and use of times tables (2s, 5s, and 10s) to build confidence and fluency. In English, we will explore instructions, creating our own step-by-step guides on how to care for a pet. We will also be focusing on the story of Hansel and Gretel, where children will make predictions, explore unfamiliar vocabulary, sequence events, and answer comprehension questions. In History, our topic is 'What was Rochdale's Role in the Industrial Revolution?' We will investigate what the Industrial Revolution was, why it was important, and how it shaped modern society. We will also explore Rochdale's local history and its contributions during this period. In Science, we will be studying 'Living Things and Their Habitats', learning how to identify whether something is living, dead, or has never been alive using MRS GREN—can you remember what this stands for? In RE, our focus is 'Why does Easter matter to Christians?' We will explore Holy Week, examining key Bible stories that tell us about this important time. Through discussion and reflection on 'Big Questions,' we will learn how and why Christians celebrate Easter. We are looking forward to another exciting half-term of learning!



Year 3 News

We have another exciting and busy half-term ahead, full of great learning opportunities for the children. In RE, our focus will be on Jewish festivals and family life. Towards the end of the term, we will explore Easter and Holy Week, understanding its significance and the events leading up to it. In Maths, we will cover perimeters, fractions, place value, multiplication, and division. We will also strengthen our mental addition and subtraction skills, alongside practising written methods. Don't forget to keep working on your mad minutes at home! In English, we will be delving into Greek Mythology and Non-Chronological Reports. We will also focus on grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure to improve our writing skills. Our Science topic is Pond Life and the Life Cycle of a Frog. We will study each stage of a frog's development and transfer frogspawn to the school pond, observing its progress over time. This will also allow us to research other animals and insects living in and around the pond. In History, we will explore the Roman invasion of Britain, learning about their challenges, achievements, and impact. This was brought to life with an exciting trip to the DEWA Museum in Chester! In DT, we will study food packaging, learning how it is designed and assembled before creating packaging for the sandwiches we made in our Autumn 2 topic. PE is on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, so please ensure your child has their kit in school, especially if they have taken it home after a club. Please continue reading with your child every day—it makes a big difference! Spellings and homework will be given out on Friday, with spellings tested the following Friday and homework due on Wednesday. We're looking forward to another fantastic half-term!



Year 4 News



Wow! We are already in the fourth half-term of Year 4! In History, our topic is Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, and we will be visiting Tatton Park to experience life as Anglo-Saxons in 'Briton' after the Viking invasion. This immersive trip will support our learning in future History lessons. In English, we will begin with narrative poetry, exploring how the Weeping Willow tree got its name. We will then move on to mystical tales, including stories about Mermaids, Selkies, and the legendary Beowulf. Finally, we'll write non-chronological reports about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, linking to our History topic. In Maths, we'll focus on tenths and hundredths as fractions and decimals. We'll also identify missing numbers on a number line by spotting patterns and calculating differences. Later, we will explore addition and subtraction of money. Our Science topic is Living Things and Their Habitats. We'll investigate what all living things have in common and how they can be classified into scientific groups. In RE, we will explore why Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday', looking at Holy Week and the events leading up to Jesus' death. For DT, we will create Pop-Up Storybooks for younger children, experimenting with different mechanisms to make our books engaging and interactive. A reminder: Swimming kits are needed every Monday, and PE kits are required for Thursday's outdoor lesson. Thank you for your continued support!

Year 5 News

Welcome back, everyone! We have an exciting half-term ahead, including World Book Day and our educational visit to Quarry Bank Mill! We can't wait to see everyone in costume and learn about Victorian children's lives at the mill. In English, we'll start by exploring William Shakespeare's famous plays, focusing on Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth. We'll develop our understanding of tricky words and phrases before moving on to non-fiction reports about animal migration. Later, we'll enjoy the poetry unit 'You Wait Till I'm Older Than You!' where the children will learn some hilarious poems. In Maths, we'll revisit place value and the four operations, while also learning about factors and multiples. Keep practising your times tables with Times Table Rockstars! Our Science unit continues with life cycles, shifting from humans to various animals before exploring plant life cycles and cloning. We'll also study famous naturalists. In RE, we'll explore why the Torah is important to Jewish people, followed by a short Easter unit. Our History topic, 'What was life like for children during Queen Victoria's reign?' includes studying home, work, and school life—plus experiencing it first hand at the mill! In DT, we'll explore bread, its origins, and global varieties before creating our own recipes. Please ensure PE kits and reading books remain in school at all times!



Year 6 News

Welcome back! In English, we will explore different genres of writing, giving children the opportunity to edit and redraft their work to ensure each piece reflects their full potential. We will begin with The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, reading the novel in class and using the characters' thoughts and emotions as inspiration for our writing. Following this, we will focus on chronological reports, using the short film Lighthouse as a stimulus. Later in the term, we will delve into persuasive writing. In Maths, we will start by working on percentages and fractions of amounts before moving on to multiplication and division. Children will participate in Accelerated Maths, where they will answer questions that are automatically marked and tested at the end. We will also continue our TT Rock Stars class competition—let's see which class comes out on top before the end of term! In Science, we will be studying Living Things and Their Habitats. Children will learn about Carl Linnaeus and his classification system. In History, our topic has been What was life like for children during World War II? We will examine the global impact of the war, with a particular focus on children's experiences. In DT, we will be designing and creating our own slippers. Our Christian Value this half-term is forgiveness. We will be exploring the Easter story and discussing What difference does the resurrection make to Christians? Through this, children will engage with Big Questions and develop their own. We are looking forward to another exciting and enriching term with Year 6!





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Forthcoming Events

EYFS/KS1 - EASTER BONNETS

Thursday 3rd April (AM)



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

KS2 - EASTER EGGS COMPETITION

Thursday 3rd April (PM)



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



From Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th February, our Year 6 pupils embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to Boreatton Park. It was packed with exciting outdoor activities, designed to challenge, inspire, and build confidence while fostering teamwork and resilience. During their stay, they soared through the air on the zip wire, and tested their bravery on the giant swing.



The climbing walls and abseiling towers pushed them to conquer new heights, while the archery sessions sharpened their focus and precision. Evenings were filled with fun games, and plenty of laughter, creating special memories that will last a lifetime. Take a look at some of the wonderful pictures capturing their amazing achievements! A huge thank you to all the staff who accompanied the children—their support and enthusiasm made this experience truly special. As you can see, everyone had an incredible time!



Year 6
26th - 28th February 2025



Safer Internet Day

This year's Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday 11th February with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'.

Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. Each year we cover an online issue or theme that speaks about the things young people are seeing and experiencing online.

This year Safer Internet Day focused on the issue of online scams and how children can protect themselves and others, as well as identify what support is available to help them.



ATTENDANCE

How's your class doing? Our attendance target is:

96%

Nursery	90.9%	Rec S	93.3%
Rec P	94.3%	Year 1KW	95.8%
Year 1CW	93.9%	Year 2B	96.5%
Year 2K	97.1%	Year 3J	96.7%
Year 3B	95.3%	Year 4R	95.9%
Year 4H	94.4%	Year 5H	95.4%
Year 5C	97.3%	Year 6R	96.5%
Year 6H	96.4%		
Whole School		95.4%	

Well done to classes 2K & 5C 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

The last half term has been another incredibly rewarding one at St Peter's, and I am always delighted when I walk around the school and see the children's work, behaviour, and attitude towards learning. We are truly fortunate at St Peter's to teach such well-mannered, caring, and responsible pupils. We've already enjoyed some wonderful events, such as school trips and, of course, 'World Book Day'. It was a pleasure to see all the fantastic costumes! Events like 'World Book Day' also provide a chance for us to reflect on how we can help those around the world who are less fortunate.

As we journey through the season of Lent, we are encouraging the children to reflect on how their behaviour, choices, and decisions can impact others, while remembering the important words of Jesus: "Love one another as I have loved you." We are also observing the month Ramadan, which offers further opportunities for reflection and kindness to those in need.

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