

St Peter's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



AUTUMN TERM 2019/20
1ST HALF TERM



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back!

We hope you had a great summer holiday (although it seems like a distant memory!) and managed to enjoy some fun and exciting holiday activities with your family. The children were so excited about telling us all the things they got up to.

Here we are again 'Back at School' and in these first few weeks the children seem to have settled into their new classes fantastically.

A big welcome to our new parents and children - we really hope you enjoy being part of our lovely school.

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!



Class Assembly Dates

12th Sept - Class 6H
19th Sept - Class 5F
26th Sept - Class 4C
03rd Oct - Class 3G
10th Oct - Class 2F
17th Oct - Class 1S

Half Term

07th Nov - Class 6M
14th Nov - Class 5N
21st Nov - Class 4J
28th Nov - Class 3H
Christmas Holiday
16th Jan - Class 2W
23rd Jan - Class 1K

Please come and join us for your child's class assembly!
Assemblies start at 9.00am

Parents' Evening

Wednesday 16th October is Parents' Evening.

This is an opportunity to find out how your child has settled into their new class, discuss the progress they are making and look at the work they have done so far. Letters will be going out soon in order for you to be able to make an appointment.

WELCOME



100% ATTENDANCE WINNERS



Congratulations to all of our 100% attendance winners. We were delighted to have 197 children who managed to achieve 100% for the Summer Term and all received a certificate and a box of Maltesers! We also had 56 children who achieved a fantastic 100% attendance for the whole year!!! An improvement on last year's figures! These children received a certificate, £10 gift voucher and the chance to win their own bike! The lucky winner was Zainab in Year 4! Well Done!

Congratulations to our 'Heart of St Peter's Award' Winners



At St Peter's, we believe that every pupil should strive to be 'The Good Soil' Mark 4: 1-20. Therefore, we chose two of our Year 6 Leavers, who we believed to be shining examples of what we hold dear at St Peter's, to win the 'Heart of St Peter's Award'. They mirrored Jesus' teachings of the Christian Values throughout their time at school. Well done Laeeqa and Haseeb!

Nursery News

As this first term begins, we would like to welcome all of our families who have joined us at St Peter's this year. We have enjoyed meeting you all and look forward to a busy, fun and exciting year ahead. This term our topic will be All About Me. We are currently getting to know your children and finding out their interests, likes and personalities; we will then be using this knowledge to support your children in their next steps of learning. In RE we are starting the topic 'I am Special'. We are asking the big questions: How do we know that we are special in the eyes of God? How do we know that God is our Heavenly Father? Why are our names important? This half term we will also be going on our very first visit to our local church. Our first book this term will be 'Pete the Cat' and 'I Love My White Shoes' by Eric Litwin. Throughout the term we will be listening to stories, singing nursery rhymes, learning to recognise numbers, counting a number of objects, counting forwards and backwards, recognising our names and learning all the school routines. These are all things that children could also do at home with parents and older siblings. We will be sending home WOW cards for you to tell us about the amazing things that your child can do at home. If you have any questions about your child starting Nursery or how to help your child at home, then please do not hesitate to speak to any of the Nursery staff.



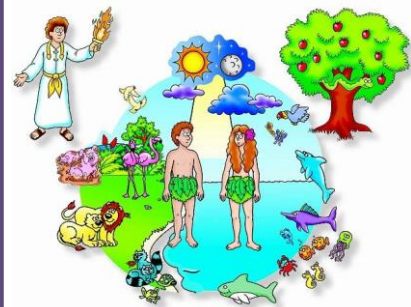
Reception News



We hope you had a lovely summer holiday and made lots of memories together. We have had so much fun during our first few weeks in reception, making lots of new friends and getting to know our teachers. This half term our RE topic is 'I am Special', we will be talking about what makes us special; our likes and dislikes, and how they make us feel and who is special to us. We will also be learning all about the Holy Trinity, and our school Mission Statement - 'Be The Good Soil'. In maths we will be concentrating on developing our counting skills, saying one number for each item and remembering how many items we have counted. We will also be challenging the children to find the correct numeral and match it to the quantity. We will also be naming some 2D shapes and describing their properties. In literacy we are reading 'Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs'; as Harry's favourite things are dinosaurs, we will be discussing our favourite things. Your child may bring a bucket home, we would like you to fill the bucket with their favourite toy, book or picture, and bring it back the next school day to show their class. In addition to a homework book, your child will also be given a reading book; they will be expected to read at home to an adult, at least twice a week. When you have read with your child, please write a comment in their reading record. The book and reading record should remain in their bag at all times. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask a member of the Reception team.

Year 1 News

The children have started Year 1 with a positive attitude and have quickly settled into their new routine. They seem excited and eager to learn lots of new and interesting things. Our topic in RE is God's creation story; we will be discussing the meaning of creation and learning about the beliefs we share. Towards the end of the half term we will be learning about harvest. All our RE lessons will include a reflection time which will encourage children to think about our religious learning. It will be a lovely opportunity to discuss and engage with the children about their actions and feelings. During this half term the children will be focusing on weather and the different seasons of the year. This will be part of our Geography topic and so far the children have greatly enjoyed observing, discussing and predicting different types of weather. In Art, we will be looking at the life and work of Gustav Klimt and the many famous paintings, patterns and drawings that he created. In Science, the children will be learning about different materials and their properties. In Maths, the children will develop their skills in counting, sequences, addition and subtraction and begin to learn about time and money. In English, we will be looking at different types of text, including stories, poems, songs and patterns. Please ensure the children have their PE kits in school every day as well as their reading books and reading records. We are looking forward to an exciting year with the pupils.



Year 2 News



The children have a brilliant first half term planned and already seem enthusiastic and eager to learn lots of new things. In RE, our topic this term is 'Jesus, friend to everyone'. We will be exploring how Jesus treated others and how we can follow in his footsteps. We will also be discussing the importance of the stories Jesus told and the meaning behind them. In maths, we will be developing our skills in place value, number bonds and number sequencing. In English, we will be focusing on story writing, concentrating on familiar settings and using exciting vocabulary. We will also continue to focus and improve our reading, phonics skills and handwriting. Our History topic this term is Up, Up and Away, where we will be learning about the first flight and how aeroplanes have changed our lives. In Science our topic this term is 'Humans and Animals'. Within this topic we will be looking at the life cycles of both humans and animals and how to look after ourselves and how we should look after our pets. The children will now have all received a new reading book; therefore, we ask that they bring their reading books into school every day. They will read in school with an adult 1:1, once a week, and will also have their books changed weekly. The children will receive homework every Friday and this should be returned the following Thursday. All children have PE three times a week; therefore, we suggest that your child leaves their PE kit in school for the half term to ensure they have their full kit for their PE sessions. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask a member of the Year 2 Staff. Thank you!

Year 3 News

We hope that you have all had an amazing and restful break. As always we have an incredibly busy year ahead but one that hopefully will be lots of fun too! This term in RE will see a focus of prophets surrounding our "Called by God" topic. This is very exciting and contains lots of stories from the Bible, with a reflective theme of repent, forgiveness and quests. Each RE lesson will contain a time for reflection where the children will be encouraged to consider their thoughts and actions in daily life and how to further improve these in order to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We will also be starting our Harvest topic and begin to look at the Old Testament stories from the Bible. Maths and Literacy will continue just like last year with 1 lesson of each per day. In addition to this, we will spend extra time on handwriting and guided reading. Please can you encourage your children to read at home as much as possible. This is vital to their success at school and will benefit them greatly. Our Science topic this term is Light - we will be looking at how light travels, what shadows are and many other brilliant questions surrounding this. This term in History we shall be looking at how people from the stone age lived and how humans changed through the ages. Autumn 2 will see a development of this right through to the Iron Ages. Art and DT will focus on structure, creating frames for our work. This fits with our Van Gogh work, Starry Night, with the intention to have a framed piece of art for your children to bring home to you.



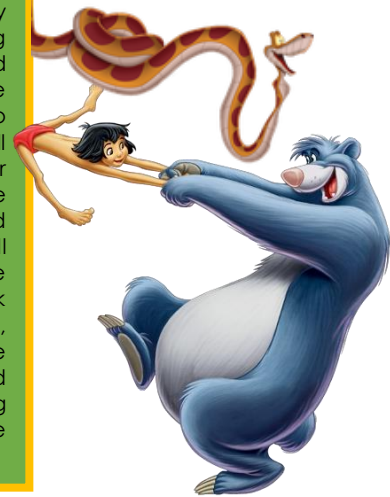
Year 4 News



Hello to all children, parents and carers and welcome to Year 4! We are all refreshed and raring to start new challenging Year 4 themes and topics. In class, we have already been hearing about the interesting things the children have been doing in the holidays. We hope you all enjoyed the time with your children. In Religious Education, we are learning about the beginning of time and God's beautiful creation. We will think about if we are doing a good job in the role of caretaker of God's planet. We also look at the difficulties Eve faced with temptation in the garden of Eden. In English, work on fables has started; the children should be able to tell you some morals of these animal based tales. In Maths, we continue to stretch and challenge the children encouraging them to be able to explain HOW they have found an answer not just to write it. We have already been on our exciting trip to Chester This supports our learning about the Romans and the impact they had on our lives today. The children experienced life as a Roman in the Dewa museum and even did some marching with a real Roman soldier! See the website for photographs. Swimming has also already begun with the children making great progress already and PE will take place on Thursday and this will usually be an outdoor session. We are looking forward to working with you and your children any questions or enquiries please phone the office for an appointment.

Year 5 News

Welcome back to the new school year! We hope you had a wonderful summer holiday and you are ready for the exciting year we have planned for you, here at St Peter's. Within our RE lessons, we will be focusing on Jesus the Teacher. We will be developing the children's understanding parables that Jesus taught, and then we will be writing our own parables. In English, we will begin with reading classic fiction: The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling. The children will explore many of his stories, including his very famous Just So Stories. The final project is for the children to create a Just So Story of their own. Later in the term, we will move on to our non-fiction unit of UFO recounts. The children will look at report writing, finally creating their own recount. We will finish the term looking at biographies and autobiographies. In Maths, we will be developing our understanding of the four number operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). Some other topics we will look at are: shape, place value and money. In Science, the children will describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird, and describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals. The children will also have the chance to work scientifically whilst we explore these objectives. Our Art unit looks at developing sketching techniques, specifically Cezanne's Still Life artwork. In D&T, we will be exploring working mechanisms. We will then move on to planning and making our own moving toy. Our History topic will explore the world of the Maya, and especially why most of the Maya seemed to die out around 900 AD. Computing will see us becoming cryptographers! The French topic involves months of the year, clothing and being able to share how we are feeling. Music will explore our community from past to present using a range of instruments.



Year 6 News



Welcome back to the first half of the Autumn Term. This will be an extremely busy half-term for all of the children in Year 6! Over the course of this half term the children will be working extremely hard in all areas of the curriculum. Within R.E this half term, we are focusing on a topic called 'Ideas about God.' The children will explore the Christian Values of faith, respect, trust and thankfulness. We will ask big questions as well as answering them. Within 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 main text is 'Hurricane' by David Wiesner. We will use this to then plan and write an alternative ending to the story. In maths, we are establishing the children's strengths and weaknesses so that their confidence increases and they are able to apply this knowledge in all contexts. We begin with looking at the four areas of number and then place value. Our topic for science this whole term is 'Evolution and Inheritance.' For the first half term, we will be learning about fossils. We will carry out lots of investigations to enhance our learning. Our geography topic focuses on 'Where does all our stuff come from?' We will discover where in the world our food and clothing comes from.



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REMINDERS FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Absences

We wish to remind parents that if your child is absent from school you need to inform the school office on **each** day of absence by 8.50am

Lates

Children need to be in their line on the playground for **8.50am**. If you arrive after this time you need to report to the school office and your child will receive a late mark.

Book Bags

If you need a new book bag these can be obtained from the school office at a cost of £7.50.

Lost/Damaged Books

Please note that there will be a charge for any lost or damaged school reading scheme/library books.

Dinner Money Increase

Rochdale have increased the cost of pupil dinners this year to £10.75 per week (£2.15 per day).

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 27th September we had a fantastic day raising money for Macmillan - a charity very close to our hearts! As well as helping with the medical needs of people affected by cancer, Macmillan also looks at the social, emotional and practical impact cancer can have, and campaigns for better cancer care. Macmillan Cancer Support's goal is to reach and improve the lives of everyone living with cancer in the UK.



The children spent some time with their classmates enjoying juice, cakes and biscuits. We made a fantastic £442 to donate to the charity. Take a look at some of the photos from the super day on our school website!



Over the next few weeks, the children will be going to St. Peter's Church to celebrate Harvest Festival. We will be kindly asking for donations to our Harvest collection - last year the response was fantastic and very generous! The donations will be given to Rochdale Food Bank who rely on local support.

This will really help those less fortunate than ourselves in our local community. It clearly shows the importance we place on praising God, and sharing all the good things he provides for us. This is a fantastic way for the community to share in living out the school's Christian Value of 'Thankfulness' for this half term.



Year 6 High School Applications

Do remember, that Year 6 applications for high schools need to be completed by October 31st and these need to be completed online. If you need support with this, head to Number One Riverside in Rochdale town centre where additional support will be given to those with no access to internet facilities.

Is your child due to start secondary school in September 2020?

Apply online via our easy application form
rochdale.gov.uk/schooladmissions
Deadline for applications is 31 October 2019

ATTENDANCE

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

Nursery	92.9%	Rec RK	94.6%
Rec RM	95.3%	Year 1S	95.6%
Year 1K	94.4%	Year 2F	97.9%
Year 2W	98.3%	Year 3H	94.5%
Year 3G	99.1%	Year 4J	98.5%
Year 4C	94.6%	Year 5N	95.0%
Year 5F	90.5%	Year 6M	96.8%
Year 6H	95.2%	Whole School	95.6%

Well Done!



Headteacher Message

Well, here we are again in another school year and I am delighted to say that the children have settled extremely well into their new classes. As you will be aware, there is a lot going on in the school grounds; it's coming along nicely, and I can't wait for the children to be able to enjoy the new and improved facilities the grounds will have to offer.

I hope you enjoy reading the latest edition of our school newsletter and enjoy looking at the super photos! Remember the school website is regularly updated with news and gallery pictures, and each class has their own page for the teachers to keep you informed about current topics and events coming up, so take a look! 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